

FINAL
Sussex County Contract Bridge Association
A meeting of the Tournament Committee of the SCCBA was held via Zoom
on Friday 17th September 2021 commencing at 11.30am.

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

1. APOLOGIES - None

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The final draft minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2021 were agreed as presented.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Actions from paragraphs 4.2.2 and 4.5 had been completed.

Other actions from the last meeting would be picked up under the relevant items below.

4. TOURNAMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

4.1 Current competitions

- Charity Sims – PC had agreed with the organiser that, subject to TC agreement, it would now be sensible to plan the next event for the 'normal' time of year, ie January 2022. TC members agreed.
- BP Mid-week Swiss Pairs – Previously this had been planned for 3rd or 4th quarter 2021 but PC was conscious that it would now be 'competing' with recovering clubs' sessions. He would bear it in mind if circumstances allowed.
- Mixed Pairs – Online event now planned for 4th quarter 2021.
- GP events – Both confirmed as online events in November/December.
- Sussex League – David Galpin (DG) had submitted a progress report indicating a reasonable prospect for completing the 2019/20 competition by the end of the calendar year. DW observed that DG had delegated authority to resolve any issues which might arise. In response to an enquiry from PC, DW confirmed that DG's delegation included consultation with the TC where resolution of such issues was likely to be contentious.
- Championship Teams – DG's report also covered the CT and the TC was content with his proposals. DG also posed questions regarding entry fees and publicity. Regarding the former, the TC agreed to continue with its recovery policy of no entry fee. Normally, the entry fees provide the funding for the prizes awarded but on this occasion (again as part of our recovery strategy) agreed to maintain the payment of a suitable level of prizes. There would be a return to normal entry fee arrangements next year. As to publicity, the TC envisaged a combination of an email to past captains, an article on the web site and suitable reminders in the emails which were planned to be issued regularly to all on the email list. DG also proposed arrangements for the Plate competition for 2022 with which the TC agreed. Regarding the 2019/20 Plate competition, DG proposed abandoning it. PC recalled the donation of a new trophy wondered whether we might encourage completion of the outstanding Plate competition albeit making clear that those matches were a lower priority than those needed to complete the Sussex League. If completion was not feasible, it would be important to clear lines with the donor before the cancellation was given any publicity. DW agreed to feed back to DG accordingly
Action: DW
- Inter county events
PC reported that Sussex had been narrowly beaten in the final Home Counties League, losing by just 4 IMPs. Teams for the upcoming Tollemache and Metropolitan Cup would be selected shortly.

4.2 JBC 2021

With a little over a month to go, entries were still quite low. This was undoubtedly because of continuing uncertainty about a Covid resurgence. Unavoidable costs were covered by fees already received plus confirmed sponsorships and, usefully, Bowles Rock had not yet pursued any further deposit. The TC agreed that the commitment to deliver the event should be maintained.

4.3 Tournament Programme 2021/22

PC observed that, in previous years, club input to the competition calendar had been assembled by the Year Book Editor based on responses to DW's annual request. This year, a similar request, to provide input to an evolving calendar on the web site, had been less successful. DW agreed to issue a reminder and PC agreed to discuss with the Webmaster a modus operandi for updating the calendar. For 2022, the TC reaffirmed that the Spring Congress should be the first major face-to-face event post-pandemic. That said, options to hold other, prior, events face-to-face would remain open if circumstances allowed.

Action: DW/PC

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4.4 EBU Competitions Strategy

DW reported that there had been no further dialogue on this and he expected the next stage to be proposals to the EBU AGM in November. Recent EBU face-to-face events, particularly the Eastbourne Summer Congress, had been poorly attended and this would doubtless influence the final form of the proposals.

5. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

None, other than those already covered above.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 GP Event Partnership

Kent CBA had proposed a partnership with Sussex to maximise entries and to eliminate competition between counties. PC agreed to consider further and respond.

Action: PC

7. Date of next meeting – 26 Nov 2021