

FINAL
Sussex County Contract Bridge Association
A meeting of the Tournament Committee of the SCCBA was held via Zoom
on Tuesday 17th November 2020 commencing at 11.30am.

PRESENT: D Wheeler (DW - Chairman & Secretary), P Clinch (PC - Tournament Manager), J Hardy (JH), Mrs A Galpin (AG) and M Pool (MP)

1. APOLOGIES - None

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The final draft minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2020 were agreed as presented.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Actions from paragraph 4.5 had been completed. Actions from paragraphs 3.4, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, and 5.1 of the meeting on 7 February 2020 and actions from paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 of the meeting on 15 September were carried forward until there are clear prospects for a resumption of normal bridge. Other actions were picked up under the relevant items below.

4. TOURNAMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

4.1 Prospects for resumption of normal bridge

DW suggested that it was reasonable to assume that recent encouraging news regarding vaccine development would lead to a major immunisation programme in 2021 and that the vast majority of SCCBA members will have received their jabs by the summer. In turn this suggested that a return to normal bridge might be allowed by, say June and that the TC should plan accordingly. Working backwards this projection required the prior publication of the tournament programme for 2021/22 via a Year Book issue. TC members agreed. DW would get the ball rolling with a request to clubs in January to provide their information for the Year Book. He hoped to be able to attach a draft list of county event dates to help clubs avoid clashes with their events as far as possible.

Action: DW

4.2 Current online bridge

- Virtual clubs – PC reported that there had been some growth in club online sessions – a full listing continued to be published on the web site. Participation levels seemed to be holding up reasonably well. PC had viewed the recording of the EBU online discussion but it had been primarily aimed at clubs considering whether to create a virtual club rather than those who were already on board. JH reported that he had received small amounts of online session income from Crowborough and Bognor confirming modest growth in the number of clubs involved. All of this activity was based on the *BBO* platform but recent EBU activity suggested that a preference for the *Realbridge* platform was emerging. *Realbridge* is seen as more sociable as it allows opponents to be seen. MP observed that Realbridge is quite different to BBO, more robust for the end user but the set up might be more complicated. It is not compatible with older iPads and facility to kibitz is limited. It is however very much a work in progress and doubtless improvements would come in due course. PC agreed to include a reference to this in his report to the MC and TC members agreed to review the situation again in January.

Action: PC

- County competitions – Two events had been held – the East Grinstead Basic Bridge and a blue pointed pairs event. Numbers participating were considerably up on the levels at face-to-face events in 2019 and approaching 100 pairs were expected for the upcoming green pointed event. Online versions of the Sussex Pairs and the David Pavey were also subject to active consideration. AG had researched current online activity and found that around a third of those who previously played in the Invitation Pairs were not yet playing online. She was planning to consult all previous participants to establish the level of demand for a series of IP online sessions, perhaps two each month, over the next few months. The consultation would also cover other issues such as the number of boards, the basis for scoring, a protocol for TD calls and the timing of each round.

Action: PC/AG

- Inter county events – A recent friendly match against Gloucestershire had seen the 'A' team successful, the 'B' and 'C' teams less so. The match against Manchester is now set for mid December. PC is collecting £2.50 from each participant to cover costs. All team members were content with this.

4.3 Tollemache Cup

The qualifying event will take place this coming weekend and will be played on *Realbridge*. Practice sessions were being held to get used to the new platform. The event is all play all involving 27 counties and each county could nominate up to 7 pairs with 4 playing at any one time.

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Sussex would be taking 6 pairs with Andrew Southwell as NPC. We are fielding a strong team with all of our international players involved and PC felt there were good prospects for a top eight finish and qualification for the final.

4.4 Metropolitan Cup

This would be taking place on 28/29 November. Not all qualifying counties had entered a team so some counties were entering two teams.

5. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

There were no issues arising.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PC noted JH's request to ensure that TOs obtained entrant bank details so that prizes could be paid as soon as possible after an event.

8. Date of next meeting – 15 Jan 2021