

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 5th July 2016 commencing at 1.30pm.

PRESENT: D Wheeler (DW - Chairman & Secretary), Mrs R Wolfarth (RW – Tournament Manager), A Ryder (AR), J Hardy (JH), M Pool (MP) and M Wotton (MW)

1. APOLOGIES – Mrs A Galpin (AG)

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The final draft minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2016 were agreed as presented.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Actions from paragraphs 3.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.2, 6.3, 7.2 and 7.5 had been completed

3.1 Café Bridge (para 3.3)

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. Eight pairs had already signed up and paid and four of the five cafés had agreed. RW had fielded many more enquiries and was confident of reaching the target of 40 pairs.

[Post meeting note – At the February 2016 meeting AR had agreed to ask RW to keep MW informed re entry forms, P2P upload method and when the results were available for web publication. As the day of Cafe Bridge event is the first day of his holiday MW is keen to clarify how the results for the web-site and the P2P information will be supplied well before the event takes place.]

Action: RW

3.2 Siting of Autumn Congress (para 3.4)

RW reported that she and AR had visited Clair Hall in Haywards Heath as previously agreed but it was judged to be too expensive. The AC would now take place at Patcham BC and the Welcome pairs would be reincarnated within the programme.

Action: RW

3.3 Level 2 Events – Overall Strategy (para 4.4)

Following feedback from a recent level 2 event, which suggested that there were differing understandings of the conventions allowed, DW rehearsed his understanding of the overall approach desired. There were three basic objectives:

- to make the events as enjoyable for all as possible;
- to attract as many entries as possible; and,
- to allow whichever conventions the less experienced had been taught within the overall confines of level 2.

For this approach to succeed, there were three more requirements:

- the TD needs to make clear the points above at the outset; and,
- the TD needs to offer help to any pair which requires it at the start of each round to understand any conventions used by their opponents with which they are unfamiliar; and,
- the TD needs to make clear that ensuring all are comfortable with what is being played will mean that each round may take a little longer than that which some might see as the norm.

TC members endorsed this approach and DW said he would clear lines with Eddie Williams before arranging for this advice to go to county TDs and the relevant organisers.

Action: DW

3.4 Avenue BC Inter Club League (para 4.6)

AR advised that this league no longer appeared in the county calendar thus removing the previous scope for misunderstanding.

3.5 Organiser Guidelines (para 5.4)

DW agreed to issue the revised guidelines to all organisers immediately after this meeting.

3.6 Bridge Teacher Records (para 6.2)

AR confirmed that all actions flowing from his review of these records had been completed.

3.7 Movements and scoring at county events (para 6.4 – follow up)

Following difficulties reported at the Mixed Pairs Final, RW would check matters with Eddie Williams and arrange for county TDs to be advised accordingly. She would also check with Keith Norman regarding the background to the difficulties experienced at the recent Venture Pairs event.

Action: RW

3.8 County Blue Point Events (para 7.1)

The Henfield event had attracted 25 tables and it was therefore likely that it would replace the Mid Week Swiss Pairs as a county BP event in 2017.

3.9 Rawson Hall, Bolney (para 7.3)

RW and AR had visited this venue and it appeared to be very good value for money. There was limited space for catering but the TC agreed that it would be used on a trial basis for the Mid Week Swiss Pairs 2017 or the NYST in 2018.

Action: RW

3.10 Future of Elisabeth North Trophy event (para 7.4)

Despite the limited entry, it was agreed that this would be held again in 2017 and reviewed again thereafter. In a wider discussion regarding tournament organiser resources, it was noted that a number of organisers took responsibility for several events and this limited the time they could devote to individual events. It was agreed that RW would ask Hazel Beveridge to use her email database to trawl for additional organisers and to approach two potential recruits at WSBC.

Action: RW

4. TOURNAMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

RW's latest tournament newsletter had been published on the web site on 3 July and would be issued by email as soon as possible.

5. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

5.1 Chairman's Cup – Future Strategy

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

5.2 Future of Metropolitan Cup

Responsibility for this event had moved to Surrey in 2015 after Sussex had run it for many years. It seemed that Surrey had now decided that they were not able to organise it for 2016. The TC agreed to hold a watching brief as there was no enthusiasm for taking back responsibility.

5.3 Ensuring accurate scoring and correct use of Bridgemates

Already covered by actions arising from paragraph 3.7 above.

FINAL

5.4 TD management of slow play

RW had spoken to Eddie Williams about the concerns expressed by a competitor at a recent event. There was a difference of view as to whether a warning had been given in advance of a penalty being applied and the CTD saw no reason to amend the ruling.

5.5 Year Book calendar consistency

Additional checks had been incorporated in the preparation of copy for the 2016/17 Year Book but there was still uncertainty over the process used by the EBU to make alterations to their events and whether it included consultation with counties. DW would check this.

Action: DW

5.6 Duplimate Machines

Following a request from a member at Patcham BC, the utilisation of the county's Duplimate machines had been reviewed and DW had circulated a paper. The TC agreed the conclusions drawn and the actions which flowed from them. DW agreed to consult the MC before informing all concerned.

Action: DW

6. COMPETITIONS (REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS)

6.1 Sussex League

David Galpin had reported by email that the 2015/16 season had been completed albeit somewhat later than he would have liked. He had also asked the TC to consider whether the prizes given to division winners should be increased after many years at their present levels. It was noted that there were a number of inconsistencies between the prizes given for various county events and JH agreed to review the overall position and make recommendations to the MC. AR suggested that he might also like to include in his review the potential advantages of a policy of 'points for prizes' whereby winners were given credits for future Sussex events rather than cash.

Action: JH

6.2 Tournament Returns – Cost Recovery and Feedback

JH observed that some organisers were not as prompt as others in providing the required costs/receipts summaries and supporting documentation. Hopefully the revised organiser guidelines (see para 3.5 above) would act as a reminder. JH circulated summaries of 2016/17 events thus far and the general trend was for a small surplus in each.

6.3 Southern Counties JTI

Preparations were well in hand and 14 youngsters had already paid. AR was confident that the break-even level of attendance would be reached.

Action: AR

6.4 Kremer Dersch 2016

The invitation for the 2016 Kremer Dersch (to be held again at Eastbourne) was ready and would be issued after the MC meeting on 22 July. If numbers of clubs attending were down (as in 2015), Bolney (see para 3.9 above) would be considered as a more central (and therefore more attractive) location for 2017.

Action: DW

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Green Point Events 2018

DW had circulated a draft reply to the EBU request for bids for GP events in 2018. The TC agreed with those proposed and DW would reply to the EBU accordingly

Action: DW

7.2 Partner Finder Facility

FINAL

A member had asked Hazel Beveridge to consider the introduction of a partner finder facility to the county web site. The same member had made the same request in 2012 (to the then Chairman, Joy Mayall) and in 2014 to the current Chairman Andy Ryder. In essence this had been offered previously (through the Members' only facility) but it had attracted almost no interest and had been abandoned. The hosting arrangements used by many clubs now were seen to be a more practical option for those seeking a partner at short notice. The original suggestion had been made soon after the member in question had joined the county and it was hoped that by now, four years later, his need for such a facility was reduced. DW would consult the MC on this and subject to their agreement would reply to the member accordingly

Action: DW

7.3 On-line Entries

JH had identified a number of inconsistencies between the lists of on-line entries provided from the web site and the entries for related on-line payments. MW agreed to copy him in on all emails related to on-line entries. DW asked whether it would be possible to enhance the web site to integrate entries and payments. MW replied that he had looked at this previously and concluded that it would be difficult and potentially more costly. JH indicated he was content with the present arrangements with the addition of copied emails as now agreed.

Action: MW

7.4 Henfield Candles – Use of Bridgemates

Comments had been received as to the background to the absence of Bridgemates at the 2016 event. RW reported that there were particular circumstances at this year's event but Bridgemates would be used in future in line with county policy.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 6 September 2016

13 July 2016