

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 3 May 2019 starting at 10.30am

Present:

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| Mr M Pool (MP) | President and Chairman |
| 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), Mr O Powell (OP), Mr M Wotton (MW) and Mr M Wright (MWr)

AGENDA

1. Apologies

Mrs J Mayall (JM), Mr N Watts (NW) and Mr R Jameson (Crawley BC)

2. Minutes of the meeting of 15 March 2019

2.1 Accuracy

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

2.2 Matters Arising

Actions from items 4.3, 4.4, 7.4 and 7.6 had been completed. MW queried the action arising from item 8.1 regarding the report on the EBU AGM for website publication and suggested that this now be replaced by the recently issued EBU Shareholders' Report. PB agreed. Other actions would be picked up under the relevant items below.

3. Chairman's Report

3.1 MP welcomed MC Members to the first meeting of the 2019/20 season, particularly those who had been newly elected at the AGM. He also wished to congratulate the team captained by PC which had reached the final of the Garden Cities event and to pass on his thanks to all who had made a success of the Spring Congress last month.

3.2 Referring to the deaths of several SCCBA members since the last MC meeting, MP indicated that it was his policy only to report explicitly to the MC regarding those who were seen as distinguished members. PB observed that Joan Sanders, a long time member of the Henfield DBS, had died recently aged 100. He would be attending the funeral that afternoon.

3.3 MP had nothing further to report beyond the various contributions he would make under later items of the agenda.

4. Treasurer's Report

4.1 Financial Overview - JH reported that the overall position was healthy with the financial balance at 30 April being £46,073 (31st December 2018: £45,187). Surplus on the income and expenditure account was £2159, compared to just £1658 at this time last year. This improvement had resulted from:

- A significantly increased surplus from the NYST arising from JM's commendably comprehensive approach to attracting entries;
- An improved surplus at the Spring Congress following the cancellation of loss-making events previously held on the Friday; and,
- The introduction of the Welcome Pairs series at Horsham BC which attracted a high entry level resulting in a healthy surplus.

These gains were, however, partially offset by a reduction in net income from other events. Overheads were slightly lower at £2,675 compared with £2814 in the previous year.

4.2 Bank account signatures – JH reported the action on him to arrange for AB to be the third signatory (with JH and DW) had still to be completed as the work leading to the recent AGM had taken precedence. He would complete it before the next meeting in August.

Action: JH

5. Selectors' Report

DW reported that the SC was next due to meet in July to select the teams for the Metropolitan Cup – see item 6.5 below. That meeting would also review options to fill the SC vacancy.

Action: Selection Committee

6. Tournament Committee Report

6.1 Use of EBU Director as CTD – PC reported that discussions with EBU Director Steve Foster (SF) were on-going. SF had stepped in at short notice to help direct events at the Spring Congress. PC would report further in due course.

Action: PC

6.2 Strengthening county TD ranks – Following the agreement at the March meeting to fund attendance at an advanced TD training course for Club TDs who wished to 'upgrade', PC reported that Richard Banbury (EBED) had proposed to hold a course at Eastbourne during the EBU Summer Festival if sufficient applicants could be found. DW had issued a trawl to Clubs and there were at least five, possibly rising to seven applicants so the course would go ahead. It was hoped that those recommended by the course instructor would consider volunteering to go on to the full county TD training in September. DW would report further in due course.

Action: DW

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6.3 Venue for Kremer Dersch – PC reported that Eastbourne BC had agreed to host the 2019 event on the last Sunday in September.

6.4 Spring Congress Feedback – As indicated in the Treasurer's report, PC confirmed that the event had made a healthy surplus and there had been no adverse feedback regarding the cancellation of the Friday events.

6.5 Met Cup 2019 – PC reported the intention to enter 'A', 'B' and 'C' teams for this one day at Windsor in the Autumn. Each of these teams would consist of only eight players compared with twelve players in previous years. This would inevitably leave some of those who played in 2018 disappointed. The SC would meet to make the necessary selections in July. The deadline for entries was 2 September.

