

## FINAL DRAFT

# SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the Management Committee of the SCCBA took place at Worthing Bridge Club, 12 Byron Road, Worthing BN11 3HN on Friday 13 March 2020 starting at 10.30am

### Present:

Mr P Clinch (PC)	Vice-Chairman
Mr J Hardy (JH)	Hon Treasurer
Mr D Wheeler (DW)	Hon Secretary

and other elected members: Mr P Bates (PB), Mrs A Baxter (AB), Mr D Galpin (DG), Mrs A Galpin (AG) and Mr M Wright (MWr)

### AGENDA

#### 1. Apologies

Mr W Bourne (WB), Mrs J Mayall (JM), Mr M Pool (MP), Mr O Powell (OP) Mr M Wotton (MW) and Mr N Watts (NW). In MP's absence, MC Members agreed that DW should take the chair for this meeting.

#### 2. Minutes of the meeting of 29 November 2019

##### 2.1 Accuracy

MC Members were content with the minutes as shown in the final draft.

##### 2.2 Matters Arising

Actions from items 6.6, 6.9, 6.10, 6.11, 7.2, 7.3, 7.5 and 8.1 had been completed. Action from item 7.1 of the 16 August 2019 meeting is carried forward to August 2020. Other actions were picked up under the relevant items below.

#### 3. Chairman's Report

MP had nothing to report beyond a number of contributions he had made by email regarding later items of the agenda. DW would feed those in as required.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

**4.1 Financial Overview** - JH reported that the overall financial position was healthy with the balance at 29 February being £41,424 (31<sup>st</sup> December 2019: £44,481). The reduction since the end of last year was almost entirely due to the investment in new playing cards. Outturn from 2020 tournaments to end of February showed a surplus of £1276, compared to a surplus of £1029 at this time last year. In anticipation of agenda item 7.3, JH had assessed the likely financial impacts arising from curtailment of the tournament programme over the next few months. He was pleased to reassure MC Members that those impacts could be absorbed without the need for exceptional measures.

**4.2 Approval of Accounts to 31 December 2019** – JH had circulated a copy of the accounts as examined and signed by the Independent Examiner (Ron James). There being no questions arising, MC Members were invited to approve the accounts. PB proposed and PC seconded a motion to approve and approval was given by unanimous vote.

#### 5. Selectors' Report

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

#### 6. Tournament Committee Report

**6.1 Strengthening county TD ranks** – PC reported that one club director had enquired about becoming a county TD and arrangements were being made for him to undertake the required additional training. He would also be encouraged to assist the CTD in due course to give him practical experience. PB enquired regarding the recent change in relationship between the CTD and the EBU. PC responded that he did not believe that it would impinge upon the CTD's competence and capability but he would keep the matter under review.

**6.2 Welcome Pairs Series** – PC reported that the second Horsham Pairs had been held recently repeating the success achieved in 2019. The teams' event previously planned for the end of May needed to be rescheduled due to circumstances beyond the organiser's control. The second Worthing Pairs event was currently scheduled for September. Previous thoughts about a different, larger, venue for the highly successful East Grinstead Basic Bridge event had not been pursued because the success of the event was in part due to the popularity of the current venue.

**6.3 Dealing services and equipment management** – JH and PC reported that MP (with the assistance of JH, PC and AG) had completed a huge amount of work. The vast majority of the county's boards now contained new cards with each set of the same colour and were stored in consistent, labelled and secure cases providing a sound basis for future dealing arrangements. One set was already dealt before the new cards arrived so that will need to be changed in due course. One of our old dealing machines had been refurbished and sold for £700. The other was due to be refurbished shortly. MC Members expressed their strong appreciation for MP's sustained commitment to these matters. Dealing was currently being carried out on an ad hoc basis, mainly by JH, and MC Members conveyed their thanks for his 'above and beyond' efforts in this respect. Discussions regarding a long term arrangement for dealing would be concluded as soon as possible.

**Action: PC**

**6.4 TC Members** – Enquiries about the availability of several potential candidates to strengthen the TC had been pursued without immediate success. TC and MC Members would keep this under review.

**Action: All**

**6.5 Met Cup 2020** – PC reported that he had been in touch with the Organiser to learn that the date chosen for this year's event was 29 November. The venue was not yet known but the format would be the same as 2019. The date chosen is one week after

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the Tollemache qualifying event which would require the Selectors to pick the team for the Tolle without the benefit of the Met Cup results. PC would advise the Selection Committee accordingly.

**Action: PC**

**6.6 Advertising non-county events** – DW had circulated a paper reporting the results of discussions at the TC and making recommendations for future arrangements. MC Members were content to proceed as recommended. DW would advise MW accordingly.

