

## 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 20 Mar 2026

### Present:

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

and other elected and co-opted members: Mrs A Baxter (AB), Mrs K Duncanson (KD), Mrs A Galpin (AG), Mr D Galpin (DG), Mrs J Mayall (JM) and Mr M Wotton (MW). Also attending were the President Mr M Pool (MP), Mrs S Bugden (SB), Ms J Handley (JHa), Mrs H Kent (HK) and Ms H Yoward (HY).

### AGENDA

#### 1. Apologies

Mr C Clark (CC), Ms J Norcross (JN), Mr E Rivett (ER) and Mr M Wright (MWr)

#### 2. Minutes of the meeting of 16 Jan 2026

##### 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 8.2 and 8.4 had been completed.
- Other actions from the previous meeting would be picked up under the relevant items below.

#### 3. Chair's Report

##### 3.1 Final meeting as Chair

PC took the opportunity of his final meeting as Chair to express his great appreciation for the help and support he had received from everybody throughout his tenure. He also wished to convey his special thanks to DW, who was attending his last MC meeting. DW had contributed much to the success of Sussex bridge over many years.

##### 3.2 Transition planning for post AGM 2026

After thanking PC for his kind words, DW referred to the discussion paper he had circulated regarding transition. By way of introduction, he highlighted three points. First, whilst over his name, the paper actually reflected a consensus reached with the other Officers and SB. Second, he conveyed his delight that JN had agreed to be nominated for the Hon Sec post at the AGM and, third, whilst this was indeed his last MC meeting, he would be available to help those taking over his responsibilities as and when required. SB commented that if she is elected Chair, she would ask each committee chair to take responsibility for meeting agendas and minutes as she would do for the Officers group, the MC and, in 2027, the AGM. DW invited comments and/or questions. MC Members were content with the proposals and would reflect on how they might help meet the responsibilities outside the main Hon Sec post.

**Action: MC Members**

##### *Post meeting note*

*JHa has kindly agreed to be nominated at the AGM as MC Member (Co-ordinator Education and Charities).*

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

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

JH had circulated the Treasurer's report and examined accounts for the year ending 31 Dec 2025. The financial position continued to be healthy with overheads more than covered by Universal Membership Scheme revenue and a modest surplus from competitions. This would allow uprating of charitable donations as in the previous year. JH invited comments and or questions. MC Members were content to approve the accounts for submission to the AGM for adoption.

**Action: DW**

##### 4.2 Expenses Policies

DW reported that completion of his review awaited receipt of a copy of the EBU rates for 2026/27. This is due to be finalised by the end of the month. He would report the result of his review to the MC as soon as possible.

**Action: DW**

#### 5. Affiliated Club Issues

##### 5.1 Newhaven and Peacehaven BC

DW reported that preparations were in hand to create this new club, with operations planned to begin at the end of April at a location in Peacehaven. Trevor Smart was leading the work required and an application to join the EBU trial affiliation scheme had been accepted. A duplicate session and a teaching class are to be included in the launch. PC added that he had donated a set of 32 boards in a carrying case to assist the preparations.

##### 5.2 Eastbourne BC

DW reported that planning for a new club blue pointed event, probably in June, was in train. Ros Wolfarth was leading the work and the TC had provided advice in response to her queries.

#### 6. Selectors' Report

PC reported that despite late changes the county team had performed creditably in the Tollemache final, winning four out of seven matches. It was unlikely that a team of sufficient quality would be available to play in the President's Cup and Sussex did not have

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any qualifying teams for the Inter-County League final, so the next task for the Selectors would be to pick the teams for the Metropolitan Cup in the autumn.

### 7. Tournament Committee (TC) Report

#### 7.1 Competitions

PC reported that the New Year Swiss Teams, the David Pavey, the Charity Sim Pairs, the Horsham Welcome Pairs and the Sussex Pairs final had been completed since the last meeting. DW led congratulations to PC for his win in the latter. The National Pairs Regional Final and the county Team of Eight championship would be held shortly and the new Invitation Pairs season would commence.

#### 7.2 County TDs

PC rehearsed the substantially reduced availability of county TD resources. The Chief Tournament Director, Stephen Kennedy, had been able to respond to most recent requirements but his availability was likely to come under additional pressures in the not too distant future. Two candidates had failed the EBU County TD course last year. SB observed that the County TD training is demanding and requires a deep level of knowledge and experience. She asked whether qualified county TDs in adjacent counties might be an additional source of supply. These were listed on the EBU website. PC said he had procured such on one or two occasions and agreed that this might have to be a major source in future. DW indicated he was reviewing possible candidates for the next EBU course at the end of May and would report to the TC before retirement.

**Action: DW**

#### 7.3 IT Update for TDs

PC reported that the teething troubles with the new laptop and its links to other equipment had now been resolved. Considerable time and effort had been devoted by MW to diagnose and explain the two problems concerned, which enabled PC and the CTD to implement the solutions. MP observed that now might be the time also to upgrade the county's stock of Bridgemates. He had raised the suggestion with the TC.

#### 7.4 Competition Rules – Clarification for mixed heats

DW had circulated details of this clarification, recommended by the TC. MC Members were content to approve the addition to CR Appendix C4 as proposed. DW would arrange with MW for the updated version of the CR to be posted on the website

**Action: DW**

#### 7.5 Use of Henfield Hall

PC was awaiting information regarding 2026 prices before preparing costings for county events to be held there. Losses were likely as in 2025. He would report further to the TC in due course.

