
SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee of the SCCBA held at the
Avenue Bridge Club on Sunday 23rd October 2005.**

Present:

Mr M Pool	Chairman
Mr P Kent	Secretary
Mr D Galpin	Treasurer

Mr P Bates, Mrs S Bugden, Mr R Buddery, Mrs V Chandler, Mr B Gould, Mr B Loasby, Mrs J Newton, Mr D Newton, Mrs D Strauss and Mrs C Watson.

Delegates: Piers Pennant represented Eastbourne Bridge Club.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from; Mrs K Batting, Mr D Clifton, Mrs J Clinton, Mrs M Langmaid, Mr A Southwell and Mr E Williams.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 17th July 2005

2.1 Accuracy

Sally Bugden had been inadvertently left off the members present, and there was a misquote (see 2.2.5 below) and apart from this, the minutes were agreed nem.con and were duly signed as being a true record of the meeting.

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 No further development on the injury claim [2.2.1].

2.2.2 The agreement between the Avenue BC and the SCCBA has still to be signed [2.2.3].

2.2.3 There were only three replies from schools with regard to the offer of bridge tuition of which two schools; Lewis 6th Form College and Bexhill College requested help with tuition and Ron Buddery offered to contact Lewis 6th Form College. Blatchinton School requested help with equipment [2.2.4].

2.2.4 The Chairman had received a letter from the Captain, explaining why his team was unable to represent the county at the three Pachabo Cup competitions in question. The Management Committee reviewed this letter and it was agreed nem.con that the explanations be accepted.[3.3].

2.2.5 The Secretary had received an e-mail from Beryl Pitman stating that she had been misquoted [7.4].

2.2.6 The Chairman outlined the advantages of moving the Tom Bradley Chairman's cup to the autumn and suggested for the first change of date that SCCBA qualifiers from the previous and current year be invited and for all subsequent years it would be the current year qualifiers only. Ron Buddery, seconded by Carol Watson proposed that this proposal be accepted and it was agreed unanimously [7.5].

2.2.7 Sally Bugden reported on the progress of the Focus Group's recommendations: 25 teachers had been contacted, 10 don't teach anymore and the remaining 15 had been followed up via telephone or in person and 14 were positive on holding a Students Congress at the SCCBA Spring Congress in 2006. It was agreed that the teachers would nominate students to take part and that entry forms would be sent directly to the teachers. One teacher suggested that we should hold a school's congress [11.1 & 11.2]; Links have been set up on the SCCBA website to university bridge and school's bridge (schools bridge via education/youth bridge/bridge for schools) [11.4]; Sally reported we had some publicity in the Mid-Sussex Times and the Worthing Herald [11.6]; Sally had not yet had time to work on the Zero Tolerance Policy [11.9].

2.2.8 An apology for the problems at Ardingly was published in the October Newsletter [16.2].

2.2.9 The pros and cons of scoring one round in arrears in Swiss events was discussed but the majority opinion was to leave things as they are [16.3].

3. Chairman's Report

3.1 The Chairman sadly had to report the death of Ron Cowpland and a letter of condolence had been sent to his family.

3.2 The committee offered congratulations to Geof Wolfarth on learning that he had attained the rank of Grand Master.

3.3 The Chairman reported that the following members of the committee have told him that they will be retiring from their posts at the end of the current year: Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster and Trophy Officer. The Chairman said that he would welcome nominations for these positions from the clubs.

3.4 The Chairman had received the following correspondence:

3.4.1 Letters of thanks received from the two charities; 4 Sight and The Brighton Heart Support Trust for the donations sent by SCCBA and in the case of the latter charity the Chairman visited their facilities at their invitation.

3.4.2 Mr Horsfield from Worthing Bridge Club wrote with regard to basic bridge.

3.4.3 The Chairman has been in communication with Dennis Crouch with regard to setting up an archive for our material.

3.5 Per Lindsten had kindly offered to carry the new Duplimate machine over to the UK from Sweden and the Chairman proposed that we offer Per a free entry to one of our congresses as a thank you. This was agreed nem.con.

3.6 The committee were reminded of the Tom Bradley Memorial Swiss Teams at Claire Hall, Haywards Heath on 20th November and said that there still some places available.

3.7 The EBU electronic membership checker is now up and running and can be used to check the membership status of contestants by registered users.

3.8 The Chairman reported that there had been some damage to boards and cards and requested that care be exercised in their use.

3.9 At the AGM of the EBU Shareholders meeting held on 5th October 2005, Sally Bugden was re-elected to the board, I was also elected to the board and re-elected to the Law & Ethics Committee.

4. Secretary's Report

4.1 David Boston Simultaneous Pairs

The number of Sussex clubs participating in this event was down to two this year and this would greatly reduce our contributions to this years charities.

4.2 Schools Bridge

The Secretary reminded the committee that Alison Nicolson (EBU) will be talking to representatives of SCCBA on schools bridge at 7-30 pm on Tuesday 15th November 2005 at the Avenue Bridge Club.

4.3 AGM English Bridge Union Shareholders meeting 5th October 2005

I attended this meeting, together with the two other shareholders and the main points arising:

4.3.1 The Chairman/Vice-Chairman were re-elected unopposed, the SCCBA have two directors on the board (see 3.9 above).

4.3.2 The National Bridge Centre project planned for Kettering is continuing and the EBU are assessing the location by holding the Tollemache competition there at the end of November 2005.