Action: Selection Committee

6.6 Welcome Pairs Series – In parallel with the planning of the Worthing WP event and in consultation with PC and the WP organisers, DW had developed a draft set of guidelines for these events. These had been circulated to MC Members for their consideration. MC Members were content with the guidelines as drafted and DW confirmed that he intended to invite other clubs with substantial student communities to add further events to the series to provide the students/players concerned with regular opportunities throughout the year.

Action: DW

6.7 Thakeham Village Hall – Use as a venue for county events – PC had looked at this as a fairly central venue and believed that it could be a viable option. Costs were not the lowest, being on a par with Uckfield. Parking and catering facilities were good although PC was unsure about stocks of cutlery and crockery and DG commented that the hall felt cold. The location was not the easiest to find, particularly in the dark, but on balance PC recommended that it be retained as an option for future events. MC Members agreed.

6.8 Timing of GP events in 2020 – The 'norm' established by the EBU over many years had been to set aside three weekends in May, June and July as options for counties to hold GP events, SCCBA had usually chosen the Saturday in May for its Swiss Pairs and the Sunday in July for its Swiss Teams. PC had explored with the EBU whether there was any flexibility to choose dates outside the assigned weekends and he had been advised that there could be some flexibility provided choices made did not clash with other counties' events. PC felt that sticking with the days previously chosen was probably the best approach. MC Members agreed.

6.9 Lord Newton Trophy – Reallocation – PC reported that he had yet to agree with Richard Newton (RN) a new competition which might be allocated the trophy previously awarded for the Link events in 2018. PC thought that RN might favour a new teams competition aimed at less experienced players. OP observed that an annual teams competition for the student/player communities playing in the Welcome Pairs series would introduce them to the joys of team bridge and therefore might be a useful addition to the tournament programme. PC agreed to discuss this with RN.

Action: PC

6.10 – Forthcoming Events – PC reported that current entries for the GP Swiss Pairs were satisfactory although the proportion of Sussex pairs was disappointingly low. He hoped that a late surge of entries would redress the balance somewhat. Entry numbers were also low for the Candles as it clashed with a 90th birthday celebration for Doris Strauss.

7. Secretary's Report

7.1 Timing of future AGMs – MP had indicated at the AGM 2019 the hope that if future AGM agendas were straightforward, the start time might be moved from 11.30am to 12 noon. DW observed that it was not possible to determine the straightforwardness of the agenda for an AGM until just before the meeting when the need or otherwise to accommodate members' resolutions or balloted elections was known. The time of the meeting needed to be advertised well in advance of this point in time. DW suggested a compromise whereby the start time was moved to 11.45am. MC Members agreed.

7.2 Appointments 2019/20 – DW had circulated a draft list of proposed appointments and organisers. MP advised that the "C & D Committee" should be shown as the "Conduct Committee". Members of Disciplinary Committees were appointed as required under the provisions of the constitution approved at the AGM 2019. MW pointed out apparent duplication between the appointments and organiser lists. Other MC Members were content to approve the list as documented.

Action: DW

[Post meeting note – Further review of the lists has shown the possibility of confusion where the same appointments were listed twice and the Secretary has adjusted the approved lists to remove the duplications before publication on the website.]

7.3 Year book 2019/20 – DW reported that Gerry Stanford (GS) expected to be able to issue the YB by the end of May. MW reported that GS hoped that using his own master file from 2018 together with actions he was taking to check data with clubs would considerably reduce the incidence of out-of-date information appearing this year.

Action: GS

7.4 Communications with Clubs – DW reported that he had received few responses to his email to clubs offering to facilitate an annual meeting of Club Chairmen. He had set a deadline of 30 April for responses and he thought it unlikely that sufficient demand would be forthcoming. He would report further if necessary.

Action: DW

7.5 Constitution - Pronouns – DW referred to the authority which the 2019 AGM had delegated to the MC to make changes to the constitution and enquired whether this should include conversion of masculine pronouns to gender neutral equivalents. MC Members felt that this was not necessary.

8. EBU Matters

8.1 EBU Consultation on proposed Bye Law changes re refusal of membership – DW reported that he had still not received definitive response to the concerns raised about this proposal, particularly regarding the potential impact on club membership and club terms of affiliation. These had been reported to the MC on 30 November 2018. DW understood that these were now due to be

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discussed by the EBU Chairmen's meeting later this month. PC was representing MP at that meeting and he would report back at the next MC meeting.

