

FINAL

Sussex County Contract Bridge Association

A meeting of the Tournament Committee of the SCCBA was held at Patcham Community Centre on Tuesday 25th September 2012 commencing at 7 pm.

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs J Mayall.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2011 were agreed subject to the insertion of "which all need to be" before "open" in line 1 of paragraph 4.1.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Invitation Pairs – scoring for possible revised format (para 3.2)

As indicated at the meeting in July 2012, 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 (associated with ensuring fairness at all stages) could be resolved. EW had agreed to investigate further and this action was carried forward to the next meeting. AG undertook to brief EW on the subject. MW had also asked to be kept informed about proposed scoring changes so that he could progress any possible subsequent changes to BridgeWebs.

Action: AG/EW

3.2 County Directors List - provide list of required skills (para 3.3)

The action accepted by EW at the September 2011 meeting remained to be completed. The County Directors training day would now take place in November 2012 and the list would be prepared and cleared with TC Members by e-mail before then.

**Action:
EW**

3.3 Procedure for New Events (para 3.10)

DW reported that the Golf/Bridge Day event had been cleared by the MC at its meeting in July 2012 and the MC had reaffirmed the responsibility for consideration of new events rested with the TC. Subject to TC recommendation, the MC would then ratify the introduction of a new event.

3.4 EBU League Management System (para 4.5)

DG and MW had looked into the potential advantages of this system and DG was hopeful of being able to introduce it before the end of the current season. This year's data would be uploaded retrospectively in time for end of season processes. DG would retain suitable control over subsequent updating to ensure on-going accuracy of data.

Action: DG

3.5 Feedback Forms at Events (para 5.3)

The process was going well and feedback received, eg from the Autumn Congress, was generally positive. EW had picked up some useful e-mail addresses from non-Sussex players which could be used in future to broaden advertising of future events.

3.6 Kremer Dersch 2012 – Date/Venue (para 6.1)

Following much discussion with the various parties, this year's event had taken place on 23 September at the Adur Indoor Bowling Club. The event was generally successful although it was now felt that the playing tables should have been set out in the main room rather than the more restricted Green room. Fifteen teams had participated and. Avenue BC had emerged victorious for the third year in succession. The opportunity had also been taken to present Jackie Clinton with her Dimmie Fleming award and Ernie Rivett had given a presentation on the mentoring activities being undertaken at Worthing BC.

3.7 Membership Survey Feedback – Issues for the TC (para 6.2)

All necessary actions had been completed.

3.8 Sussex Individual

DG had reported at the July meeting that he had not received the fees, etc from this event which had concluded several months ago. Peter Bates (the Organiser) had indicated recently that he had still to complete the necessary paperwork. DG was concerned that as a result of the continuing delay he had not yet paid the prizes to the winners but he would give PB a little more time before pursuing him again.

Action: DG

3.9 Standard Definition of 'Non-Expert' (para 6.5)

Following a brief discussion of the issues involved, particularly the wish to have at least 10% of the field competing for the related prizes, GS agree to produce a paper proposing the definition required. Given the focus on the 10%, the 'bar' for any particular event may need to be raised or lowered from any target limit and this needed to be clear to participants before events to avoid complaints from those who might subsequently perceive themselves to have been disadvantaged.

Action: GS

3.10 Open/Closed Events (para 4.1)

MW referenced further discussion on this topic since the last MC meeting. On further reflection, TC Members now felt that the four blue pointed events should now all take place at the Congresses and that the New Year Swiss Teams and the Midweek Swiss Pairs should not be BP events and would be closed. This approach would maximise entry levels for the two congresses and would therefore be the best use of our EBU quota. DW undertook to check on the need for MC approval of this change of plan.

Action: DW

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

4.1 Invitation Pairs – Improvement of Understanding

This event was currently fully subscribed and there was a waiting list. Other interested pairs needed to contact the Organiser (AG) in order to be added to the waiting list. The current complement was 33 pairs in line with capacity at the venues used. DW agreed to draft a short explanatory note for TC approval by e-mail and subsequent publication on the web site.

Action: DW

4.2 Competition Rules – Sufficiency to Protect Organisers

Dave Armstrong had questioned the sufficiency of competition rules because they did not explicitly state what would be done in all circumstances. Instead they usually indicated that the Organiser's decisions would be final and left it to his/her discretion to deal sensibly with unprecedented situations. The TC felt that this was the right way to continue but if DA, or anyone else, was able to point to specific weaknesses, the TC would consider them further. DW agreed to report back to the MC accordingly.