4.3.3 The number of Shareholders meetings have been reduced from four down to three (February/June/October).

4.3.4 The EBU have set up a website to enable Shareholders to communicate with each other via a notice board.

4.3.5 The EBU have introduced two new ranks:

- Premier Master (5,000 MP's, including 10 greens)
- Premier Grand Master (1,500 Greens)

They will also be awarding modest Greens for the EBU Simultaneous Pairs.

4.3.6 It will be possible to renew your EBU membership on-line from the end of October.

5. Treasurer's Report

There is approximately £33,000 funds in the SCCBA accounts and two thirds of this are on a high earning account. Funds have increased by £1,000 by the recent sale of the old Duplimate machine.

6. Membership Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

7. Tournament Committee Report

There has not been a Tournament Committee meeting since the last Management Committee meeting and the Chairman made the following points:

7.1 Autumn Congress

The number of participants was similar to last year and the new Pivot Teams event was deemed to be a success. Brian Gould asked whether there was a problem with the venue and Jill Newton proposed that Patcham might be a good alternative and agreed to investigate on behalf of the committee. The Swiss Teams had been reduced from eight to seven board matches and the Chairman proposed that this be changed for all SCCBA Swiss events. There was some discussion on the pros and cons of this and a vote was taken and the result was 10 for and 2 against and the proposal was carried.

7.2 Pachabo

Complaints had been received about the change of representation of teams for the Pachabo from the winners of the Championship Teams to the winners of Division One. Peter bates proposed that we retain the status quo and this was seconded by David Newton and a vote was requested and the result was 9 for and 3 against and the proposal was carried.

7.3 Joint Ventures

We have been offered two joint venture events in 2007 and 2008 and there was some discussion as to whether we should have one event per year or two events. A vote was taken and the result was 3 for one event and 5 for two events and the decision was taken to go ahead with two events per year. The dates offered in both years are in May, June and July, but unfortunately Ardingly is not available in July 2007 and having two events so close together was not thought to be attractive by some members and a vote was taken to either hold both events in Ardingly or find a new venue for one or both events and the result was that 1 vote for both at Ardingly and 5 votes for a new venue and a new venue was carried. It was proposed that one of the joint venture events be a Swiss Pairs event and it was decided nem.con that this be tried as an experiment in 2007 and await this experience before deciding on 2008.

8. Selectors Report

The members of the Tollemache team were announced:

Chris Bainham/Eddie Lucioni
Dave Clifton/Chris Jepson
Dave Franklin/Martin Pool
Mathew Hoskins/Andrew Southwell
Ian Lancaster/Gerry Stanford

The Non-Playing captain to be Julian Mitchell, assisted by Sarah Mitchell.

9. Conduct Committee's Report

Nothing to report.

10. Timing of Committee Meetings

A proposal was made that the timing of the SCCBA meetings be in step with the new Shareholder meetings so that the SSBCA shareholders could get up-to-date inputs of the whole committee's views on important issues. It was decided nem.con. that this advantage is outweighed by the inconvenience of altering our timetable.

11. Scoring Software, New Website, Bridgemates

11.1 Scoring Software

The Chairman outlined the advantages of the new scoring software (Score Bridge) available from the EBU:

- This program automatically allows the Master Points to be electronically passed to the EBU;
- Works well with the proposed new county website (see 11.2 below);
- Allows a more detailed look at travellers etc.

11.2 New Website

The Chairman outlined the work that had been carried out to date in developing a new website for the SCCBA and said that the advantages were:

- Quicker to navigate
- Quicker to update
- Less work for the Webmaster (Secretary could download these minutes for example).

The downside was that we would have to pay for it £1,000 design costs and running costs of £100 per annum. Some of these costs could be defrayed by an agreement with the designer to market the software on his behalf. A vote was held on a proposal to continue with the development and put it in service as soon as it is up and running. The result was 6 for, 1 against and 3 abstentions and the proposal was carried.

11.3 Bridgemates

The Chairman outlined the advantages of the SCCBA purchasing Bridgemates for the county:

- Easy to use by the competitor;
- Able to see standings throughout the competition;
- Rapid scoring of the final result.

He said that the county would have to purchase 50 Bridgemates and two servers at a cost of £7,400 (a saving of £1,100 on the list price) and could be delivered in January 2006. The pros and cons of purchasing the Bridgemates were debated, such as should we wait until the price comes down and security/maintenance issues during storage/transport. David Newton proposed that the county purchase the Bridgemates, Sally Bugden seconded this and a vote was taken. 9 voted for and 1 against and the proposal was carried.

12. Newsletter Editor

The retirement of the Newsletter Editor was raised under 3.3 above.

13. SCCBA President/Vice-presidents

13.1 President

The Chairman said that the constitution allows for one President and up to five Vice-Presidents (clause 29) The Secretary said that he had received one nomination for President and other candidates were discussed by the committee. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting.

13.2 Vice-presidents

At this point in time we have only one Vice-President, Dennis Crouch. Ron Buddery had left the room and a proposal was made that he be recommended for Vice president for approval at the next AGM. This was agreed unanimously.

14. Joint Ventures 2007/2008

This was discussed at length in 7.3 above.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 1000 hours at the Henfield Hall prior to the New Year Swiss Teams on 15th January 2006.

16. Any Other Business

Brian Loasby asked whether Bridgemates would be used at the New Year Swiss Teams congress and Martin Pool replied that they would not be ready by then.