
SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the Committee of the SCCBA was held at West Sussex Bridge Club on
Saturday 31 July 2010 starting at 1300

Present:

Mrs J Clinton	Chairman
Miss J Simpson	Hon Secretary
Mr D Galpin	Hon Treasurer
Mr N Hardy	Tournament Manager

Mr M Pool, Mr D Armstrong, Mr P Bates, Mrs V Chandler, Mrs A Galpin, Mrs T Hennings, Mr R Lowe, Mr P Pennant, Mr G Stanford, Mr R Whiting, Mr M Wotton and Mr D Ellis.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed David Ellis to the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs M Langmaid, Mr E Williams, Mr J Williams, Mrs H Kent and Mrs C Watson.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 16th May 2010

2.1 Accuracy

Para 3.7 line 2 delete “event” and insert “trials”

The minutes were then agreed nem con and duly signed as a true record.

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 Trophies List.

The Chairman reported that a list of trophies and their history had been compiled by EW.

2.2.2 Food at Table.

The Hon Sec reported that there is no policy for this laid down by the EBU. The committee agreed that the matter should now be closed.

2.2.3 Surrey/Sussex Match.

No response had been received from Surrey who should be setting this up. NH will email again.

Action: NH

3. Chairman's Report

3.1 Bridgemates.

Flowers and a letter had been sent to the Morleys to thank them for their help after the failure of the Bridgemates at Ardingly. The missing Bridgemates and server have been found. The cost of doing the upgrade has been quoted at £5700. The Chairman proposed that at this cost it was too expensive and should not be done. The committee

agreed. NH explained that there were still problems associated with running the system on the new county 64 bit computers. MP volunteered to investigate this further.

Action: MP

3.2 Charity Donation to Sussex Wildlife Trust.

A letter of thanks had been received which explained that the money we had donated would be used towards work being undertaken at Ditchling Beacon.

3.3 Security of Duplicated Boards for GP events.

The Equipment Officer, Malcolm Wright has expressed concern about the security of duplicated boards for GP events which he handles. It was agreed that JC would ask Peter Langston to use a label system to seal the boards.

Action: JC

3.4 Calendar.

Some small errors have been found in the calendar:

- Senior Sim Pairs should read 9 Feb 2011 (not 10 Feb)
- David Pavey Final will be held on 5 Feb 2011 (not 6 Feb)
- Elizabeth North Heat at Patcham is on 23 Nov 2010 (not 5 Nov)

These amendments will be placed in the next newsletter.

3.5 County Directors' Course.

EW has proposed that Katie Kennedy be sponsored to do a county director's course. The Chairman will speak to her to confirm that she is able to undertake the course. Subject to that the committee agreed she be sponsored.

Action: JC

3.6 Newsletter .

Some concerns had been raised about technical inaccuracies in the last newsletter.

Bryan Stephens was extremely apologetic and arrangements had been made for MP to proof read the newsletter prior to publication in the future. David Ellis volunteered to act as proof reader also.

3.7 Donation to Local Charity.

Bryan Stephens had completed the London to Brighton Bike run and was raising money for *Honeypots – a local charity for child carers*. She proposed, seconded by PB that £25 be given from SCCBA for this charity. This was agreed. It was further agreed that requests from members for support to fund raising activities for local charities would be considered on their merits.

3.8 Payment of county fees at heats.

A request had been received from the Chairman of Worthing BC for the county to waive the county fee for heats. The Treasurer pointed out that the money raised in this way is important revenue to the county. The committee agreed that the request should not be approved. It was pointed out that some clubs did subsidise heats in order to encourage more participants and Worthing might wish to consider this.

3.9 EBU Education Meeting.

An education initiative meeting is to be held during the Brighton Congress and the Chairman and DA will be attending.

4. Treasurer's Report

The bank balances stand at £2720 in the Current Account and £27923 in the Deposit Account. There are outstanding expenses of approx £1500 outstanding for the Green Point events. Both Green Points had shown a profit but the county event at Ardingly had shown a loss.

The recent mailing of the calendar, entry forms and newsletter to all members had been expensive and costs of mailing had been £2010. This was discussed again under Item 11.

The first payments under P2P had been received, £256 for April and £756 for May. The Hon Treasurer considered that if this level of payment is maintained then this is in line with that budgeted in setting the P2P figure for the county.

5. Secretary's Report

5.1 Teaching Development Guide.

Copies of this have been received from the EBU and the Hon Sec will inform all clubs about this guide in the next mail out.

Action: JS

5.2 Dimmie Flemming Award.

A nomination for the Dimmie Flemming award this year was considered and it was agreed this should be forwarded to the EBU. Details can be obtained from the Hon Sec.

Action: JS

5.3 Kremer Dersch.

The Hon Sec reminded the Committee that the Kremer Dersch will take place on 7 Nov 2010 and that entry forms will be sent out with the next club mailing.

