

SCCBA Tournament Committee Final Draft

Minutes of the Meeting 16.06.26

Present:

Peter Clinch, Chair, Sally Bugden, Andrea Galpin, John Hardy, Martin Pool

Apologies from Joanna Norcross

Key Outcomes

The committee identified critical gaps in tournament directors, organisers, and volunteer bench strength, and agreed on several targeted recruitment and structural actions. A separate development meeting is planned for September to address declining tournament participation.

Decisions Made

- **Club TD training** transferred to **Jane Handley** (Education Officer) under EBED, not Tournament Committee.
- **AI meeting notes (ReadAI)** adopted going forward; Peter to review and distribute summaries post-meeting.
- **Incentive for new organizers:** free entry for organiser + partner of choice; applies to all committee members unless waived? To be decided after the development meeting.
- **Invitation Pairs:** substitute results allowance increased from 1 to **2 counting results** (applies equally to all pairs); to be published on website.
- **Championship Teams start date** over the past two seasons has moved back from December to **November**; end date shifted back one month accordingly.
- **Autumn Congress** to be split across **two weekends** this year due to Patcham availability.
- **Next TC meeting:** To be advised by Peter.

Recruitment & Volunteer Pipeline

- **Stephen Kennedy** (Chief TD) to be approached to attend TC meetings.

- **Several people** were mentioned as potential members of the TC and both Sally and Peter to approach.
 - **Jane Handley** to be invited onto TC and potentially organise a tournament.
 - **Potential methods** of organising tournaments to be addressed in the development meeting in September.
 - **County-wide "your county needs you" appeal** planned, possibly via Pianola, to recruit organisers.
 - **Organiser checklists** to be created by Peter to reduce barrier to entry.
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Tournament Directors – Key Issues

- **Stephen Kennedy** is currently responsible for directing most county competitions in Sussex; Peter Langston directs the Ladies Pairs; Julian holds an online-only qualification.
 - Two candidates trained last year declined to continue: EBU course seen as too advanced and discouraging.
 - **Proposed:** lobby EBU (via Peter's Tournament Directors Development Group, meeting Friday) for a lighter **county-level TD course** distinct from the national pathway.
Update: EBED will be approached to re-introduce TD preparation day, and EBU is organising a club/county directors seminar next year.
 - **Shadowing Stephen** at events proposed as a lower-barrier entry point for prospective TDs.
 - **John Hardy** to join **Martin on 25th (9:45am, Patcham)** to learn duplicate dealing setup.
 - Sally suggested using **the EBU national county TD list** and cover travel expenses when no local County TD is available.
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Tournament Programme & Participation

- Declining entries noted across congresses; Autumn Congress gets fewer entries than a regular club pairs afternoon at Patcham.
- **Venue diversification** discussed consensus that changing venue alone is unlikely to reverse decline and that Patcham Community Centre provides an excellent location mid county for events.
- **Eastbourne** not running Blue Pointed Club event or Welcome Pairs this year; Venture Pairs status unclear — Peter/Joanna to follow up.

- **2026–27 draft programme** target: full calendar ready by **August** for Mervyn to publish; program to be emailed to all county members.
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Development Meeting – September

- Separate meeting (not a regular TC meeting) to be arranged in **September** to address: right tournament formats, entry generation strategy, and succession planning.
 - **Joy** specifically recommended to attend given her success in driving entries.
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Trophies

- **John Hardy** to audit trophies with Malcolm: condition, which events they belong to, and current holders.
 - Committee considering replacing physical trophies with **engraved keepsakes** (e.g., engraved glass) that winners can keep permanently.
 - Decision on repairs pending audit; Martin's threshold: a few hundred pounds = proceed; several thousand = reconsider.
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Action Items

- **Peter**: Approach Stephen Kennedy re TC attendance; raise county TD course proposal at TD Development Group (Friday)
- **Sally**: Contact potential TC members and TC/organisers
- **Peter**: Engage Joanna on 2026–27 club heat dates; target full draft program by August
- **Peter/Joanna**: Contact Eastbourne re Venture Pairs and other county events
- **John Hardy**: Audit trophies with Malcolm; report condition and locations
- **John Hardy + Martin**: Duplicate dealing session at Patcham, **25th at 9:45am**
- **Andrea/Peter**: Update Invitation Pairs rules (2 substitute scores) on website before next event
- **Sally**: Arrange September development meeting.