

SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Selection Committee, Friday 5th December 2014.

1. Attended by Julian Mitchell (JM), Christine Jepson (CJ), Mike Keeping (MK) and Roger Poulter (RP). Apologies from Andy Ryder.
2. Minutes of meeting held on 19th September 2014.
 - a) Approved.
 - b) Matters arising.None not dealt with elsewhere in the meeting.

3. Review performance in Tollemache Cup.

Sussex produced a disappointing display in trying to qualify for this year's Tollemache, finishing 8th of nine in their group. In noting that it was unfortunate that the strong form shown in the recent Metropolitan Cup had not been translated to the Tollemache, the Selection Committee reiterated their desire to see more players playing in national competitions, both knock-outs and congresses – especially those players with aspirations to represent the county at this level. To help this, the Selection Committee proposed that

- 1) The SCCBA Management Committee to be asked whether the SCCBA would be prepared to reintroduce the subsidy for Sussex teams of Metropolitan A standard to play in the Spring Fours.
- 2) The SCCBA website could reflect that the Selection Committee would welcome approaches from pairs who would like to be considered for selection for next year's Metropolitan Cup.

It was felt that these measures would help the committee members in their judgments as they continue to assess players/pairs on a year-on-year basis.

4. The Selection Committee considered the document, "Objectivity and Transparency in Selection" .

The committee considered the document in detail and were unanimously in favour of recommending its presentation to the SCCBA Management Committee, save for the final paragraph relating to appeals against non-selection, which was replaced with the following.

"Ultimately selection and non-selection is a subjective process. The SCCBA Selection Committee is comprised of unpaid volunteers who under the terms of this document, the membership may replace each year and who make their selections in good faith. The Selection Committee does not have the structure to justify an appeals procedure, but, as has happened in the past, is prepared to listen to those disaffected by its selection decisions."

5. National Inter-Leagues Finals.

Sussex's winning of both the Metropolitan A & B competitions means that we shall look to send both teams to the National Inter-Leagues Finals in Solihull on 28th June 2015. It was agreed that inviting the successful teams en bloc, with the intention of selecting from those players first is the fit and proper way of rewarding those who were successful in September. As the Solihull event is for teams-of-eight, it was accepted that some selection decisions may need to be taken should all invitees be available to play.

6. Any other business.

Sussex has the third largest membership in the EBU. We have a lot of juniors, and other strong experienced players, who we would like to play at Metropolitan Cup level, but who are often left out because of lack of space in the teams. In returning to the committee's preference to enter one A team, two B teams and two C teams in the Metropolitan Cup, the suggestion was made that we enter next year as:

A Section – Sussex (one team)

B Section – East Sussex & West Sussex (two teams)

C Section – East Sussex & West Sussex (two teams).

The Metropolitan Cup organisers were to be approached to see if this would be acceptable.

7. Date of next meeting. Friday 27th March, 10.00 am at 80 Hythe Road, Brighton.