

MINUTES OF THE A.G.M OF SURREY COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
Held on Sunday 20th June 2010 at 5.00 pm
at East Horsley Village Centre

APOLOGIES:

62 members were present. Apologies from Frances Trebble, Julia Brough, Peter Lee, Liz Phillips

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS YEAR

The minutes of the 2009 AGM were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Shirley Pritchard gave the following address:

“Firstly I would like to welcome you all to the AGM.

I have enjoyed visiting several clubs during my year as President. I would like to thank everyone for their warm and friendly welcome to me, and I must commend the people in every club who put up and take down tables and chairs each week – very much a thankless task but one without which bridge could not take place!

I am very pleased to see the turnout today as only a few weeks ago we thought we would have to cancel this event, as we need a quorum of 30 for the AGM to take place. I am sure you will agree however that to attract only 60 people out of a new membership of 3875 is disappointing. This trend is also illustrated by the attendance at county events. Four years ago this was 450 – this year it was 350. Sussex who are a much smaller county than us in terms of number of members but just a big geographically had 54 players at their ladies pairs event; - we had 25. We need to attract new members to our events, and one initiative this year - thanks to the efforts of Douglas Wright - is including a newcomer's section at the Guildford green Point event in September.

The committee are determined to address the issue of falling attendances and as part of this we welcome input from the players and the clubs. Should we still hold the same events at the same venues on Sunday afternoons or should we be looking to change? We are hoping to hold a brainstorming meeting with interested parties later this year to look at possible changes to the county programme for 2011-12.

We changed the format of our charity events this year converting the two Simultaneous pairs events played in February and September to charity events. The one in September will always be for the Dorin Salver presented to the Banstead rehabilitation centre, but the one in February will be to a charity of the member's choice. This year I am happy to have presented a cheque for £2500 to GRACE – a charity that deals with the treatment of ovarian cancer in Surrey.

I don't propose to dwell on the introduction of P2P except to acknowledge its arrival in April. It is still too early to gauge the effect on clubs except to say that I did receive some complementary remarks about Surrey's decision not to charge a County fee this year – we are one of only three counties to do this.

There have been some major personnel changes to the committee this year – we have changed three out of four of the main posts Chair, Secretary and CTD.

I would just like to say a brief word about a couple of the people involved.

Chris Stableford stood down as our Chairman at Christmas due to the ill health of his wife.

Chris was an excellent chairman, and we all hope that he will be able to take part in bridge events and administration in the future. He was instrumental in setting up the computer systems to enable P2P to function, and the Chairman of the EBU Barry Capal mentioned Chris's contribution in his thanks to all those without whom P2P would not have happened.

And finally today is the day that all of us thought would never happen – the retirement of Roland Bolton. It would take forever to extol all the things that Roland has brought to Surrey Bridge. Suffice it to say that the format of our competitions will not be able to continue as they have done without him. He does everything from store equipment in his garage to making the tea and moving tables at Oxshott. It is no wonder that we cannot find any one person to take over from him, as he is truly irreplaceable. I am sure you would all like to join me in thanking Roland for his unique contribution to Surrey bridge over the years and wish him a long and happy retirement”

This was warmly applauded.

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2010

Malcolm Curtis presented the accounts. There was a surplus of about £1,000 due to there being reduced expenses for the Tollemache team
Acceptance of the accounts was agreed.

APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY AUDITOR

Tim Cook was appointed as the auditor for the coming year.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Several amendments to the constitution were necessary for the introduction of universal membership. A new constitution has been approved by the EBU and made available to members before this meeting (attached to these minutes).

This constitution was unanimously agreed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of officers was agreed as follows:

President: Shirley Pritchard
Chairman: Mac Derwig
Secretary: Alison Williams
Treasurer: Malcolm Curtis
Match Secretary: Peggy Griffin
Competition Secretary: Frances Trebble
Communications Officer: Douglas Wright

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

The following were elected to the committee.