**Action: DW/MW**

### 7. Secretary's Report

**7.1 Gladys Hakki Award** – DW had circulated a paper reporting the receipt of just one nomination this year. This was for Alan Gillespie and had been submitted by Julian Mitchell of the Avenue BC with a separate commendation by the club owner, Lord Newton. MC Members judged the nomination to be strong and persuasive and had no hesitation in approving the award unanimously. DW would make the necessary arrangements for the award to be presented. AG agreed to purchase the replica clock and arrange for engraving.

**Action: AG/DW**

**7.2 AGM Preparations** – DW had work in hand to complete MC nominations/applications for all existing Officers and MC Members. The deadline for member resolutions had passed with none being submitted. JH confirmed that Ron James was willing to continue as our Independent Examiner of the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2020. MW confirmed that arrangements for trophy presentations were in hand and DG observed that the final results of the League and Champ Teams/Plate were unlikely to be available before 5 April.

**7.3 Coronavirus** – DW had circulated a paper which posed three initial questions designed to prompt discussion of the implications of the coronavirus outbreak. In light of the latest forecasts of the likely extent of the epidemic and, bearing in mind our responsibility to protect the health and well being of our members, MC Members believed that it would be sensible to suspend our tournament programme in the near future and to look to reschedule as many events as possible as and when circumstances permitted. Only a week away from the Teams of Eight event it seemed sensible to consult urgently the clubs involved to confirm that they wish the event to be held as planned. Beyond that, MC Members agreed the following for other events:

- Those participating in the Invitation Pairs and the host clubs should be consulted over continuation or suspension.
- The Sussex League and Championship Teams/Plate should be completed as planned provided those concerned continue to be willing to host/attend matches.

**Action: AG**

**Action: DG**

- The Spring Congress (4/5 April) should not now be held. PC would communicate with Uckfield urgently on this. If the epidemic passes fairly quickly the MC would hope to be able to reschedule it.

**Action: PC**

- The Green Point Swiss Pairs (May) should be postponed and, if the EBU are content, rescheduled for later in the year. PC would check with the EBU

**Action: PC**

- The Candles (June), the Venture Pairs (June) and Green Point Swiss Teams (July) seem also likely to need to be rescheduled for later in 2020 but the situation will be reviewed again at the next MC meeting (24 April).
- The prospects for holding the Junior Bridge Camp (July), the Mid-week Swiss Pairs (August), the Worthing Welcome Pairs (September), the Kremer Dersch (September), the Ladies Pairs (October) and the Autumn Congress (October) as planned would also be reviewed at the April meeting and in conjunction with the organisers and others concerned.

DW would organise communications by email to clubs and members (through AB) and, with MW, for an article to be published on the web site regarding these changes as soon as possible. In his email to clubs DW would include references to the wider guidance available on Government, NHS, Public Health England and EBU web sites. DW would also email WB regarding the JBC given the imminence of the due date for the next part payment. MC Members agreed that the latter should be deferred if possible until after the next MC meeting when it might be easier to judge the feasibility of the July event. Failing deferment WB should insist on a guarantee of refund in the event of cancellation through circumstances beyond our control. If neither of these is possible, the event should be cancelled now.

**Action: DW/WB/AB/MW**

JH had assessed the likely financial impacts of the changes and he believed that they could be absorbed without the need for exceptional measures. All entry fees paid in advance would be refunded as soon as possible.

MC Members noted that postponement of the Spring Congress necessitated alternative arrangements for the SCCBA Annual General Meeting. DW suggested that the meeting still be held on 5 April at the same time (11.45am) but at Worthing Bridge Club, 12 Byron Road, Worthing, BN11 3HN. The agenda would be as already advertised. MC Members agreed. DW's emails to clubs and members and the web site article would give formal notice of this.

**Action: DW**

**[Post meeting note – Following the Government's advice on 16 March, all tournaments have been suspended or postponed until circumstances allow replanning. The AGM 2020 has also been postponed and fresh notice of a rearranged meeting will be given in due course. ]**

### 8. EBU Matters

**8.1 EBU Awards** – DW reported that he had consulted EBED over the suitability of the nomination submitted in 2019 for the Tom Bradley award and they had confirmed that it fully met the criteria. The successful nomination had attracted wider support and DW indicated that he would seek similar in support of a re-nomination in 2020 and report back in due course.

**Action: DW**

### 9. Membership Secretary's Report

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AB reported that the county's membership total as of 1 March was 2844, a decrease of 10 on the number reported at the last meeting. AB also advised that the email list now comprised 2373 members.

