

Sussex County Contract Bridge Association

A meeting of the Tournament Committee of the SCCBA was held at 45, Shepherds Way, Horsham RH12 4LZ on Tuesday 18th December 2012 commencing at 10 am.

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

1. APOLOGIES

None.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2012 were agreed subject to the insertion of "AG undertook to brief EW on the subject." in place of the penultimate sentence of paragraph 3.1.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Invitation Pairs – scoring for possible revised format (para 3.1)

AG had briefed EW on the scoring issues but he had not found the time to give the matter further consideration. In light of the divided opinion amongst team captains, the TC decided to retain the current format for the next season and to review the matter again at the end of 2013.

Action: AG/EW

3.2 County Directors List - provide list of required skills (para 3.2)

The County Directors training day had taken place in November 2012 and a note of outcomes had been circulated to the MC (see attached). EW drafted some nine pages of material related to required skills. This document would be completed and presented to the TC at its first meeting in 2013. EW would also present other draft documents and recommendations related to the actions listed in the note of the training day.

**Action:
EW**

3.3 EBU League Management System (para 3.4)

DG reported that all six divisions were now on the EBU web site and the new system would help streamline end of season procedures including award of MPs. There had been an apparent breach of web site security whereby it had been updated without DG's knowledge. This was being investigated and MW agreed to change the relevant password immediately. *[Post meeting note – the loophole had arisen through the default introduction (now reversed) of a new BridgeWebs update process.]*

Action: DG/MW

3.4 Sussex Individual

DG had reported that he still had not received the fees, etc from this event which had concluded many months ago. Peter Bates (the Organiser) had indicated that he had still to complete the necessary paperwork. DG remained concerned that as a result of the continuing delay he had not yet paid the prizes to the winners. DG would press further for resolution.

Action: DG

3.5 Standard Definition of 'Non-Expert' (para 3.9)

GS indicated that he had prepared a paper on this and thought he had presented it to the last MC meeting. DW couldn't recall this and GS undertook to copy his paper to DW after this meeting.

Action: GS

3.6 Open/Closed Events (para 3.10)

DW had reported back to the MC as required and it had approved the TC's recommendations. More recently GS reported that he had decided to 'open' the New Year Swiss Teams (NYST) event in order to encourage further entries. The TC endorsed this action in the circumstances.

Action: DW

3.7 Invitation Pairs – Improvement of Understanding (para 4.1)

DW had prepared (and cleared with AG) a Q&A note for publication. This had been circulated to TC Members before the meeting. The TC agreed that it should be published in the next newsletter and on the

web site. AG reported the dates and venues proposed for the 2013 event.

3.8 Competition Rules – Sufficiency to Protect Organisers (para 4.2)

DW had reported to the MC as required and it had agreed that the present rules were sufficient.

3.9 Licence Requirements for BB and VP Events (para 4.3)

DW had reported to the MC as required and it had agreed that 'Level 2' should be adopted for all of these events. Following a suggestion from MW, the TC agreed that this standard should also apply to the Welcome Pairs, David Pavey and Novice Swiss Teams should that be reintroduced.

3.10 Event Accommodation/Refreshment Costs – Future Options (para 5.3)

DW had reported to the MC as required and it had agreed with the line being taken by GS.

Action: DW

3.11 Green Pointed Events for 2014 (para 5.4)

DW reported that only four MC Members had responded to his consultation on whether these events should be concentrated in one weekend or as previously over two separate weekends. Views were divided and the TC agreed to revisit the issue later in 2013.

Action: DW

3.12 Regionalisation of Events – Responding to concerns expressed by Members (para 5.5)

DW had circulated a report of the responses to his questionnaire. Only six of thirty clubs had responded suggesting it would be difficult to draw any firm conclusions from the results. DW would report the results to the MC on 17 January 2013 to enable their consideration of any further action required.

Action: DW

3.13 Midweek Swiss Pairs (para 6.7)

GS reported that the first of these events had been very successful and the TC agreed that further events should be planned. It was also agreed that the EBU would be asked whether a mid-week GP event could be held and that a questionnaire would be issued to NYST participants seeking their views.

Action: GS/DG

3.14 Guidelines for Directing Resources (para 6.8)

As part of the follow-up to the Directors Training Day, EW would make recommendations on this at the next meeting.

Action: EW

3.15 Procedure for New Events (para 3.3)

MW asked whether the previously proposed Bridge/Bowls event would be a County event and therefore subject to TC/MC approval. GS advised that it would be a Club event organised by the Old Barn BC and therefore not subject to County approval.