Jill Cook
Julia Brough (Web Manager)
Bomi Kavarana (County Youth Officer)
Holger Marsen
Graham Wells
Peter Bentley
Steve Foster
George Gardiner
Steve Bourton

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

none

SURREY COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

TITLE AND OBJECTS

1. The Association shall be called the Surrey County Bridge Association and shall be a constituent member of the English Bridge Union.
2. The object of the Association shall be the organisation and encouragement of Contract Bridge in the County of Surrey and in such adjacent districts as come within the administrative area of the Association.

MEMBERSHIP

3. All players who are registered with the EBU as members of Surrey shall be members of the Association. For the purposes of competition entry and selection as representative players of the County, such members shall be known as primary members.

4. Any member of another County Association may, at the discretion of the Committee, and upon payment of such annual subscription as the Committee may from time to time decide, become an affiliated member of the Association. Affiliated members may participate in any County competition that is not restricted to primary members, but shall have no voting or other rights.

5. The members of the Association in General Meeting shall have the powers to elect, as a life member of the Association, any person who in the opinion of the meeting has rendered outstanding service to the Association. A life member shall not be liable for annual subscription.

AFFILIATED CLUBS

6. Any Duplicate Bridge Club may affiliate to the Association and all such clubs shall be affiliated to the EBU.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

7. The general management of the Association shall be vested in a Committee elected annually by the members of the Association. Such Committee members shall be members of the Association.

8. The Committee shall consist of the following Officers and other members:-

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| (a) a President, | (b) a Chairman, |
| (c) a Secretary, | (d) a Treasurer, |
| (e) a Chief Tournament Director, | (f) a Match Secretary, |
| (g) a Competitions Secretary, | (h) a Membership Secretary, |
| (i) a Communications Officer, | (j) a Magazine Editor |

and 8 other members, except that when one person fulfils the duties of two Officers there shall be an additional "other member". The Chairman shall not hold office for more than 5 consecutive years.

9. The Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancies that occur through resignation or otherwise and to co-opt members to the Committee.

10. The Committee may appoint sub-committees as required; delegate to them such powers and duties as may be deemed expedient; and disband them if and when they have served their purpose.

11. The President shall have the ex-officio right to:

a. attend all sub-committee meetings except those of the Conduct and Disciplinary sub-committees.

b. vote at all such meetings except on matters involving the selection of players to represent the County.

12. At Committee meetings 6 shall form a quorum. The meetings shall be chaired by the Chairman or in his absence the President. In the absence of either the members present shall proceed to appoint one their number to act as chairman for the time being. At Committee meetings the chairman shall have an additional or casting vote in the event of equality of votes.

13. The Committee shall have the power to appoint Shareholders; organise matches, tournaments or the like competitions; send representatives to tournaments and other competitions; expend the funds of the Association for the purposes of defraying the expenses of and incidental to such activities, including the provision of prizes, and fix the charges for entrance fees.

14. The International Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge as for the time being in force shall be applicable to tournaments and competitions organised by the Association

15. The Committee shall have the powers to make bye-laws or rules for regulating the tournaments and competitions organised by the Association.

MEMBERS' BEHAVIOUR

16. Each member of the Association shall be required, in connection with the game of Duplicate Contract Bridge, to conform to the standards of fair play, courtesy and personal deportment prescribed by the Bye Laws and regulations for the time being of the EBU.

17. The Association shall have the powers and procedures for the enforcement of the required standards of behaviour at tournaments, events and meetings organised by the Association. The Association's disciplinary powers and procedures are set out in Appendix 1 of this Constitution.

GENERAL MEETINGS

18. The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held in Surrey not later than the end of June every year. It shall be chaired by the President and shall

transact the following business:-

- a. To receive the President's report of the activities of the Association.
- b. To receive, and if approved, to adopt a statement of the Association's accounts for the year ending the previous 31st March.
- c. To fix the annual subscription of members and affiliated clubs and the Pay-to-Play County rate for the following year.
- d. To appoint the auditor(s) who shall not be members of the Committee.
- e. To elect Officers and other members of the Committee.
- f. To deal with any other matter which the Committee or any other member may desire to bring before the meeting.

