

DRAFT

Sussex County Contract Bridge Association

A meeting of the Tournament Committee of the SCCBA was held at 27, Bodmin Road, Worthing, BN13 3HE on Wednesday 15th November 2017 commencing at 1.30pm.

PRESENT: D Wheeler (DW - Chairman & Secretary), P Clinch (PC - Tournament Manager), Mrs A Galpin (AG), D Galpin (DG), J Hardy (JH), M Pool (MP) and M Wotton (MW).

1. APOLOGIES – None

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The final draft minutes of the meeting held on 5 Sept 2017 were agreed as presented.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Actions from paragraphs 3.7, 4.1, 5.1, 6.3, 7.1 and 7.2 had been completed. Action from paragraph 3.2 would be carried forward to the first meeting following the next Spring Congress. MW enquired whether there had been any further feedback from the Selectors following the TC's rejection of their proposals for changes to the qualification arrangements for the Sussex Pairs. DW confirmed that there had been no further comment.

3.1 Review of county TDs (para 3.1)

PC had prepared a draft job description and would share it with DW before seeking Eddie Williams's comments and agreement.

Action: PC

3.2 Friday events at the Spring Congress (para 3.4)

See above. Action CF

Action: PC

3.3 Evolving events for the less experienced (para 3.6)

DW had received responses to his survey from just three clubs – Crawley, East Sussex and St. Leonards. A common theme seemed to be that club memberships were dominated by those whose interest in county events was fairly low and the costs of entry and travel were in many cases disincentives to entry to county events. There seemed to be little demand for different types of event and after discussion, TC Members agreed that the tournament programme for the less experienced should be left to evolve 'organically' on the basis of demand. Where events had become far less popular there should not be unjustified efforts to preserve the unpopular.

3.4 Sussex Pairs – Strengthening club heat qualification arrangements (para 3.7)

TC views regarding the opportunities for strengthening qualification arrangements had been passed to the organiser, Gerry Stanford (GS), and he had pointed out that the current guidance already emphasises the importance of using a single winner movement. However, he doubted whether this guidance was actually passed on to the club TDs. DW agreed to issue a reminder to club contacts at the start of the next season (July 2018).

Action: DW

3.5 Presentation and engraving of trophies (para 4.2)

At the last meeting, TC Members had agreed that the ideal should be presentation at the end of the event concerned, engraving organised by the event organiser and trophy then returned either to the winners if requested or to the Trophy Co-ordinator for retention until the following year's event. On reflection, however, it was felt that the simplest approach would be to make the winners responsible for arranging the required engraving and reclaiming the related cost from the Treasurer.

4. TOURNAMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

PC had nothing further to report beyond the matters covered by other agenda items.

5. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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5.1 Feedback from use of Rawson Hall, Bolney for the Autumn Congress

PC reported that there had been good feedback regarding the venue and the ploughman's lunch arranged by Andy Ryder (AR) had been well received. Some concern had been expressed about the lack of other refreshments later in the day and entry levels had not increased despite the easily accessed, central location. Additionally, costs were higher than at least one other option for the AC.

5.2 Representations from Patcham BC

Patcham BC had been used in the past to host the AC and Peter Langston (PL) had suggested the cost of that location would compare well with other locations such as Rawson Hall. He had also provided assurances regarding the availability of the adjacent school car park which had been a problem previously. A further advantage of Patcham BC was the obviation of the need to ship tables, etc required for Rawson Hall. DW agreed to copy the related correspondence to PC and he would speak to PL about the possibility of PBC hosting the AC 2018.

Action: PC

6. COMPETITIONS (REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS)

6.1 Sussex League

DG reported that the new league season was now well under way with 33 teams having played at least one match. 10 teams had still to start their programmes but this was not a particular cause for concern at this stage.

6.2 Tournament Returns – Cost Recovery and Feedback

JH had circulated summary reports of the outturn from county events held this year to 31 October. Outturns were slightly down on 2016 but overall JH still expected a reasonable surplus to emerge at the end of the year.

6.3 Metropolitan Cup - Results

PC reported that results had been disappointing and none of the Sussex teams had performed particularly well. Nevertheless, the event had provided good experience for those new to this level of competition.

6.4 Autumn Congress – Level of interest?

Although the levels of entries to this year's event had been disappointingly low, TC Members agreed that the two day event should be retained pro tem.

6.5 Club Heats – Publishing Results

There had been some doubt expressed recently about the arrangements for ensuring publication of the results of county competition heats at local clubs. MW added that there was also doubt as to whether clubs had sufficient instruction as regards allocation of correct MP scales and doing the P2P upload. MP observed that these arrangements should be made clear in the letter sent by the county event organiser to the clubs in question. As an example JH agreed to check with Eileen Perrigo (David Pavey Organiser) how she had dealt with this and report back. PC would then agree with DW an appropriate enhancement to the TO guidelines and ensure that all relevant organisers were informed.

Action: JH/PC/DW

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 County Directors Fees and Expenses

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DW reported comments from Eddie Williams (EW) that the fees and expenses allowed by the SCCBA had been set some years ago and were somewhat less than comparable fees, etc allowed by other counties. JH and PC agreed to review matters and report back.

Action: JH/PC

7.2 Dates for Invitation Pairs 2018

Following extensive checks to avoid clashes, including with TC members, AG had produced a final list of dates. TC Members were content to agree the proposed list.

7.3 Event refunds policy

JH proposed that cancellations pre-event should receive a full refund whereas those on the day should only receive a refund in exceptional circumstances. The latter should be subject to discussion between JH, PC and the relevant organiser. TC Members agreed.

7.4 Date clash between Sussex Pairs and David Pavey finals

One of our leading juniors, who had hoped to qualify for both of these finals, had pointed out that both would take place on the same day in 2018. TC Members agreed that this clash should be avoided if possible in 2019 et seq.

7.5 County Bridgemates

Because all three sets of county Bridgemates were either in use or expected shortly to be in use, the practice had been established whereby one set was placed permanently with AG for the invitation pairs and the other two moved from organiser to organiser as required. The CTD, Eddie Williams, had taken responsibility to update two of the sets as required for the GP events and the Congresses. AG took responsibility for arranging the update of the third as and when required.

7.6 Championship Teams

PC had noted the dramatic reduction in the number of teams entered this year (10) and he proposed that, in order to attempt to reverse this trend, the organisation of that event be merged with that of the Sussex League (where 43 teams competed). TC Members agreed and DG confirmed that he was willing to take on this combined responsibility in 2018. PC would speak to Roger Poulter (RP), the current Championship Teams' Organiser accordingly.

Action: PC

7.7 New Printer

PC requested approval to replace the old county printer which he held. It was no longer fit for purpose. JH indicated his agreement and TC Members approved an appropriate budget for a portable ink-jet printer.

Action: PC

7.8 Definition of "Simple Systems" for related county events

Questions had been raised as to whether a consistent definition of simple systems was being used at related county events. PC's predecessor had published a definition on the web site and PC would check whether this was correct and whether it was being applied consistently.

Action: PC

7.9 Chairman's Cup Rules

In response to a query from MW, TC Members agreed that the rules for this biennial event should remain as currently published on the web site until the Chairman appointed at the AGM 2018 had had an opportunity to review them.

8. Date of next meeting – 13 March 2018

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