

# 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 8<sup>th</sup> July 2014 commencing at 2.30pm.

**PRESENT:** D Wheeler (Chairman & Secretary), A Galpin, D Galpin, M Pool, A Ryder, and M Wotton.

### 1. APOLOGIES - E Williams

### 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2014 were agreed subject to the following corrections:

- Para 3.4, line 4 should read "learned. In MW's view...."
- Para 5.1, line 2 should read "....the EBU (Michael Clark) about...."

### 3. MATTERS ARISING

#### 3.1 Non-standing Pairs in Senior Sims (para 3.3)

MW had put forward a proposal for an open sims to prevent clubs having to turn away players and to simplify scoring with prizes restricted to senior pairs. There had been differing views expressed before the meeting. After discussion it was agreed the seniors' event should be retitled a County Sims with a range of prizes to appeal to all groups. The prizes should be 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, best junior pair (under 25), best mixed gender pair and best over 70 pair. This new event would first be held in the 2015/16 season (probably in February 2016) and the other Sims event allowed by the EBU (the Charity Sims) would be moved to the autumn of 2015.

#### 3.2 Stratification (para 3.4)

Gerry Stanford's (GS) advice was that whether to stratify particular events should be left to the Organiser and Director to decide. DW enquired whether this might run a risk of inconsistency but was assured that it would not. It was also reported that stratification had recently failed using the Jeff Smith scoring software and AR agreed to explore with this further with Jeff Smith. MW agreed to supply the requisite e-mail address.

**Action: MW/AR**

#### 3.3 Director Training (para 3.5)

EW had volunteered to undertake this work and had planned four dates, one for county TDs and three to be offered to clubs. DG was following up on the financial arrangements for previous county TD updates and it was assumed that clubs would be charged directly for any training which they requested. DW agreed to check approval of this activity on this basis at the MC.

**Action: DG/DW/EW**

#### 3.4 Sussex Pairs 2013/14 (para 3.6)

GS had consulted with participants in 2013/14 and it had been decided to dispense with semi-finals in 2014/15 given the lower numbers of entrants. In future years semi-finals could be re-introduced if the numbers demanded such.

#### 3.5 Continuation of Mixed Heats (para 3.7)

There appeared now to be conflicting anecdotal evidence of the benefits (or costs) of the allowance of mixed heats. DW agreed to arrange for the MC to be consulted on 18 July as to the balance of advantage in continuing or discontinuing with such heats.

**Action: DW**

#### 3.6 DAT files to Webmaster (para 3.10)

MW had provided a detailed response to EW and there had been no further questions.

#### 3.7 On line Entry and Payment by BACS (para 3.13)

DG reported that the new system had been very successful. Over half of the entries for the June GP event had arrived by this method. Although there was significant additional work for MW and DG, the facility was obviously popular with members.

### 4. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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## 4.1 Appointment of new Tournament Manager

EW's offer to take on this work had been considered by the Officers and agreed subject to MC ratification. DW had checked with EW about his ability to fulfil all of the duties listed in the job description and EW had provided the required assurance. DW would seek formal ratification from the MC on 18 July. EW had enquired as to whether he would become Chairman of the TC (as previous TMs had) and DW agreed to check again with him over his ability to attend meetings alongside the other pressures on his time.

**Action: DW**

## 4.2 Issue of Year Book 2014/15

AR had discussed with Brian Campbell-Kearsey (BC-K) the difficulties over the issue of the Year Book and BC-K had promised "completion by next weekend". At the earlier Officers' meeting, AR had agreed to clarify precisely what this meant and to enable a final proof-read by MW if necessary. DW agreed to consider and consult on more robust arrangements for 2015/16.