*HK left the meeting at this point to fulfil another commitment.*

### 8. Secretary's Report

#### 8.1 Gladys Hakki Award 2026

DW had circulated copies of the nominations to those who would be voting. PC moved those not voting into the Zoom waiting room. DW invited MC Members to provide any information they might have which would add value to that provided in the nominations. A vote was then called by show of hands with the President acting as independent teller. This resulted in Thea Sydenham, nominated by Chichester BC, being selected to receive the award. DW undertook to notify nominators of the result and make arrangements for the presentation.

**Action: DW**

#### 8.2 SCCBA AGM 2026

##### 8.2.1 Process update

DW reported that the pre-AGM process was proceeding as planned with all expected MC nominations now confirmed. He had not been alerted to the possibility of any further nominations or members' resolutions.

##### 8.2.2 MC attendance

DW observed that if all MC Members (and others who had indicated a wish to attend) attended, we would be comfortably above the quorum required (10). He asked to be informed immediately if any were no longer able to attend in order to manage the risk of failing to reach the quorum.

**Action: MC Members**

#### 8.3 Draft Appointments list for 2026/27

DW had circulated this first draft to indicate where vacancies might be filled before the list was presented to the MC post AGM for approval.

### 9. EBU Matters

#### 9.1 Club Terms of Affiliation 2026

DW had reported to the Officers details of two changes to these terms concerning the affiliation fee and the notice period required for resignation. The Officers had concluded that no action was required by the county. DW offered to provide details if any MC Member required them.

#### 9.2 EBU Shareholder allocation

DW reported that Sussex had been allocated an additional shareholder based on the number of active members as at 31 March 2025. Given the changes in the composition of the MC expected at the AGM, the Officers recommended that decisions regarding this (and the additional vacancy to be created by DW's retirement) should be referred to the first meeting of the new committee post AGM. MC Members agreed. SB accepted the responsibility should she be elected. DW observed that if our total of active members at 31 March 2026 were to fall below 2000 (unlikely), the 4<sup>th</sup> shareholder allocation would be withdrawn.

### 10. Membership Secretary's Report

AB had reported that the current overall membership total (including non-active members) was 2671, 22 more than the total reported to the previous meeting. The email address list now totalled 2500, 21 more than reported in January. DW added that the total active membership for February was 2040. The March figure would be reported mid-April.

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

MW reported business as usual with website changes. He enquired of PC whether his instructions for overall scoring of Charity Sims events had proved useful. PC confirmed that the instructions were very useful, the process of merging results, etc had gone smoothly and he thanked MW for his attention to detail.

### 12. Conduct and Discipline

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

### 13. Youth Bridge

KD provided an overview of her perspective on the background to the further development of youth bridge in Sussex. The key points were:

- The case for investment in youth bridge is strong – it delivers the academic benefits of mind sports, it enables generational play and related family social benefits, it creates opportunities to identify and develop future county and national players, and it supports initiatives to reduce the imbalance between the involvement of boys and girls where the latter are in a small minority currently.
- There is an EBU pathway for youth bridge development – school activity with parallel opportunities for playing as frequently as possible, including bridge camps and competitions such as Schools Cups, leading to identifying potential candidates for under 16 training and the associated junior squads.
- KD's teaching groups at Lancing Prep and Lancing College were well supported and a recent match against a Haberdashers team resulted in a narrow victory for Lancing.
- KD is aware of bridge activity at other schools such as Cardinal Newman, Worthing and Fishbourne near Chichester.
- Key challenges to be overcome in sustaining youth bridge activity were:
  - importance of volunteers to enable support at each table in teaching/practice sessions;
  - need for a 'pipeline' between year groups, typically only achievable through an internal school 'champion' overseeing all bridge activity;
  - lack (often) of premises for a Saturday club; and,
  - schools tend to be siloed from each other.
- Models worth looking at included Haberdashers where success had flowed from school-wide activity driven by an internal champion and Sue Johnson's online weekday lessons + Saturday club had produced around 50% of the England U16 training group.

KD had some initial thoughts about taking things forward which she would share and develop further with PC, DW and SB. SB offered to share her experience when EBU Chair, including research into schools and the all-party parliamentary group she set up to get Minibrige onto the National Curriculum. SB also mentioned Stamford Bridge Club as a strong model. PC added that SCCBA had invested in youth bridge for many years and maintained a ring-fenced fund to support further worthwhile investments.

Action: KD

### 14. Education

DW reported that responses (5) to his annual survey of teaching activity had revealed 282 students being taught at various stages. This suggested that activity across the county was at a higher level than a year ago. The deadline for responses was the end of March and the extrapolated results would be fed into PC's AGM report.

Action: DW

### 15. Charities Co-ordinator's Report

The Sims week had raised around £300 less than 2025, with the leading clubs being Chichester (£326), Patcham (£275) and Crawley (£264). Payment of £1000 each to St Wilfrid's Hospice and UK Harvest (both nominated by Chichester BC) and Queen Victoria Charitable Trust (nominated by Crawley BC) would be made shortly.

Action: JH

*AG and DG left the meeting at this point to meet another commitment.*

### 16. Equipment and Trophy Co-ordinator's Report

MW had indicated that there was nothing to report on this occasion.

### 17. Next Meeting - See post meeting note below

### 18. Any Other Business

Two points were raised:

- JM underlined PC's comments regarding DW, indicating that his support to her whilst she was Chair had been particularly valuable.
- PC observed that he held the account through which the county's use of Zoom was purchased. JH refunded the charges. Arrangements for this to be held elsewhere would be needed in due course. SB indicated that this was "on her list".

The meeting closed at 11.55am.

### Post Meeting Note

*The next meeting will be held via Zoom at 10.30am on Friday 19 June 2026.*