

SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Selection Committee, Friday 16th September 2016.

1. Attended by Julian Mitchell (JM), Christine Jepson (CJ), Ian Lancaster (IL), Andy Ryder (AR), Neil Watts (NW) and Ros Wolfarth (RW). Apologies from Roger Poulter.
2. Minutes of meeting held on 11th December 2015.
 - a) Approved.
 - b) Matters arising.
 - i Ian Lancaster, Neil Watts and Ros Wolfarth were all welcomed to their inaugural Selection Committee meeting.
 - ii AR confirmed that the SCCBA would fully fund (travel and accommodation) any player aged under-25 who is selected to represent Sussex in the Tollemache.
3. Metropolitan Cup update.

AR reported that the news regarding the Metropolitan Cup was not good and that the event may well not be played again next year. This was very disturbing news as it is clear that the longer the gap between events, the harder the task will be to resurrect the event in the future. If no satisfactory solution for next year emerges, then the SCCBA Tournament Committee will be asked whether Sussex could look to hold the event again – perhaps with the event spread across three bridge clubs.
4. SCCBA Coaching Role.

NW was asked how he saw his county coaching role developing. He reported that he envisaged that a great deal of his coaching of the Tollemache team would be internet based, as it had been last year. In the meantime, he had attended a one-to-one session with Simon Cope, England Open Team Coach and frequent Open Team NPC. NW suggested that many players would benefit from a BBO Training Workshop, based at a central venue, to demonstrate how to access the training elements of BBO, about which many of current players are ignorant. This would include setting-up practice deals; bidding against robots in situational auctions and other practice. It was thought that such a workshop would benefit all players with aspirations of representing the county at Tollemache and Metropolitan A, B & C level.

5. Review of Eastbourne Congress and other relevant events.

A comprehensive review was undertaken, with the scrutiny of results for all pairs under consideration for selection for the Tollemache.

6. Consider available pairs/players for Tollemache Cup and select teams.

During the final selection discussion, interested parties present – Julian Mitchell, Ian Lancaster and Andy Ryder – were invited to absent themselves from the room, at which point Ros Wolfarth took the chair.

The following team was selected to represent Sussex in the forthcoming Tollemache Cup qualifier to be held in Birmingham over the weekend of 19th/20th November.

Michael Alishaw and Stephen Kennedy
Peter Clinch and Julian Mitchell
David Dickson and Andy Ryder
Richard Fedrick and Matt Read
Ian Lancaster and Andrew Southwell

NPC: Neil Watts

Res: Chris Jepson and Neil Watts

6. Any other business.

a) JM suggested whether it would be possible to give Alishaw/Kennedy a place somewhere in Division One of the county league to help their development. Clearly it was too late to action this year, but JM to liaise with David Galpin and interested parties to see what could be put in place for next year.

b) In response to a question, RW reported that Geoffrey Wolfarth did not have any plans to play with an eligible partner of likely Tollemache strength.

7. Date of next meeting.

Friday 2nd December 2016, 10.00 am, Avenue BC.