
SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the Tournament Committee of the SCCBA was held at The Avenue Bridge Club on Thursday 8th December 2005 at 10-15 am.

PRESENT: Mr D Galpin, Mr P Kent (Secretary), Mrs J Newton, Mr M Pool (Chairman), and Mr N Watts.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs J Clinton, Mrs M Langmaid and Mr E Williams.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 6th May 2005 were accepted nem.con. and duly signed as being a true record of the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Change of title of the “No Fears” events to “Basic Bridge Pairs” was approved by the management Committee at their last meeting [3.5].

4. CORRESPONDENCE

4.1 Bill Sherman

Bill Sherman had written to the Chairman recommending that if a team did not represent the County in the Pachabo for no good reason that they should be banned from representing the county for one year. This was not agreed and the Chairman said that he would reply to Bill to say that changes had already been made to qualification for the Pachabo that will hopefully make a re-occurrence unlikely.

4.2 Chris Bainham

Chris Bainham had written to the Chairman saying that the timing of the Semi Finals of the SCCBA Pairs clashed with the EBU Tunisia Congress and firstly in subsequent years could they be held on different dates & secondly could a substitute be used. The Management Committee have already addressed the issue of substitutes and said “no” and the idea of different dates for semi finals was decided against as it would solve some problems but create others. The Chairman will write back accordingly.

5. COUNTY CONGRESSES (REPORTS & ARRANGEMENTS)

5.1 Spring Congress 7th-9th April 2006 (CW) Welcome Pairs + Bridgemates for Swiss Pairs. It was agreed nem.con. that the Student Pairs would be held on the Saturday of the congress. Bridgemates are discussed under 7.2 .

5.2 New Year Swiss Teams, 15th January 2006 (CW). 18 teams have entered so far.

5.3 Basic Bridge Pairs:

5.3.1 Chichester 4th December 2005 (AG). This went well and 47 pairs were expected, but only 41 turned up, two pairs gave apologies, the Secretary said that he had had an apology but was unable to contact the Organiser. Those that ‘phoned will get a refund of the bridge element of the congress fee. The hall has been booked. for December 2006. David Galpin said that he and Andrea would like to withdraw from organising/directing this competition, but will do one more year if necessary.

5.3.2 East Grinstead, 22nd January 2006 (CW). Nothing to report.

5.3.3 Hastings, 21st May 2005 (KW). There were nine tables and a small surplus was made.

5.3.4 Hastings 20th May 2006 (KW). Nothing to report.

5.4 Autumn Congress 16th-18th September 2005 (NW). This was successful, but the number of pairs was down on last year. The new Pivot Teams event was deemed to be popular and the three events for the price of two encouraged more contestants to enter the whole congress. The Committee felt it prudent to consider other venues for the future & as a contingency it was decided to enquire further regarding Patcham.

5.5 Joint Ventures:

5.5.1 Ardingly, 19th June 2005 (EW). This was successful.

5.5.2 Ardingly 14th May 2006 (EW). Nothing to report.

5.5.3 2007. Awaiting EBU decision as to how many events we will get. The Chairman reported that he had looked at the possibility of using Hove Town Hall as a venue and this would cost £1,000 (cf Ardingly £600). *[Subsequent to the meeting, the Chairman heard from the EBU that Sussex have been allocated two dates in 2007: Sunday 22nd July (1st choice) and Saturday 12th May (2nd choice)].*

6. COMPETITIONS (REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS)

6.1 Financial Report. Surplus down by £3,000.

6.2 Sussex League (DG). Number of teams up from 56 to 58 this year.

6.3 David Pavey (VC). Low numbers, no semi-finals this year.

6.4 Elisabeth North (DS). Low numbers, no semi-finals this year.

6.5 Novice Swiss Teams (PB) + Change Master Point levels. A change has been made in the Master Point level for qualification.

6.6 Kremer Dersch Trophy (PK). Pat Kent mentioned that the free refreshment was originally started for the inaugural event and had been continued. It was agreed nem.con. to continue this.

6.7 Mixed Pairs (ML). Nothing to report.

6.8 Sussex Pairs (SB). The entries are well down.

6.9 Ladies and Men's Pairs (TH). The entries are well down and need to consider what to do for next year.

6.10 Charity Simultaneous Pairs (EW). This is scheduled for the 18th January 2006. The Chairman said he would contact Eddie Williams by e-mail.

6.11 Chairman's Cup (CW?) + select date in the autumn. Carol Watson has agreed to organise this event. The Chairman's Cup is usually held at the Avenue Bridge Club, but it was suggested that the location should be more geographically central. Crawley was suggested and this will be explored. Date to be fixed in the autumn.

6.12 Teams of Eight (KB). Entry forms have been sent out to each Club Secretary for next years event (23rd April 2006).

6.13 Daily Telegraph Cup. The County representatives for this event have been omitted from the County Calendar. They are the winners of the Champ Teams plate or runners up.

6.14 Metropolitan League (RB). It has not been possible to field a team for this league, as it is difficult to get teams to travel to the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in London for the matches.

6.15 Seniors Simultaneous Pairs (AS). Nothing to report.

6.16 Championship Teams of Four (RP). Three more teams have entered this year.

6.17 Invitation Pairs (AG). The numbers are up and it has been a good competition.

6.18 Golf Print (PC). The numbers are down for this competition.

6.19 Devonshire Club Cup (AS). The numbers are down and we should consider moving this event forward from the present December, which is a crowded month to the autumn.

6.20 Tollemache. The Chairman reported that the Tollemache team did not qualify for the final.

6.21 Metropolitan Cup (MP). Nothing to report.

6.22 Sussex Individual (PB). Peter Bates had sent an e-mail to say that the numbers (71 competitors in four heats) were the lowest ever and consequently the semi-finals will be dropped and we shall move directly to the final on Sunday 19th February 2006 at the Avenue Bridge Club at 1.00pm.

6.23 Pachabo. The complaints about minute 3.3 of July '05 Management Committee meeting were discussed. The Tournament Committee agreed with the comments made by the Management Committee.. The whole matter will be discussed at the next Management Committee meeting in January 2006.

6.24 London Champions Cup. Dave Armstrong's team represented us (runners up of the Champ Teams).

6.25 Hants/IOW Roll of Honour. We did not send a pair to represent the County this year as suitable pairs were unavailable.

6.26 Reg Corwen Trophy. Nothing to report.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 New Website. The new website is due to be commissioned on 1st January 2006. We may need a new Web Master to oversee this.

7.2 Bridgemates. The Chairman demonstrated two Bridgemates at the start of this meeting. They performed well and were easy to use.

7.3 Seven Board Matches for Swiss Teams/Pairs. It was agreed nem.con. that all events would be seven board matches, instead of eight board matches.

7.4 Spring Congress gap between afternoon/evening. Some competitors have complained that the gap between the afternoon and evening event is too long. The committee asked the chairman to seek further views before deciding on any changes.

[Subsequent to the meeting the Chairman reported that after further discussions it has been decided on the Friday to start later in the afternoon at 2.15 & maintain the evening start time of 7.30].

7.5 Focus Group Meeting. The Chairman reported on some of the questions raised by the Focus Group, led by Sally Bugden:

- Are the congresses of the right length? These are reviewed by this committee on a regular basis.
- Should the congresses be open or closed? The Management Committee have decided to keep them closed.
- Should we have one or two green pointed events? The Management Committee has decided to have two if possible.
- Have we got too many or too few events? The committee think that it is about right at this point in time.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for the 18th May 2006, venue to be decided.