

FINAL

Sussex County Contract Bridge Association

**A meeting of the Tournament Committee of the SCCBA was held at
Freedom Leisure East Grinstead Sports Club, Saint Hill Road, RH19 4JU on
Tuesday 10th July 2012 commencing at 7 pm.**

PRESENT: Mr G Stanford (Chairman), Mr D Galpin, Mr E Williams, Mr M Wotton, Mr D Wheeler (Secretary).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs J Mayall and Mrs A Galpin

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2011 were approved and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Chairman's Cup participation

Following the MC decision in January 2012, this event would now be held every two years. GS had written to all relevant Organisers accordingly.

3.2 Invitation Pairs

Following further consultations and in light of the potential scoring difficulties, the previous format had been reinstated. This would be revisited towards the end of the year if the scoring difficulties could be resolved. EW agreed to investigate further. MW asked to be kept informed about proposed scoring changes so that he could progress any possible subsequent changes to BridgeWebs.

Action: EW

3.3 County Directors List - provide list of required skills

The action accepted by EW at the September 2011 meeting remained to be completed. He was hopeful of being able to document the list next month. The move to the use of Bridgemates for all County events had yet to be fully achieved. There had been operational difficulties which appeared to have been caused by incompatibilities between firmware on the Bridgemates and related servers. It was vital that the firmware versions installed were compatible and EW agreed to take on the responsibility of ensuring this in future.

**Action:
EW**

3.4 Calendar updates by e-mail

DW reported that he had produced a draft protocol which was to be considered shortly by the Officers and the MC. If approved this would establish a strategic foundation for future communication with Members by e-mail.

3.5 Henfield Candles

This had remained a Henfield event for 2012. GS would discuss it further with Henfield in due course but the TC agreed that there was no current opportunity for making it a County event.

3.6 Implications of P2P from April 2012

Possible changes to County fees in response to P2P changes had been discussed at the MC. In light of the surplus achieved overall in 2011, the proposed increases had been cancelled. Matters would be reviewed again at the end of 2012.

3.7 Minimum number of tables in heats

GS had written to all Heat Organisers to clarify the requirements for mixed heats.

3.8 Sussex Individual

In light of the relatively healthy support for most heats in 2011, this event would remain unchanged.

3.9 Basic Bridge Events (Stratification)

A review of the results from some recent events had shown that previous concerns about 'domination' by too many experienced players were unfounded. Nevertheless, the TC agreed that a recommendation that all future BB events should be stratified at three levels would be taken to the next MC meeting in order to provide further encouragement to the less experienced. Prizes would be given at each level.

3.10 Procedure for New Events

The TC noted that a new event (the Golf/Bridge Day) had been introduced for 2012 without the required formal consideration by the TC and the MC. DW agreed to raise the matter at the next MC meeting so that formal approval of the Golf/Bridge Day could be regularised. MW would explore whether the results of the bridge part of the golf/bridge event should be uploaded to the EBU and thus cause Master Points to be issued.

Action: DW/MW

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

4.1 Open/Closed Events

In order to attract higher entries, the TC agreed that the County's four blue pointed (which all need to be open) events in 2013 should be the New Year Swiss Teams, the Midweek Swiss Pairs, and one of the Swiss events at each Congress. There were other events which could remain closed in order to deliver the mix desired by the majority of those who replied to the membership Survey.

4.2 Mixed Heats in Sim Pairs

The TC agreed that the complexities of scoring together with the difficulty of achieving a fair outcome in all circumstances tended to preclude the use of mixed heats in these events.

4.3 Update of Directors' Skills

Activity was on-going and would continue to be so for the foreseeable future.

4.4 Blue Pointed Events

The choice of BP events had been made under item 4.1 above. GS would report this to the MC.

Action: GS

4.5 EBU League Management System

Details of an automated management system developed by the EBU had been circulated. DG expressed concern that, at first sight because the system involved delegating some responsibilities to Team Captains, it would be difficult for him to be totally confident about the accuracy of the data within the system at any one point in time. He and MW would look at what was on offer in more detail and report back in due course.

Action: DG/MW

5. COMPETITIONS (REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS)

5.1 Sussex League

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DG had received 25 entries for the 2012/13 season. He speculated that some teams might be waiting to see the outcome of the MC's survey of teams before entering. He also confirmed that in past years it had been the 'norm' for there to be a last minute rush to enter.

5.2 2011 Tournament Returns – Cost Recovery

DG reported that Ardingly entries were slightly up with three more tables than 2011. The cost recovery budget was on track.

5.3 Feedback Forms at Events

These had not been issued at Ardingly which was unfortunate because anecdotal feedback about the catering had not been positive. Forms would be issued at all future events.

Action: EW

5.4 Event Accommodation/Refreshment Costs – Future Options

Intelligence from the feedback forms would be important, starting with experience at East Grinstead.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Kremer Dersch 2012 – Date/Venue

Following Eastbourne's reported difficulty with the chosen date, GS had discussed alternative dates/venues with those involved. Matters were not yet finally resolved but he would seek to do so as soon as possible.

Action: GS

6.2 Membership Survey Feedback – Issues for the TC

MW reviewed the various elements of the Survey feedback about tournaments. The TC agreed that proposals for Green and Blue Pointed events in 2013 to have a start time of 12 noon with a maximum meal break time of 75 minutes would be put to the MC. The Survey results were also in favour of a double elimination in the Championship Teams and this would be looked at for 2013.

Action: GS

6.3 Sussex Individual

DG reported that he had not received the fees, etc from this event which had concluded several months ago. He would pursue Peter Bates accordingly.

Action: DG

6.4 Catering Costs

EW reported estimates of the catering costs of two imminent events and the TC indicated that they were content with them.

6.5 'Non-Expert' Prizes

Currently, there did not appear to be a standardised definition of 'Non-Expert' to ensure that prizes were being awarded consistently. GS agreed to explore further and report back.

Action: GS

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be advised.