

FINAL DRAFT

SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the Management Committee of the SCCBA took place via Zoom at 10.30am
on Friday 16 Jan 2026

Present:

Mr P Clinch (PC)	Chair
Mr J Hardy (JH)	Hon Treasurer
Mr D Wheeler (DW)	Hon Secretary

and other elected members: Mrs A Baxter (AB), Mrs A Galpin (AG), Mr D Galpin (DG), Mrs J Mayall (JM), Mr M Wotton (MW) and Mr M Wright (MW). Also attending were the President Mr M Pool (MP), Mrs K Duncanson (KD) and Mrs H Kent (HK) Crawley BC,

AGENDA

1. Apologies

Ms J Norcross (JN), Ms H Yoward (HY) Chichester BC and Mr E Rivett (ER) Worthing BC.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 26 Sept 2025

2.1 Accuracy

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

2.2 Matters Arising

DW reported that:

- Actions from paragraphs 7.2, 11.1, 11.3 and 15 had been completed.
- Other actions from the previous meeting would be picked up under the relevant items below.

At this point the Chair agreed to agenda item 16 being brought forward to allow MWr to meet another commitment. The minute of MWr's report and related discussion is recorded in its normal position.

3. Chair's Report

3.1 Welcome to the MC

3.1.1 PC welcomed KD to the MC indicating that he and other MC Members were pleased she had agreed to join the committee with a particular interest in youth bridge. KD explained that the latter had arisen from her development and delivery of bridge education via school clubs in Lancing Prep and Lancing College. This had also created an opportunity to establish a 'School Mums' teaching group. KD was also aware of bridge activity in other Sussex schools and colleges and her daughter is now involved with the national squad infrastructure for under 16s. PC referenced the MC's investment in courses to produce Minibrige teachers. These had been delivered by 3 Counties Bridge (Douglas Wright) but it was unclear how successful subsequent efforts to establish after school clubs elsewhere had been. Liaising with PC and DW as required, KD agreed to review matters, consider how best to take forward the development of youth bridge, reporting back to the MC in due course. PC added that the MC remained fully committed to developing youth bridge and the funds were available to enable the investments required.

Action KD/PC/DW

3.1.2 PC also welcomed Joanna Norcross who had agreed to join the MC but had been unable to attend this meeting owing to being abroad. MC Members were similarly pleased that she would provide further fresh perspectives and new ideas. DW had provided her with copies of the papers for this meeting and details of the next on 20 March. He had also given her information on the roles currently being delivered by MC Members to enable her to consider where her areas of interest might be.

3.2 Co-option to MC

PC indicated that, for KD and JN formally to contribute to MC business they needed to be co-opted to the committee. MC Members indicated their agreement to these co-options.

3.3 Working with Kent CBA

PC reported that following his constructive discussions with the Chair Kent CBA (Jon Wittman), lines of communications were established to enable further collaboration as required.

4. Treasurer's Report

4.1 Treasurer's Report and Accounts for p/e 31 Dec 2025

JH had circulated the first draft of the Treasurer's report and accounts for the year ending 31 Dec 2025. The principal points were:

- The County has had another satisfactory year financially with the income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st December 2025 revealing a surplus of £1,917, compared to a small deficit of £383 in the previous year. Our main source of income, UMS income, totalled £6,534, slightly down on last year's total of £6,610. The main reasons for the overall improvement related to expenses incurred in 2024 re bridge teaching seminars, £1,818, and the County's contribution to the EBU 'Bridge-it's a Big Deal' (BIABD) festival, £1,120
- The surplus on congresses and events at £2,130 was significantly up on the 2024 total of £1,426. The County retained a policy for certain events of having reduced or no entry fees, resulting in a deficit on County events of £121, less than the deficit in 2024 of £189. One day events were similarly affected, with a deficit of £352, compared to a deficit in 2024 of £503. Income from the Spring and Autumn Congresses, green pointed events and online events contributed a surplus of

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just over £1,000 similar to the surplus in 2024. Income from the charity SIMS event was £1,584, compared to £1,127 in 2024.