Action: DW

4.3 Licence Requirements for BB and VP Events

Following a further query from DA, the TC had looked at the current allowance of either Level 2 or the subset of that encompassed by 'Simple Systems' which had been agreed at a previous MC meeting. The recent publication of the new Orange Book had clarified this area and the TC now felt that these events should be defined in 2013 onwards simply as 'Level 2'. DW agreed to report back to the MC accordingly.

Action: DW

5. COMPETITIONS (REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS)

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5.1 Sussex League

DG had received 44 entries for the 2012/13 season, four less than last season. These had been organised into six divisions and results were being submitted regularly very much in line with expectations.

5.2 2012 Tournament Returns – Cost Recovery

DG reported that the cost recovery budget was on track. EW emphasised the value perceived by participants at those events where tea/coffee had been provided on arrival within the entry fee.

5.3 Event Accommodation/Refreshment Costs – Future Options

Several attempts had been made over the last couple of years to improve the quality and value for money of the catering provided at Ardingly. Recent experience suggested that these had not been successful. Indeed, the 'ban' on players bringing their own food might be seen as the last straw. The Met Cup 2013 was already planned to take place at East Grinstead and the TC agreed that, if available, this venue should be used for the GP, and perhaps other, events in 2013. DW agreed to report this to the MC at its next meeting.

Action: DW

5.4 Green Pointed Events for 2014

Provisional bids for dates in June and July 2014 had been submitted to the EBU. EW queried whether the County should consider holding both GP events over one weekend; this approach been very successful in Surrey (100+ tables both days). DW agreed to seek MC views at its next meeting.

Action: DW

5.5 Regionalisation of Events – Responding to concerns expressed by Members

DW had circulated a paper which reviewed the comments made by a Member from the Bognor/Chichester clubs. The TC agreed that, subject to MC approval, Clubs should be consulted over the options for dealing with the concerns raised. TC Members identified the following as possibilities for a more regionalised approach:

- Encouraging Clubs who ran their own leagues to open them to other clubs in the same area.
- Creating 'feeder' divisions of the Sussex League in each of the five main regions of the County.
- Creating a new inter-club team event with heats in the regions and a central final.
- Targeting increased efforts to persuade Clubs to hold Charity Sim and Senior Sim Pairs events to improve access from all parts of the County.

DW agreed to report to the next Officers' meeting and the next MC meeting with a view to subsequently designing a survey form to be sent to all Clubs.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 SCCBA Storage – Further Progress?

GS reported that there had been no further progress regarding the anticipated proposal from the Adur Indoor Bowling Club.

6.2 Equipment Replacement/Refurbishment

EW commented that over the next few months it would be necessary to refurbish the County's stock of bidding boxes and to replace its stock of playing cards. DG noted the approximate amounts involved.

6.3 David Pavey – Comments from Worthing BC

The TC noted the comments made by Worthing BC regarding the cancellation of their heat of the David Pavey and these would be taken into account in the planning for 2013.

6.4 Hill's Trophy

DW alerted TC Members to this event and invited the entry of further teams. The TC also agreed that it could be advertised on the County web site and DW undertook to obtain an electronic entry form for that publication.

Action: DW

6.5 Spring Congress

EW sought TC agreement for the:

- re-introduction of the Hogben Trophy Multiple Teams event on the Friday afternoon; and,
 - application of entry fees of £6 per session on Friday and £8 per session on Saturday and Sunday with a whole congress fee of £38.
- The TC agreed.

6.6 Jeff Smith Donation

DG reported that he planned to make the usual donation of £50 to Jeff Smith for this year. The TC agreed.

6.7 Midweek Swiss Pairs

DG reported that the entry fee cheques had not yet been cashed. GS thought that Clubs should be reminded about the event and he would provide copy for DW to e-mail contacts. MW commented that the feedback forms for this event should be tailored to test opinion on issues such as time of year and start time as well as the standard questions.

Action: GS/DW

6.8 Guidelines for Directing Resources

EW agreed to recommend a standardised approach to the resourcing of County events dependent on the number of tables involved and the tasks expected of the Director(s) and assistant(s).

Action: EW

6.9 Candles Swiss Teams 2013 (reported after the meeting)

GS reported that Henfield had agreed to run this event again in 2013 but they haven't yet decided whether to make it a BP event.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be advised.