

FINAL

Sussex County Contract Bridge Association **A meeting of the Tournament Committee of the SCCBA was held at 27, Bodmin Road,** **Worthing, BN13 3HE on Tuesday 23rd February 2016 commencing at 1.30pm.**

PRESENT: D Wheeler (DW - Chairman & Secretary), Mrs R Wolfarth (RW – Tournament Manager), Mrs A Galpin (AG), A Ryder (AR) D Galpin (DG), 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 10 November 2015 were agreed as presented.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Actions from paragraphs 3.2, 4.4, 5.2, 6.4, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 7.9 and 7.11 had been completed

3.1 Attracting more entries to tournaments (para 3.3)

DW circulated copies of a note (copy attached to these minutes) which summarised the actions which tournament organisers (TO) should take in order to maximise entry levels as far as possible. The TC agreed that this note should be added to the TO guidelines and that latter reviewed, updated and re-issued.

Action: DW

3.2 Events for the less experienced (para 4.2)

DW reported the results of his enquiries into the differences in entry levels at David Pavey heats. The key to success seemed to be linked strongly to the extent to which a heat was 'pushed' by the host club and not related to any discount to the entry fee. This experience had been used to draw up the note discussed under para 3.1.

3.3 Café Bridge (para 4.5)

The first Sussex based event was now being planned by RW and it would take place on 13 September 2016. There would be five cafés involved, all in the Hove area, and there would be a target of 40 pairs, eight at each café. It would be a county event, with P2P applying and scored on smart phones. The model to be adopted had been used in several locations elsewhere with success. RW invited TC members to consider participation and to contribute to the 'word-of-mouth' advertising of the event. AR asked RW to keep MW informed re entry forms, P2P upload method and when the results were available for web publication.

Action RW

3.4 Appointments 2016/17 (para 7.2)

DW reported that the majority of tournament organisers had indicated a willingness to continue but, currently, the Autumn Congress (AC) and the Welcome Pairs (WP) were without organisers. AR indicated that he had a possible candidate to organise the Autumn Congress and would take an action to follow up on that. The TC agreed that the AC should be planned for the weekend of 29/30 October 2016. It was also agreed that Clair Hall in Haywards Heath (near to the railway station) should be explored as the location. The WP had been held within the Spring Congress in the past but had not attracted sufficient entries in recent years. It might be included within the AC if sufficient interest could be generated through contact with club teachers. MW asked whether the AGM papers recently sent to clubs should also be published on the web as in previous years. DW agreed to forward the necessary papers after the meeting.

Action AR/DW

3.5 Use of EBUScore (para 7.10)

Ron Robins (IT Asset Manager) was now using EBUScore for teams' events. Scorebridge remained available for those who wished to use it for pairs' events.

4. TOURNAMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

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4.1 Collaboration with other counties

Other pressures had prevented RW from taking this further.

4.2 Competition rules – need for changes?

MW reported that that in the later stages of the David Pavey event for 2015/16, three competition rules had unfortunately been broken and one interpreted liberally. Lessons had been learned regarding the former and MW would be proposing a rule change regarding the latter. Fortunately, these infringements had not affected the overall outcome. MW would also be suggesting a change to the competition rules to clarify the procedure necessary to effect change to the competition rules. Once the revised rules had been agreed by the TC (by email) and the MC, they would be re-issued to all organisers.

Action: MW/DW

4.3 Inter Club Teams of Eight – Date confusion

Following the confusion over the date of this event, which was published erroneously as 17 April 2016 in the 2015/16 Year Book, investigation had established that the cause had been human error on the part of several of those involved. The correct procedure for checking the final copy for publication had been followed but this error had not been noticed either then or for five months following publication. In future years, the Editors would re-emphasise the importance of tournament and calendar entries being thoroughly checked by all concerned.