- Overheads totalled £5,265 compared with £6,122 in 2024. Last year's total was inflated by the County sponsoring three seminars relating to bridge and minibridge teaching resources to the tune of £1,818. Overall, overheads remain fairly consistent year on year.
- Donations totalled £2,000 with £1,000 being donated to each of the two chosen charities (£2,085 in 2024, £2100 offset by other donations of £15 with £700 donated to each of three charities). The Management Committee agreed to increase the level of donations in 2025 in part to compensate for the absence of donations during the pandemic years.
- Total cash/bank balances at 31st December 2025 were £52,263 compared to £50,638 at 31st December 2024. The balance on the general fund increased from £45,466 at the end of 2024 to £47,383 at 31st December 2025.
- These accounts, which will be presented for approval by the Management Committee on 20th March 2026, are shortly to be examined by the SCCBA independent examiner, Lynda Smith.
- Going forward, the SCCBA will continue to face challenges, the main one being to ensure that a broad balance is achieved between our main sources of income and our overheads. The SCCBA remains financially sound and has the resources to assist affiliated clubs if required. Approval was given at the EGM in 2018 for an increase in the UMS county charge, from 7p to 8p for 2019/20 or in a subsequent year, the County can quickly arrange for an increase in income to cover potential increases in expenditure. There is currently no plan to apply this increase.

With UMS income continuing to be steady at over £500 a month and in the absence of any unexpected overheads, a reasonable surplus for the coming year is anticipated. The loss in 2024 was a result of donations to BIABD -£1,120 and youth bridge investment - £1,818. Without these items, the results for that year would have been in line with those of the year just ended.

4.2 Bank signatory

JH reported that, in anticipation of an upcoming change in personnel, he proposed that JM be appointed as an SCCBA bank signatory. MC Members were content with this proposal.

Action: JH/JM

MWr left the meeting to fulfil another commitment.

5. Affiliated Club Issues

5.1 Rottingdean BC

DW reported that the RBC newsletter, including his article introducing county services to club members, had been published at the beginning of November last year. There had not been any feedback. If MC Members wished to see a copy of the article or the full newsletter, he could provide such.

5.2 Chichester BC

DW reported that planning for the new club blue pointed event was continuing. As indicated at the previous meeting, he and PC had provided advice on the issues to be addressed. This had created the opportunity for a dialogue on planning and implementation but it remained for CBC to continue the dialogue. DW would report further in due course

Action: DW

6. Selectors' Report

PC reported that having successfully negotiated the qualifying round the Sussex team would be playing in the Tollemache final at the end of this month.

7. Tournament Committee (TC) Report

7.1 Competitions

DG reported that both flagship teams competitions were now well under way and he would shortly be providing an update to team captains. PC referenced details of events past being on the website and noted that 18 teams had registered for the New Year Swiss Teams (NYST) at Patcham this coming weekend.

7.2 County TDs

DW rehearsed the substantially reduced availability of County TDs. There were possible candidates for the EBU's 2026 County TD course in May which the TC would consider at its next meeting. PC emphasised that whilst the County should continue to subsidise that training, it should only be on the basis that applicants were committed to becoming practising County TDs following successful completion of the course.

Action: TC

7.3 IT Update for TDs

PC reported that the new laptop with Windows 11 had been used recently for the first time. Whilst this was generally successful, some anomalies had been noted and were being resolved by MW and the CTD (Stephen Kennedy), hopefully in time for the NYST.

7.4 Use of Henfield Hall

PC reported that no further dialogue on pricing had taken place and our events at HH would continue to make losses in 2026. KD observed that in conversation with a member of the HH management committee she had noted that HH were now having to operate with substantially increased costs and were focusing on regular hirers for whom volume discounts were available.

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Additional SCCBA events at HH were a possibility although whether they would be sufficient to trigger a discount was unclear. PC would consider matters further and report back as necessary.

Action: PC

HK left the meeting to fulfil another commitment.

8. Secretary's Report

8.1 Membership development 2025 – Sussex contribution

DW reported that the county's active membership had remained at around 2000 throughout 2025. Some clubs had recorded modest increases, others small decreases. We could not therefore claim to have contributed anything to the EBU target. DW observed that it would be interesting to see how the EBU reported back on its target - an increase of 5%. Perhaps the various initiatives started in 2025 would be seen now as only likely to bear significant fruit in 2026 making a target for that year a more realistic proposition.

8.2 Dimmie Fleming Award 2025

The presentation to Eddie Williams had been made at the Kent/Sussex Joint Congress last October but the photos believed to have been taken then had not yet been used to publicise this on the website. PC undertook to pursue as required to enable MW to report on the website as soon as possible.

