

## SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Selection Committee, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

1. Attended by Julian Mitchell (JM), Christine Jepson (CJ), Mike Keeping (MK), Roger Poulter (RP) and Andy Ryder (AR).
2. Minutes of meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2014.
  - a) Approved.
  - b) Matters arising.None not dealt with elsewhere in the meeting.
3. Review performance in Metropolitan Cup. Despite the lack of availability of many of the county's better players, all four teams selected acquitted themselves very well. At the time of the meeting, it was not known whether the A team had won their section or not: originally placed 1<sup>st</sup>, there seemed to be some confusion about the scores. In any event, the top two teams had finished a distance in front of the rest of the field and the team were congratulated on a sterling effort with four pairs cross-IMPing in the top ten.

The B team did win their section, with Sussex having the top two pairs on cross-IMPing. Again another good all round team effort which will be rewarded by attending the National Inter-Leagues Finals in Solihull next year, when the Selection Committee will be looking to select four pairs from those who won the Metropolitan B. Similarly the two C teams, in finishing within a VP of each other in a tie for second, and fourth places respectively, demonstrated the strength of Sussex bridge at this level, with once again, a Sussex pair topping the cross-IMPing.

Whilst four good team results out of four are all to the good, the Selection Committee was especially pleased to note the efforts of the four junior players, James Hobden, Chris and Jon Derrick and Olly Powell; also the performances of pairs making their debuts at this level – or moving up from a previous representative level – were very encouraging.

The Selection Committee raised concerns on various aspects of the organisation of the event, including the lack of a result on the day (which inevitably results in no presentation or team photo for the winners); scoring problems; and a perceived uneven assessment of penalties. These, in addition to the Selection Committee's previously thwarted wish to enter two B teams (or A teams) in future Metropolitan Cups were all considered matters worthy of a letter to the organisers of the event. The Selection Committee did ask for their thanks to the organisers for the publication of the cross-IMPing also to be recorded.

4. The Selection Committee considered the motion from Mike Keeping that "Selectors should only consider pairs who have played a minimum of 12 months together in recognised county and national events so that their success can be assessed."
- MK explained that the motivation behind this motion was to protect the

interests of established partnerships in the county, who might otherwise feel marginalised if other pairs, with no demonstrable form behind them are selected in their stead. In addition, he felt that such a motion would give the Selection Committee transparency and would demonstrate a degree of accountability to the membership of the SCCBA that the Selection Committee represents.

All members of the Selection Committee agreed about the need for openness and transparency and sympathised with the motivation behind the motion. RP noted that points systems had been mooted in the past and abandoned because of their impracticalities. JM mentioned that he had created a database of results for the leading pairs in the county, which whilst rudimentary, gave an overview of current form; and all members of the committee agreed that they make a point of keeping themselves up to date with recognised county and national results, especially with regard to Sussex pairs.

However, the mood of the meeting was that the Selection Committee saw the motion as restrictive – demonstrated by the selection of the leading two pairs on cross-IMPing in the Metropolitan A team, neither of whom would have been eligible had the motion been in place in July. The Selection Committee placed on record that it welcomes suggestions from those outside about who are perceived as playing well and worthy of the Selection Committee's attention. The motion was defeated by four votes to one.

5. After some discussion, the following team was selected to represent Sussex in the Tollemache Qualifier in Birmingham over the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Julian Mitchell (c) and Peter Clinch  
David Dickson and Andy Ryder  
Richard Fedrick and Matt Read  
Dave Franklin and Gerry Stanford  
Ian Lancaster and Andrew Southwell

Reserve Pair: Chris Jepson and Neil Watts

The Selection Committee noted that when deadlock appeared possible, Chris Jepson withdrew her partnership's candidacy to facilitate selection. The Selection Committee was also at pains to confirm the captain's autonomy at the event.

A pen picture of Sussex's newest Tollemache player: David Dickson has moved to the county in the last twelve months having been a regular player and captain for Hertfordshire in the Tollemache, and other county representational events, for the past thirty years and more.

6. Composition of the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee discussed the problem in general terms. At present the Selection Committee is comprised of two elected members, the SCCBA Chairman and Vice-Chairman; and four members who, although unelected, are ratified annually by the SCCBA Management Committee. However this current set-up means that there is little movement in the unelected members.

If the unelected (Division One) members of the Committee are replaced on an annual revolving basis (as has been suggested), it was thought that potentially the Selection Committee may become unbalanced and less focused. Preference was shown for the previously unelected members of the Selection Committee to be voted in every three years by the SCCBA Management Committee – although as RP noted, this allowed for the possibility of a wholly new and inexperienced Selection Committee to be elected every three years.

7. Any other business. None.
8. Date of next meeting. Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 10.00 am at 80 Hythe Road, Brighton.