Action: AR

4.4 Level 2 Events – An overall strategy

RW circulated copies of a draft note she wished to issue via the county email list. This attempted to put each of the county's events for the less experienced into an overall context. This should help those who might be uncertain about which event(s) to enter. TC Members agreed to study the proposal and comment as soon as possible after the meeting.

Action: All

4.5 Basic Bridge Events – Qualification for cash prize previously offered

When trying to generate interest in the county's BB events, RW had (with TC agreement) offered cash prize to the best qualified pair who played in more than one event. Unfortunately, no qualified pair had played in more than one event. The TC agreed that the cash prize should not therefore be awarded and that it was not worth offering it again in future.

4.6 Other tournament queries

DW raised three points:

- Concern had been raised regarding the change of location for the GP Swiss Pairs (from Crowborough as advertised to Uckfield as now shown on the entry form). Eddie Williams had advised that when the booking of Crowborough was attempted, it had proved to be no longer available.
- One captain from the Inter Club Teams of Eight competition had enquired as to whether a club could enter more than one team. The current competition rules made clear that only one team per club was allowed. The TC reaffirmed that this rule should remain.
- What was currently called the "West Sussex Inter Club League" – a league run by the Avenue BC could be seen, erroneously, as a county event. AR agreed to discuss with Julian Mitchell a title which would avoid this possible confusion.

Action: AR

5. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

5.1 Chairman's Cup – Future Strategy

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AR had decided that this would remain a biennial competition with the next to be held in 2017. Subject to progress in the various Junior initiatives, the format would remain a by-invitation event, perhaps with a combination of Sussex winners and the best juniors.

5.2 Timing and Location of Kremer Dersch

In recent years this event had alternated between Eastbourne BC and the Old Barn BC. The TC agreed that this arrangement should continue pro tem, using Old Barn in 2016, and a date of 2 October was provisionally agreed. The Year Book work group would discuss this with those concerned. *[Post meeting note - Jill Armstrong advised DW that Old Barn BC would be closing early in March 2016. The YB WG would take this into account, looking at other options for the alternate location.]*

Action: AR

5.3 SCCBA Members Only Events

DW reported that the entry form standards had been updated to include a requirement for entrants to check a box regarding Sussex membership prior to the members' only events. In addition, the organiser guidelines had been updated to include a specific requirement to check entrants' membership status, if necessary seeking the Membership Secretary's advice. Where it was necessary to invite an entrant to become a dual member, the requisite fee would also be collected.

5.4 Organiser Guidelines

DW confirmed that the Tournament Organiser Guidelines would be updated and re-issued as soon as possible, taking account of the various clarifications which had emerged from this meeting and discussions since the last meeting.

Action: DW

6. COMPETITIONS (REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS)

6.1 Sussex League

DG reported that the 2015/16 season was broadly on track to complete on time. One or two teams had already completed their programmes of matches but he thought it quite likely that one or two others would need modest time extensions as in previous years.

6.2 Tournament Returns – Cost Recovery and Feedback

RW was continuing to monitor recovery although feedback from each event (in the form of financial reconciliations from organisers) was often slow to appear. Helen Kent had provided feedback following a recent event

- Some of the bidding/playing cards in use were well used and due for replacement.
- She had saved collection/return costs by using her own car in the past but the different location of the equipment store made this more difficult now.
- The bridge teacher records shown on the county web site were not up-to-date.

DW would reply to HK and email Malcolm Wright about the first two points. AR would contact the bridge teachers listed to check on their records. DW would also email clubs for any additional teachers who might want also to be listed.

Action: AR/DW

6.3 Forthcoming events

The timing of the upcoming Sussex Pairs final and the Open Sims would be delegated to the YB WG. Peter Clinch had suggested 15 Feb 2017 for the Open Sims. He had also asked whether the Sims should revert to an event reserved for Seniors but the TC reiterated that the conversion to an open event had been designed to maximise entries.