Action: PC/MW

8.3 Gladys Hakki Award 2026

DW reported that the invitation for clubs to nominate had been issued recently. He reminded MC Members that they could nominate if they were aware of suitable candidate(s). Selection of the winner would be made at the next MC meeting.

Action: DW

8.4 SCCBA AGM 2026

DW had circulated copies of the papers required to initiate the formal process required prior to the AGM. MC Members were content with the proposed date – 26 April and the documents which would be used to inform clubs and individual members as required by the Constitution. MC Members also confirmed the Membership T & C for 2026/27 and noted the previously approved amendment to the Constitution both of which would be submitted for AGM approval.

Action: DW

8.5 Meeting dates in 2026

DW had circulated a note of dates proposed for committee meetings. He emphasised that whilst those for the meetings prior to the AGM were firm, those after it should be regarded as provisional. The new MC is expected to reflect significant changes in personnel, particularly the new Chair and Secretary, and they will surely wish to review meeting arrangements soon after appointment.

9. EBU Matters

9.1 EBU AGM 2025

PC reported that despite some concerns being expressed, the proposal for a 2p increase in the UMS rate had been approved. Additionally, a number of new Board members had been elected, including Frances Hinden. Although not discussed at the meeting, MP observed that he was still in discussion with a Board Member regarding the concerns he had raised at the EBU AGM 2024.

9.2 EBU Silver Award to Peter Clinch

DW had put this on the agenda to give MC Members the opportunity collectively to convey their congratulations. MC Members did so by acclamation. MP observed that PC's contributions to the success of bridge at national and county levels had been exceptional over many years making the award thoroughly deserved.

10. Membership Secretary's Report

AB had reported that the membership total at 14 January was 2649, 73 more than the total reported to the previous meeting. The email address list totalled 2479, also 73 more than reported in September last year. Regarding arrangements for all-member emails, AB added that, when advertising competitions, she was now able to include links to website entry arrangements, removing the need to attach entry forms.

11. Webmaster and Master Point Secretary's Report

11.1 Scoring Charity Sims events

MW had completed his work to develop instructions for scoring charity sims events and PC had agreed to take this task for this year's event next month.

11.2 Competition Rules for Mixed Heats

Whilst reviewing instructions for heats of the Sussex Pairs, MW had noted a 'hole' in the advice regarding mixed heats. Resolving this would lead to a change to the Competition Rules and he would liaise with DW to effect this via the TC in due course

Action: MW/DW

12. Conduct and Discipline

JM indicated that there was nothing to report on this occasion.

13. Youth Bridge

Further to the discussion recorded at agenda item 3.1.1 above, KD had agreed to be nominated for the MC role of Youth Officer and SPOC (Single Point of Contact for EBU, EBED, etc) on youth bridge matters. MC Members were content to approve this appointment.

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14. Education

DW reported that he had recently encouraged attendance at various EBED events for club officers and teachers.

15. Charities Co-ordinator's Report

MC Members had agreed (by email dialogue) to St Wilfrid's Hospice and UK Harvest (both nominated by Chichester BC) and Queen Victoria Charitable Trust (nominated by Crawley BC) being selected to benefit from the Charity Sims Week 2026. MC Members had also agreed to use reserves to uprate the donation to each Charity to £1000 if necessary. Arrangements would be made to make the donations as soon as possible after the event.

Action: JH

16. Equipment and Trophy Co-ordinator's Report

16.1 Disposal of surplus equipment

Following his report to the previous meeting, MWr had disposed of much of the surplus in tables, cloths and bidding boxes. A total of 22 sets had been taken by Eastbourne, Meridian and Seaford. 20 other sets, all in good condition, had been retained for future use. KD enquired whether some bidding boxes might still be available (to meet a teaching requirement) and MWr agreed to liaise with her to meet this need. MP observed that the spare dealing machine was now likely to be bought by Tenterden BC.

16.2 Equipment storage

MWr reported that following the disposals, all of the remaining equipment could now be accommodated on one pallet in his garage. JH proposed that the monthly payment to rent the space required to store county equipment should now be paid to MWr. MC Members agreed.

Action: JH

17. Next Meeting

Via Zoom at 10.30am on Friday 20 Mar 2026.

18. Any Other Business

There was no other business

The meeting closed at 11.36am.