**Action: AR/DW**

## 5. COMPETITIONS (REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS)

### 5.1 Sussex League

(a) **Proposal for amended rules** – Following difficulties at the end of the 2013/14 season, Jill Armstrong had submitted proposals for amending the competition rules in response. TC members felt that to adopt such specific changes, even if they could be drafted to the satisfaction of all, would set an undesirable precedent and thereby encourage further proposed changes over time, leading inevitably to unhelpful complication. The TC reaffirmed its view that the Organiser had the absolute discretion to deal with such circumstances as arose in 2013/14 and they had no wish to disturb this. DW agreed to e-mail JA with this decision and indicate that he would seek MC endorsement of it on 18 July.

**Action: DW**

(b) **Preparations for new season** – DG reported that entries were coming in, particularly using the on-line facility, and the numbers received thus far were on a par with previous years. He would be reminding other past team captains shortly about the 31 July deadline. In addition, in his annual letter to captains immediately before the start of the new season, he would take the opportunity of reminding them about the importance of completing all of their matches in good time.

**Action: DG**

### 5.2 Green Point Events 2014

East Grinstead was proving to be a relatively unpopular venue and EW had suggested a return to Ardingly. His report indicated that GS had agreed to talk to Ardingly about use of that venue in 2015. Previous difficulties over catering restrictions at Ardingly would need to be checked. AR enquired whether there might be other venues which could be compared but MP observed that he and GS had explored all possible options relatively recently. MW mentioned the advice given to him about the possible suitability of the Bognor Butlins Centre but availability in the summer months might be a problem.

**Action: EW**

### 5.3 Tournament Returns – Cost Recovery and Feedback

DG reported that entries to the June GP event were significantly down on the previous year reducing the net return to approximately £700 compared with c£1200 in 2013. A similar downturn was to be expected from the July event, in part attributed to the failure to issue the Year Book (containing entry forms for all events) to all members. The e-mail list had been used to compensate for this but this only covered just over 50% of the membership.

## 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 6.1 Scoring Software – P2P File Changes

MW confirmed that the recent EBU advice about these changes (which related to the accommodation of teams' results in the NGS scheme) did not impact the county because the Jeff Smith software was being changed accordingly.

### 6.2 Green Pointed Events in 2016 – EBU Return

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EW had indicated his preference for holding both Sussex GP events over one weekend in 2016. DW would consult the MC on this on 18 July and he would e-mail GS to include this possibility in his enquiries to Ardingly.

**Action: GS**

## 6.3 Chairman's Cup

DW reported Julian Mitchell's concerns about the continuing difficulty over the availability of sufficient qualified pairs for this event, held every two years. AR agreed to reflect on the value of the event given its current objective and whether it might be used for different purposes in 2015. DW would put this on the agenda for the December 2014 meeting to ensure a decision before preparation of the 2015 Year Book.

**Action: GS**

## 6.4 Partner Finder Web Facility

Peter Griffin (PG) had written to AR suggesting that the county introduce a partner finder facility on its web site. MW had provided detailed advice on this before the meeting but in essence this type of facility had been trialled some years ago with an almost total lack of take-up. The TC agreed that it was not worth re-introduction in the absence of demonstrable demand. AR confirmed that he had checked the EBU equivalent facility and there appeared to be a similarly low take-up there. PG had also suggested that it would be advantageous if registered entrants were published on the web site but the TC saw no particular advantage in this. Indeed, publication of initially low levels of entry could have the effect of deterring (rather than attracting) further entries. This was quite apart from the considerable effort required to keep such listings up-to-date. AR agreed to write to PG accordingly.

**Action: AR**

## 6.5 Timing of future meetings

DG suggested that if future meetings were to be held immediately after Officers' meetings, the start time should be brought forward to 1.30pm to avoid unnecessary 'downtime' between meetings. DW agreed to arrange accordingly

**Action: DW**

## 6.6 Meeting Frequency

MW enquired about future TC meeting frequency. The TC agreed that this would be driven by need but there would be at least two meetings each year in July and December.

## 6.7 Request for initial funding for training of new County TD

EW had requested funding for county TD training for Stephen Kennedy. The TC approved this request. DW would convey this to EW.

**Action: DW**

## 7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

16 December 2014

9 July 2014