Action: AR

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6.4 Movements for county finals

Ron Robins had expressed concern about the unbalanced movement used for the county mixed pairs final where an arrow switch had not been used. The TC confirmed that past practice had been to arrow switch for the last round and recent EBU advice was to arrow switch for the last two rounds. Neither of these approaches had been used for the mixed pairs final. It appeared that the TD involved had not been copied in on an email exchange in March 2015 which had established county policy. DW agreed to respond to RR as required.

Action: DW

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 County Blue Point Events

DW reported that concern had been expressed that the NYST had not been designated as a BP event this year. It had previously been decided that the county's allocation of four BP licences would be assigned to the Spring Congress (2) and to the Mid Week Swiss Pairs and Henfield Candles. The popularity of the Mid Week event had reduced and the NYST should take precedence. Whilst the choices for 2016 were already made, the TC agreed that in 2017 the NYST should replace either the Mid Week or Henfield Candles depending on their respective entry levels in 2016. The less popular event would lose its BP status. EBU calendar entries would need to be revised in due course.

Action: RW

7.2 Guidance on use of semi-finals

MP suggested that past policy regarding heats had indicated a target of around 30% qualifiers from each heat. The recent cessation of the use of semi-finals had meant that much lower percentages of qualifiers were now common in pursuit of a final of 20 or 22 pairs despite lower overall entry totals. MP volunteered to produce a guidance note on the use of semi-finals for TC consideration and further discussion by email.

Action: MP

7.3 Rawson Hall, Bolney – Competition Venue?

DW had received a suggestion that this location might be used for future county events. DW had researched it on the web and agreed it might be a possibility. AR and RW would visit it to explore further.

Action: AR/RW

7.4 Future of Elisabeth North Trophy

Entries to this team of eight event (for players with under 25000 MP) were much reduced this year. There was competition from a similar, but unrestricted, event organised by a group of mid Sussex clubs. Thakeham BC (as winners in 2015) had acted as host for the latter in 2016 where the winners were West Sussex BC. In addition, Avenue BC ran a team of eight league throughout the year where part of the team was restricted to county master or below. AR would speak to West Sussex BC to ensure that the 'clash' of dates which occurred this year did not occur in 2017. If this did not result in raised entry levels for the EN, its future would be revisited.

Action: AR

7.5 Tournament Newsletter

MW observed that the recent TN had made a point of encouraging organisers to ensure that TDs and Scorers were thanked at the end of events. He said he would document the work which he did also to contribute to the successful completion of events for the information of others.

Action: MW

7.6 Webmaster holiday

MW reported that when he was on holiday in September 2016, MP would stand in for him

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 5 July 2016

3 March 2016

SCCBA

Maximising tournament entry levels

Tournament organisers are requested to be as proactive as possible in their efforts to maximise entry levels with the key words being: advertise, remind, remind, remind and remind using the following mechanisms.

- Provide input to Year Book editors (Andy Ryder – andyryder@hotmail.com and Gerry Stanford gezukstanford@hotmail.com) by end of April, making sure all of the following are accurate and comprehensive:
 - Description of event including qualification criteria if applicable and organiser contact details
 - Calendar entry showing date, time and location
 - Entry form to be included in the YB
- Ensure that the county web site is used fully to advertise the event and, where appropriate, enable on-line entry, by providing appropriate copy to the Webmaster (Mervyn Wotton mervynwotton@tiscali.co.uk)
- Ask Tournament Manager (Ros Wolfarth ros.wolfarth@ntlworld.com) to include reminder re your event in forward looks in regular tournament newsletters.
- Further remind via a Membership Secretary (Hazel Beveridge habeveridge@gmail.com) email-shot one month ahead of event.
- Distribute hard copy entry forms at main events (GP days (May and July) and Spring/Autumn congresses).
- Personal email-shot two weeks ahead of event by organiser to those who entered in previous year but have yet to enter this year.

Tournament Committee
23 Feb 2016