3.16 Congress Events (para 6.5)

GS reported that the Autumn Congress Championship Pairs was to be a Swiss event and blue pointed in 2013.

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

4.1 Approval of Future County Directors Lists

The MC had asked the TC to review the need for County Directors annually. The TC agreed to meet next before the 2013 AGM in order to review requirements and make recommendations to the incoming TC post the AGM.

4.2 Scheduling of County Events

Helen Kent had written to JM on this subject and GS agreed to respond to her concerns.

Action: GS

5. COMPETITIONS (REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS)

5.1 Sussex League

DG reported that the season was generally proceeding well. A difficulty had arisen over the wish of Muriel Bailey's team to complete their fixtures before the end of 2012. One other team had found this difficult. Discussions were on-going and DG was hopeful of a satisfactory resolution in the near future.

5.2 2012 Tournament Returns – Cost Recovery

DG reported that the cost recovery budget remained on track. GP events had broken even and other events had also broken even or made small surpluses.

5.3 Review of Entries to Club Heats of Sussex Events

Difficulties had arisen following a mixed heat at Worthing BC and Harold Linfield had written to JM with a number of observations and suggestions. JM would respond in due course and the TC agreed that the instructions to Club Directors should be enhanced to prevent future difficulties. GS would take action accordingly.

Action: JM/GS

5.4 TD reporting – Consistency with White Book Rules

Following a query from an MC Member, this was discussed at the Directors Training Day. EW agreed to make the necessary preparations to be able to write to the Directors listed for 2013 after the next TC meeting setting out the reporting requirements.

Action: EW

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 SCCBA Storage – Further Progress?

GS reported that there had been no further progress regarding either the previously anticipated proposal from the Adur Indoor Bowling Club or the enquiries made by the Equipment Officer about commercial options. Consideration was being given to the use of pallets in the present storage location to reduce exposure to dampness. An offer recently provided by Martin Lee (to supply tables, cards, bidding boxes, etc for County events represented a fall-back option should the County's own equipment be lost.

6.2 NYST

It was noted that there had been no specific mailing of entry forms to individuals about this event and this might have contributed to the lower number of entries received to date. The TC agreed that next year's entry form should be included with the calendar issue.

6.3 Next Newsletter

JM reported that she was collating material for the next issue. The final date for provision of copy and inserts was 11 January 2013. GS and EW agreed to provide the inserts required within that timescale.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be advised.

Report from Directors day November 2012

Attendees: D. Cross, D. Galpin, B. Gould, Ms K. Kennedy, P. Langston, I. Macgregor, J. Mitchell, K. Norman, Mrs K. Williams, S. Kennedy & P. Hutley.

Unfortunately Martin Pool could not attend.

John Taylor and Norman Hardy did not attend and have requested to be omitted from the list next year. The overall number of directors needed by the County to cover its programme of events will need to be reviewed by the TC before the beginning of next season. Some Directors were not being used and the list might need to be further reduced.

Also invited were Stephen Kennedy (who will take his county director exams in Sept 2013) and Patrick Hutley who had recently taken the county director exams and failed them.

I had sent out an EBU Panel Director's promotion exam paper for all participants to do in advance of the day. They all returned them to me before the event. And all obtained marks of 60% or more with the exception of PH.

There was a lot of group discussion with valued input from all.

Marit Langston provided an excellent lunch.

After lunch I provided instruction for an hour and a half on Bridgmate setup.

Main points that came out of the day:

1. Produce an 'idiots' guide to Bridgmate setup and use.
2. Written instruction on how to send results to Mervyn.
3. County scoring Laptop & Printer kept at Patcham to go out with boards for an event.
(One person in county to be responsible for its updates when necessary)
4. County Psyche book to be kept by CTD or Tournament Manager or both for TDs reference.
5. Disciplinary, Appeal, Psyche & Procedural Penalty Forms to go with Laptop & Printer.
(Any of these that have been filled out must go to CTD or Tournament Manager or both for reference)
6. Appeals deposits to be administered (£30 for Teams, £20 for Pairs).
7. List of holders of County Laptops that are available for scoring.
8. Report Form for TDs to fill out after each event they have directed.
9. Appointment of 'Cuddlies' for all County events.
10. Appointment and advertisement of offsite Referees.
11. Appointments of County TDs to be shared as appropriate. (should be administered by CTD & Tournament Manager and approved by TC)
12. How many Directors needed for number of tables, etc.
13. There was some concern shown over how far the EBU had now gone in its code of conduct for Directors and that this approach may be too far for the County.

I will make recommendations (and provide draft documents where required) to the first meeting of the TC in 2013 on all these points.

Eddie Williams
December 2012