19. Notice convening an Annual General Meeting shall be printed in the yearly competitions booklet and sent to all members at the start of each playing season. The notice shall specify the date, time and venue of the Annual General Meeting, together with the closing date for receipt in writing by the Secretary of nominations for the Officers of the Association and for resolutions to be included in the agenda with the names of the proposer and seconder. Nominations for the other members of the Committee may additionally be made at the Annual General Meeting.

20. The chairman of a General Meeting may, at his discretion, admit a proposal notwithstanding that the same has not been forwarded to the Secretary in accordance with Para 19 above. He will, however, have the power to defer confirmation of such a proposal until such time as the proposition has been put before a General Meeting in the manner set out in Para 19 above.

21. A special General Meeting may be convened at any time by the Committee and shall be convened and held within 30 days from the receipt of a request in writing signed by no fewer than 20 members specifying the object of the meeting. Not less than 7 days notice shall be given to members.

22. A member may appoint a proxy to vote on his/her behalf at any meeting. Proxy appointments are valid for one meeting only, but remain valid, unless cancelled by the member, for any adjourned meeting. A new appointment must be made for any subsequent meeting at which a member wishes to be represented by proxy.

23. An instrument appointing a proxy and specifying the meeting for which the appointment is valid must be delivered to the Chairman not later than 5 minutes before the published time for holding the specified meeting. Delivery after this time will render the instrument invalid.

24. Any decision at a General Meeting including any decision concerning the disposal of the Association's property shall be binding on all members of the Association. No decision at a General Meeting shall be binding unless the meeting is quorate. Thirty members personally present shall be a quorum.

ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

25. The Constitution of the Association can only be changed after due notice, at a General Meeting, and to carry through such alterations a two-thirds majority of those present in person or by proxy shall be necessary.

DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

26. The Association can only be dissolved after due notice at a General Meeting. To carry through such dissolution a two-thirds majority of those present and voting shall be necessary.

27. In the event that a motion to dissolve the Association shall be passed in accordance with the above requirements then the Committee of the Association at the time of dissolution shall realise all the assets of the Association, settle all its liabilities, and distribute any remaining funds in accordance with the instructions of members as expressed at the General Meeting. Such actions shall be a full discharge of the duties of the members of the Committee for the membership as a whole.

COMPETITIONS AND MATCHES

28. To be eligible to compete in any competition organised by the Association a player must be a member of the Association except that the Committee may invite entries from non-members for certain events as permitted by the English Bridge Union. It may also restrict entry for certain events to primary Surrey members only.

29. Players selected to represent Surrey in any County Bridge Match must be primary members of the Association.

30. No member shall be eligible to represent Surrey in any County Bridge Match if he or she has during the current season represented some other County in a County Bridge Match.

This Constitution was adopted at an AGM held on 20 June 2010, having previously received the approval of the Board of the English Bridge Union on 25 March 2010.

APPENDIX 1 to the CONSTITUTION OF THE SURREY COUNTY BRIDGE
ASSOCIATION

DISCIPLINARY POWERS AND PROCEDURES

Introduction

1. This Appendix prescribes the powers and procedures of the Association for the enforcement of acceptable standards of behaviour at SCBA tournaments, events and meetings. The Association's jurisdiction does not extend to tournaments, events or meetings organised by clubs or other bodies within the County. The process described complies with EBU disciplinary procedures and will incorporate any variations thereof that may be made from time to time.

Definitions

2. The terms Disciplinary Rules and Disciplinary Offence shall have the meaning set out in the Bye Laws of the EBU.

Delivery of Allegation

3. Any person making a complaint against one or more members of the Association, alleging failure to comply with paragraph 16 of this Constitution, must do so in writing to the Secretary or the Chairman of the Association.