Action: PC

8.2 County Chairmen's meeting – As indicated above, PC was representing MP at this meeting on 15 May.

8.3 EBU insurance cover for counties – JH reported that this cover was similar to that provided by the SCCBA's own insurance policy except the latter included cover for our trophies. In pursuit of a potential saving, JH had discussed this with the EBU and its broker and he had obtained a quote for cover in respect of just the trophies. The latter would cost approaching £400 per annum which was a sum similar to that we were paying for our current policy. In the circumstances he did not believe there was any significant saving to be realised.

8.4 EBU Shareholders' Report – DW had circulated a copy of this report, issued this year in lieu of a Shareholders' meeting. MC Members had no questions or concerns arising from that report other than those referred to at paragraph 8.1 above.

9. Membership Secretary's Report

9.1 Membership – AB reported that the county's membership total as of 30 April 2019 was 2824, off-setting by 16 the encouraging increase of 71 achieved during the year to March 2019. AB added that the latest down load of membership data from the EBU had highlighted around 200 individuals who were still on our membership list but who were no longer on the EBU list. DW offered to circulate that list to affiliated clubs to enable a check to be made on the accuracy of the EBU list.

Action: AB/DW

9.2 GDPR 2018 – Contracts – DW had circulated a paper reporting the results of the further enquiries. In essence it now appeared that contracts were not required with either the EBU or Bridgewebs. DW proposed a minor change to the SCCBA Privacy Notice (to remove reference to "other data processors") which MC Members agreed.

Action: DW

10. Webmaster and Master Point Secretary's Report

MW reported that his busiest period of the year had now passed successfully. He wished also to record his grateful thanks for the substantial assistance given to him by Steve Foster in finalising recent results.

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 content with the progress recorded.

12.2 South East Counties Junior Bridge Camp 2019 – WB had circulated the revised information sheet for the JBC and a progress report. The latter posed three questions:

- Does MC wish to run a JBC in 2020? MC Members expressed keenness to maintain this annual event as our major contribution to the SEC strategy.
- Is Bowles Rocks a good venue? MP had met with WB at Bowles Rocks and he had been impressed with the facilities provided, including catering. MC Members agreed that the signs were good that Bowles should become our first choice for future events.
- Is first w/e in July good weekend? MC Members were content to delegate to WB the choice of weekend for future JBC events.

12.3 Minibrige in Primary Schools – IW had circulated a detailed progress report. Whilst some significant success had been achieved, some difficulties remained to be resolved, particularly the identification of additional teaching resources to help John Williams (JW) at Ditchling where he was holding the fort single-handedly. IW was urgently trying to resolve this and in the meantime MC Members expressed their gratitude to JW for his continued commitment under difficult circumstances.

Action: IW

13. Charities

DW reported that he had now received two nominations for charities to benefit in 2020 and he asked MC Members whether, in the circumstances, he should withhold the trawl to clubs this year. MC Members felt that the trawl should still go ahead to provide equal opportunity for nominations to be made. DW would take that action in the autumn.

14. Equipment Co-ordinator's Report

14.1 Trophy storage and insurance – DW had previously enquired as to the sufficiency of arrangements for storage and insurance of trophies, particularly where they were being stored by winners in their homes. AG observed that she believed that the SCCBA's insurance policy was an 'all risks' policy which provided cover for trophies wherever they were stored. JH agreed to check that this remained the case.

Action: JH

15. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 16 August 2019 at Worthing Bridge Club, commencing at 10.30 am

16. Any Other Business

16.1 On-line listing of entries received – PC reported that another county published entries received on-line to enable other potential entrants to see the strength of the field thus far entered. MW agreed to explore whether that was a practical proposition for our events.

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Action: MW

16.2 Post AGM trophy presentation – JH reported a comment from an AGM attendee that the post AGM trophy presentation had appeared to be less than well organised. PC/MWR agreed to combine to provide a brief to the Chairman detailing the presentations to be made at each AGM.

The meeting closed at 11.50am