

Sussex County Contract Bridge Association

A meeting of the Tournament Committee of the SCCBA was held at 62, The Droveaway, Hove BN3 6PR on Tuesday 26th March 2013 commencing at 1.30 pm.

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

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs J Mayall, M Wotton

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2012 were agreed without change.

3. MATTERS ARISING

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

As agreed at the last meeting, this matter would be reviewed again at the end of 2013.

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

EW passed a hard copy of his document (9 pages) which he believed was fully consistent with EBU requirements. He would provide an electronic version to DW for circulation to all members of the TC for their endorsement or comment by e-mail. Subject to the latter, DW would put the document to the MC for information at its first meeting after the AGM.

Action:
EW/DW

3.3 EBU League Management System (para 3.3)

DG reported that the system was now working well and he had kept Team Captains fully informed via his mid-season e-mail.

3.4 Sussex Individual (para 3.4)

DG had reported that he still had not received the final reconciliation from the Organiser. DG would press further for resolution.

Action: DG

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

GS had re-circulated his paper regarding the events for less experienced players and this contained the following definition:

"Non-Expert pair or team.

This is the phrase we use at some one day events to award a trophy/prize for the best placed lower ranked players in the event. The ranking level is decided on the day by the director and is set to cover 10-15% of those entered."

The TC agreed that this should be included in instructions to Organisers and Directors to ensure consistency.

Action: GS

3.6 Green Pointed Events for 2014 (para 3.11)

As previous consultation with MC Members had not revealed significant support for a concentration in one weekend, the TC decided to leave current arrangements unchanged.

3.7 Regionalisation of Events (para 3.12)

DW had reported the results of the survey of clubs and MC Members had agreed that no further action was justified.

3.8 Midweek Swiss Pairs (para 3.13)

Actions required from the last meeting (to explore opportunities for additional mid-week events) were deferred to the next meeting

Action: GS

3.9 Guidelines for Directing Resources (para 3.14)

EW's note on this had been circulated to some TC Members. He would supply an electronic version to DW

for circulation to all TC Members. Subject to any comments this would be copied to the MC for information.

Action: EW/DW

3.10 Scheduling of County Events

GS was in correspondence with Helen Kent and would report back to the next meeting.

Action: GS

3.11 Review of Entries to Club Heats of Sussex Events

JM had responded to Harold Linfield regarding his observations. The TC confirmed that mixed heats would continue for appropriate events and GS would ensure that instructions to Organisers and Directors were comprehensive about the management of such heats.

Action: GS

3.12 TD reporting – Consistency with White Book Rules

EW confirmed that the required procedures were now in place and he would remind the Directors listed for 2013 of them in due course.

Action EW

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

4.1 Approval of Future County Directors Lists

In response to the MC's previous request, on behalf of the TC, EW (Chief County TD) had reviewed the need for County Directors in 2013/14. Some existing Directors had commented that they were underused suggesting the current list contained more than were required. Against that EW reported that three existing County Directors (Martin Pool, Norman Hardy and John Taylor) had asked to be removed from the list. EW judged that this reduction would still leave sufficient Directors listed (10) and that no replacements were needed. The TC agreed. In addition, the TC agreed that

- the list should only contain those who possessed the relevant qualifications or could demonstrate through their track record an equivalent level of expertise and experience;
- in order to deal with in-year difficulties, the TC should seek delegated authority from the MC to appoint one or more County Directors additional to the list approved by the MC annually; and,
- all County events, excluding Club Heats, should be directed by a County Director and all Organisers should be given clear instructions to that effect

DW would ensure that these recommendations were put to the MC at its next meeting.

Action DW

5. COMPETITIONS (REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS)

5.1 Sussex League

DG reported that the season had continued to make good progress. The difficulty encountered by Muriel Bailey's team had been resolved.

5.2 Tournament Returns – Cost Recovery and Feedback

DG reported that entry numbers were slightly down in some events but all had either broken even or made a small surplus. Feedback from all events had been very positive. A debate over the advantages or otherwise of barometer presentation of positions during the final stanza had shown a balance between those for and those against.

5.3 Difficulties and Irregularities in David Pavey and Elisabeth North Finals.

MW had provided a detailed analysis of the difficulties at these events. GS agreed that he should make the limits of the Organiser's role clear to David Ellis and that future events must be directed/scored by qualified County Directors (see also 4.1 above).

5.4 Non-standing Pairs in Senior Sims

MW had provided a detailed analysis of the options for handling this difficulty. The TC agreed that on balance MW's option 2 was the best way forward. GS would arrange for the relevant regulations to be amended accordingly.

Action: GS

5.5 Stratification

MW had provided advice on this option for future events. The TC was in favour in principle of all appropriate events being stratified. This was most likely to be the Basic Bridge and Venture Pairs events which were specifically designed to increase interest amongst the less experienced. However, the TC believed that subject to any views that the MC might have, it was for Organisers and Directors to decide on whether it should be introduced for each event. The TC noted with thanks MW's offer to assist in setting up the use of stratification and the TC agreed that advice to Organisers and Directors should indicate the need to clear lines with GS and MW before proceeding. Decisions about individual events would need to be taken in time to include reference to the use of stratification in the advertising used from the outset. DW would report these recommendations to the next meeting of the MC.

Action DW

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 SCCBA Storage – Further Progress?

GS reported that there had been no further progress regarding storage proposals and the TC agreed that this should be 'parked' until any further development emerged.

6.2 Junior Entry Fees

EW asked for confirmation that the following fees should apply:

Green Pointed events - half price
Black Pointed events – free
Blue Pointed events – quarter price

The TC agreed and confirmed that the definition of a 'junior' was 'Under 25 and in full time education'.

6.3 Hastings Basic Bridge

EW reported that the date for this event had been amended to 25 May. Entry forms and the web site now reflected this change.

6.4 Director Training Day 2013

EW indicated that he planned to hold another training day, hopefully towards the end of August, as soon as possible after the EBU changes which were due to come into effect on 1 August. Kent had asked whether they could send some of their Directors and the TC agreed that an invitation could be extended provided Kent accepted their share of the costs involved.

Action EW

6.5 County Director Expenses

EW sought DG's agreement that TD expenses for GP events should be generally at EBU rates except session rates where SCCBA rates applied. DG agreed.

6.6 Autumn Congress – Refreshment Menus

EW reviewed Kathy Williams's proposed menus which were estimated at £10 per person. DG felt this was too high and EW agreed to negotiate a reduction to £9 per person.

6.7 Sussex Pairs 2013/14

GS sought TC views on whether this event should continue to be organised through club heats, semi-finals and final or whether club heats should be abandoned in favour of a number of regional semi-finals (5?) leading to a final. In terms of maintaining entries at as high a level as possible, the TC agreed that club heats, etc should continue.

Action: GS/EW

6.8 Meeting Closure

GS closed the meeting by thanking AG and DG for their hospitality and their kind provision of very tasty refreshments.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9 July 2013