Implementation of the Disciplinary Process

4. The Officer of the Association receiving the complaint shall request the Committee to appoint a Conduct Sub-Committee to investigate the allegation and a Disciplinary Sub-Committee to apply disciplinary sanctions, if any are required. Each Sub-Committee shall be appointed for the purpose of dealing only with the specific complaint, and shall be disbanded when the disciplinary process relating to that complaint is finalised. Whilst in being, the composition of each Sub-Committee shall not be changed.

5. No member of the Association who is in any way involved in the incident that led to the complaint, nor the Officer of the Association who receives the complaint, may serve as a member of either Sub-Committee. Additionally, no member of the Association may serve on the two Sub-Committees simultaneously.

6. Each Sub-Committee shall comprise four members of the Association, who need not necessarily be members of the Committee. The quorum for any meeting or hearing shall be three members. Each Sub-Committee shall act by simple majority vote and its appointed chairman, or whomsoever in his/her absence the Sub-Committee shall select to chair a meeting, shall have a second or casting vote in the event that there is parity of voting.

Investigating the Complaint

7. The Conduct and Disciplinary Sub-Committees may at any time refer a complaint

to the EBU Laws & Ethics Committee for its consideration. If this occurs, the two Sub-Committees shall have fully discharged their responsibilities under this Constitution. Otherwise the following procedure is to be implemented.

8. The Conduct Sub-Committee shall first consider whether the complaint falls within the scope of the Disciplinary Rules and whether further action is warranted. If further action is considered necessary, the Conduct Sub-Committee shall write to the Defendant, seeking the Defendant's comments on the substance of the complaint that has been raised. The Conduct Sub-Committee may also:

- Make such further investigations and enquiries as it considers appropriate.
- Seek advice from within the Association and from the EBU Laws and Ethics Committee, and obtain external legal advice.

Assessment of the Complaint

9. If the Conduct Sub-Committee decides that the complaint is not justified, all parties shall be notified and the matter ended.

10. If the Conduct Sub-Committee decides that the complaint is justified, it may, in its absolute discretion, offer a verbal caution to the offending member, which if accepted, ends the matter.

Referral to the Disciplinary Sub-Committee

11. If the Defendant does not accept the verbal caution, or the Conduct Sub-Committee decides that a verbal caution is insufficient sanction, the Conduct Sub-Committee shall refer the case to a hearing by the Disciplinary Sub-Committee. The Defendant shall be notified, in writing, within two weeks of this decision and advised of his/her right:

- To make a written submission to the Disciplinary Sub-Committee.
- To attend the hearing.
- To be represented by legal counsel of his/her choice or to be accompanied by a person to speak on his/her behalf.

12. The Disciplinary Sub-Committee shall give at least two weeks notice of the hearing to the Defendant.

Disciplinary Sanctions

13. If after the hearing the complaint is upheld, the Disciplinary Sub-Committee may, in its absolute discretion:

- Give a written reprimand to the offending member(s), or

- Suspend the offending member(s) from all or some of the tournaments or events organised by the Association for such period as it shall determine.

14. Any sanctions imposed by the Disciplinary Sub-Committee shall be communicated to the offending member in writing within 21 days of the hearing.

Additional Sanctions

15. If a complaint is upheld against a member of the Committee, the Committee shall have the additional power to suspend such member from the Committee and from any of its sub-committees for such period as the Committee shall determine. This power shall apply whether the complaint has been dealt with by the Disciplinary Sub-Committee, or by the Laws and Ethics Committee of the EBU.

Appeal

16. Any member found guilty of a Disciplinary Offence by the Disciplinary Sub-Committee has the right to appeal to the EBU Laws and Ethics Committee. Appeals must be in writing and lodged with the Secretary of the EBU Laws and Ethics Committee within 21 days of the written communication of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee's decision to the offending member.