6. Tournament Manager's Report

6.1 Master Point and Licensing Feedback.

Following some discussion the committee agreed the following response to the EBU's request asking for opinions on master point and licensing:-

- Allowing counties to make their events open to any EBU member if they so wish
Yes
- Should competitors playing in county competitions be subject to a P2P charge, and if so to what extent
Only at club level heats
- Further tightening up of regulations and conditions applying to non-EBU members entering county and club events
Yes, non-affiliated clubs should not be given hands for these events
- Should county K/O events be subject to P2P and how much should the fee be.
No P2P should not be applied but a one-off fee would be appropriate.

Action: JS

7. EBU Matters

7.1 Shareholders' report

A Shareholder report had been published in the newsletter and will be a regular feature in future editions. PB informed the committee that at the last shareholders' meeting

- The introduction of P2P had been deemed to be successful and there were now 48000 members of the EBU and the systems put in place to make payments to counties were working well.
- Bridge had been highlighted as a useful tool to ward off dementia and this should help boost the game
- Queries raised by MW on the support to counties had been passed to Barry Capal. It had been explained that resources were limited and only one person was available to respond to queries. This had led to some lengthy delays.

7.2 Registration and voting

The Hon Sec reported that to date there had been on reply to the letter sent to clubs. An explanation of the role of regional committees had now been received and this will now be sent to clubs (see next item)

Action: JS

7.3 Relationship between Regional Committees and counties

A letter concerning the election of County Club representatives together with the terms of reference of the EBU National Club Committee had been received and sent to committee members. The committee agreed that the letter should be sent to all clubs asking them to make nominations. Further it was agreed that an election is necessary would be held at the AGM. MP pointed out that a change in the county constitution may be required and it was agreed to put this on the next meeting agenda.

Action: JS

8. Education Report

DA reported that the club at Blatchington Mill School had closed; however a club at Varndean had been set up. The chairman congratulated DA on this initiative.

The Blatchington bus was still available for use by DA and therefore he is hoping to take 8 juniors to Loughborough this year. All have been before. The committee agreed that sponsorship for 7/8 juniors plus 2 adults would be given this year.

DA requested that sponsorship be continued for another year. The committee asked that this be an item on the next management committee agenda.

Action: JS

9. Charities

Nothing to report.

10. Membership Secretary's Report

The Chairman reported on behalf of the Membership Secretary that there were currently 2961 members registered to Sussex. This represented at 100% increase on paid up members last year.

The number of dual members was however indeterminate and the committee recommended that the membership secretary investigate the enrolment, payment and recording of the dual members. It was agreed that the membership secretary should be the point of contact for dual members and should send them county information when they paid. The Hon Sec would supply copies on calendars and newsletters to the membership secretary for his use.

Action: JS/JW

11. Distribution of Newsletter

As previously agreed the summer newsletter and calendar had been sent to all members as a welcoming gesture to new members. However the committee considered that the cost of posting (£2000+) was too high to continue for every issue. It was noted that costs would have been reduced by sending the calendar unfolded and PP suggested that a bulk mailing firm be approached to seek costings. The Chairman will follow this up with PP.

Action: PP/JC

For the autumn mailing the committee had agreed in an earlier meeting the newsletter would be sent in bulk to clubs for them to distribute to members. GS volunteered to be responsible for the sorting of the newsletters into boxes for clubs, with help from TH who will obtain the most recent lists of club members from the EBU (Karen Durrell), and PB volunteered to deliver the boxes to clubs. JS will provide the club addresses to GS and inform Bryan Stephens of the new arrangements. The Chairman thanked all the volunteers for their assistance in this matter.

Action: GS/TH/PB/JS

12. Communication Officer's Report

CW asked that organisers of events be reminded to take photos of winners.

Action: NH

13. Conduct Committee Report

Nothing to report

14. Master Point Secretary's Report

MW reported that things had calmed down a lot since the early days of P2P and that the few uploads he had done recently had gone smoothly. MW has still to process a 'Master Points only' event under the new guidelines. MW thinks that the replacement for Check Points Online is a significant improvement, except that members can now only look at their own Master Point history.

MW asked JC whether there is a need to provide further feedback to the EBU on the new Master Point and Licensing Regulations as they affect Sussex or will the emails to/from Max Bavin discussed under item 6.1 above, suffice. In particular he was concerned about the numbers of licensed events that Sussex already held which had been an EBU agreed excess in the past. JC/NH to follow up in the next Tournament Committee.

Action:JC/NH

15. Tournament Committee Report

No tournament committee had been held since the last meeting. However NH proposed that to encourage more participation in county events and particular basic events an article is to be placed in the next newsletter

"Are you new to the SCCBA?"

This will give information on David Pavey, Venture Pairs, Novice Swiss Teams and Elizabeth North.

Action: NH

RW and PB requested that the dates of Novice Swiss Teams and Venture Pairs be moved for 2011 to avoid clashed with major sporting events. This will be considered at the next Tournament Committee meeting in September.

Action: NH

16. Selectors' Report

DG reported that the teams for the Metropolitan Cup had been selected and at the next meeting, in October, the Tollemache team will be selected. VC suggested that alternative venue for the Metropolitan Cup is considered in view of the long lead in time for Ardingly and proposed the use of Wiston House for this event. The committee asked NH to look into this.

Action: NH

17. Any Other Business

There was no any other business.

18. Date of the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday 31 October 2010 starting at 1030 at West Sussex Bridge Club.