### 10. Webmaster and Master Point Secretary's Report

MW had reported by email that this time of the year has been his busiest, as usual. He had encountered a bizarre problem from the David Pavey Final that caused him many hours (and days) to get to the bottom of. The problem was that if an event is a final and there's a half-table and the ghost pair is specifically pair number 1, EBUScore refuses to award master points because somebody (presumably the ghost pair) hasn't played enough boards. The EBU have accepted it as an EBUScore problem. MW had been originally distracted by thinking that this problem was linked to the one where one pair had to leave the final before half-way.

### 11. Conduct and Discipline Issues

There was nothing specific to report from the SCCBA CC on this occasion. The action recorded at the March meeting for DW to complete would be carried forward to the next meeting.

**Action: DW**

### 12. Education Report

**12.1 Youth bridge – Long term strategy** - WB had circulated a paper summarising the current position regarding the regional strategy. MC members were grateful for his continued commitment and supported his efforts to improve the effectiveness of communications arrangements.

**12.2 South East Counties Junior Bridge Camp 2020** – WB had circulated a report summarising the plans being pursued for the JBC 2020. [See also paragraph 7.3 above.]

**12.3 MinibrIDGE in Primary Schools** – IW had circulated a detailed progress report. The MC was appreciative of IW's continued commitment in co-ordinating the efforts of the local teams and agreed to take stock at its April meeting and, if appropriate, consider recommendations for the continuation of the project which take account of the impact of the coronavirus. DW would consult IW and through him minibrIDGE teachers for input to this exercise.

**Action: DW/IW**

### 13. Charities

**13.1** JH reported that the total raised by the Charity Sims was £798. He had rounded this to £1000 and £500 would be sent to each of the selected charities shortly. DG recalled a comment made during examination of the accounts that the financial rounding should be subject to recorded MC approval. JH believed that he had delegated authority to take this action from an approval given at a previous MC meeting. DW agreed but undertook to check MC records and report back by email.

**Action: DW**

**13.2** DW had fielded a suggestion from GS and MW that the amounts raised by the Charity Sims event might be increased if clubs holding heats were allowed to choose a charity in their local area to benefit from the proceeds of each heat. Localising in this way might act as an incentive to increase individual donations beyond the 'standard' addition to the normal table money. DW had responded that the ideas for charities to benefit each year do of course come from clubs anyway through their responses to the annual trawl. However, in the past the MC has then applied additional criteria to qualify the final choices. For example, we have concentrated our donations on no more than two charities each year and we have taken care not to allow individual charities to benefit more than once. We have also targeted local, rather than national, charities. In addition, we have 'rounded up' the sums generated by local heats to ensure that the donation to each chosen charity is a worthwhile amount. If we were to devolve the choice of charities as suggested we would not be able to focus our donations in these ways. MW had responded further that whilst he agreed that allowing clubs to donate to their own chosen charities would result in smaller amounts being given to individual charities, he believed that, with a good 'sell':

- participating clubs might be motivated to give more than the standard £2.50 amount (e.g. via a collection on the night of the heat or a club donation) if the charity was local to them, and,
- some clubs who don't currently participate might be persuaded to enter .

He was of the view that only 8 clubs entering the Charity Sims was disappointing, even embarrassing, and devolving the choice of charities could result in an increase in the overall amount raised. MC Members noted these arguments but took the view that devolution in the way suggested would mean that the event would cease to be a county event. It was open to clubs to hold their own, additional, charity events to benefit their choice of charity and several were known to do that. MC Members concluded that the organisation of the county event should remain as is but future requests for nominations of charities to benefit should include a detailed explanation of the background to the process employed. DW would clear lines with MC Members on the drafting of this in due course.

**Action: DW**

### 14. Equipment Co-ordinator's Report

MW reported that the planned change of equipment storage location had been completed. Monthly charges remained as previously reported (£30 per month). JH, PC and MW were reviewing the charges applied to hire of county equipment to ensure consistency and comprehensiveness. JH would bring proposals to the next meeting

**Action: JH**

### 15. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 24 April 2020 at Worthing Bridge Club, commencing at 10.30 am

### 16. Any Other Business

DW reported that Tim Greenhill had very kindly offered to donate £150 to purchase and engrave a trophy for the Championship Teams Plate on the understanding that his name did not appear on it. DW had replied accepting the offer and conveying heartfelt thanks on behalf of the MC. MC Members agreed that the trophy should take the form of a plate and carry the inscription "SCCBA Championship Teams Plate". DG had kindly offered to complete the purchase/engraving in time for the trophy to be presented at the end of the current season's competition.

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**Action: DG**

**The meeting closed at 12.31pm**