

FINAL

Sussex County Contract Bridge Association

A meeting of the Tournament Committee of the SCCBA was held at 45, Shepherd's Way, Horsham RH12 4LZ on Tuesday 6th December 2011 commencing at 7 pm.

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs J Clinton, Mr E Williams and Mr D Galpin

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2011 were approved and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Chairman's Cup participation

GS still needs to ensure that Competition organisers make the winners, and in some cases the runners up, aware that they have qualified for an invitation to the Chairman's Cup. A suitable clause is to be added to entry forms of the relevant events. Discussion ensued as to whether the Chairman's Cup should be held every two years (rather than annually) with the next event held in 2013. This would address the concern which had arisen in recent years of having to find non-qualifying pairs to complete the movement. The TC agreed that this should be discussed further at the next Management Committee (MC) meeting and DW would add an item to AOB accordingly.

Action:
GS/DW

3.2 Invitation Pairs

AG had canvassed views of participants regarding possible changes and she had circulated by e-mail a paper summarising the results. The main conclusions emerging were that a significant majority preferred team scoring and a very small majority did not favour the introduction of two divisions. A compromise suggestion involving a combination of the current format (for the early sessions) and a change to two divisions based on that early performance received support at TC but there may be significant administrative difficulties. MW agreed to research the proposal and report by e-mail to the TC by 1/1/12.

Action: MW

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

4.1 County Directors List - provide list of required skills

The action accepted by EW at the September meeting remained to be completed.

Action:
EW

4.2 Competition Laws –update of Competition rules

These had been completed and published on the web site.

4.3 Competition Responsibilities

These had been completed and would be published on the web site shortly.

Action: GS/MW

4.4 Competitions during weekdays

Further consideration of this had been deferred until the results of the membership survey had been received.

4.5 Calendar update

Updates thus far had been completed and published on the web site and to Club Contacts. It was noted that there was a need to update Calendar information every year after issue of the hard copies to members and the introduction of an e-mail service to those members who had registered an e-mail address (when P2P was introduced) might improve communication in future. This possibility was to be explored further through the membership survey.

Action:

GS

4.6 Ardingly

This venue was no longer available for the GP Swiss Teams event in July 2012 and 2013. GS was continuing to explore other options and would resolve finally as soon as possible. DW and MW would then alert the EBU and update the web site respectively.

Action: GS

4.7 Henfield Candles

The meeting with Peter Bates had not yet taken place. GS would continue efforts to agree a date/time for this.

Action GS

5. COMPETITIONS (REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS)

5.1 Sussex League

A total of 50 teams were playing in 7 divisions. Progress in match completion was on track with all but three teams having completed at least one match.

5.2 Request for a good game in Sussex

The TC confirmed that the primary sources of good quality bridge remained the League and the Invitation Pairs. The proposal, to divide the latter into two divisions after a number of early sessions (see 3.2 above), might provide further opportunities for the best pairs if the demands of national competitions allowed.

5.3 2011 Tournament Returns

The David Pavey had attracted an increased entry (64 compared with 53 last year) and the Mixed Pairs an entry (80) on a par with last year. The Elisabeth North had not done as well and might need to be converted to a one day event in future. The TC was conscious of the need for each event not only to cover its costs but also to contribute to the income needed to cover the County's necessary expenditure elsewhere. Better guidance for event organisers was required and wherever possible the County should be seeking to standardise its charges for participation (excluding refreshments). The introduction of a County table charge at semi-finals and finals would be considered in order to provide a better balance to cost recovery and to keep the initial entry price as low as possible. GS would bring proposals to the next meeting.

Action: GS

5.4 Implications of P2P from April 2012 onwards

DG had assessed the financial implications of this and judged the net additional cost to the County to be of the order of £300 in 2012/13. The £2.50 per session charge had been in place for 3 years and a rise to £2.75 could probably be justified on inflation grounds alone. With approximately 1200 sessions in a year, an increase of 25p would net an additional £300. A proposal for this increase would be put to the MC at its next meeting.

Action: GS/DW

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Minimum Number of Tables in Heats

MW reminded the TC of a question raised on this at the 2011 AGM by David Cross. JW agreed to provide GS with contact details to enable him to explore the background to the question.

Action:

GS

6.2 Directors for Semi-Finals and Finals

DW enquired as to the agreed arrangements for the provision of Directors to Semi-Finals and Finals held at Clubs. GS confirmed that these should be appointed by the Event Organiser from the County list and notified to the relevant Club contact in good time.

6.3 Sussex Individual

DW reported that the Worthing heat had been cancelled because of lack of interest. He asked whether this event should also be converted to a one day format. This would be considered further at the next TC meeting.

Action: GS/DW

6.4 EBU Calendar

FINAL

DW would respond to the recent EBU trawl for changes to their calendar alerting them to the missing entry for the GP Swiss Pairs in 2012 and indicating that the location for the GP Swiss Teams in 2012 and 2013 was now "TBA".

Action: DW

6.5 Basic Bridge Events

JW noted that these events were being populated by an increasing number of experienced pairs and there was a danger that they were not now achieving the primary objective of providing a 'comfortable' opportunity for the less experienced to be introduced to tournament bridge. MW indicated that consideration was now being given to the stratification of these events in order to provide better incentives to the less experienced. He would report further in due course.

Action: MW

6.6 New Events

MW enquired as to the correct procedure for the introduction of new events. The recently updated Matrix of Responsibilities showed that proposals should be put to the TC for endorsement and then presented to the MC for approval. There was some doubt as to whether the recently advertised Jackie Clinton charity event should have followed this line and DW agreed to clear lines on the matter at the next Officers' and MC meetings.

Action DW

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To take place before the 2012 AGM on a date to be advised.