

FINAL DRAFT
Sussex County Contract Bridge Association
A meeting of the Tournament Committee of the SCCBA was held via Zoom
on Wednesday 27 April 2022 commencing at 11am.

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 21 January 2022 were agreed as presented.

3. MATTERS ARISING

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

4. TOURNAMENT PROGRAMME

4.1 Sussex Pairs 2021/22

PC confirmed that competition had been completed. The winners were Andy Ryder and Mike Allen. They would go forward to represent Sussex in the Corwen at the end of May.

4.2 Invitation Pairs 2022

AG reported that she was in touch with six potential hosts, four of which would be new to holding a heat. She was also in pursuit of TDs with a couple yet to respond.. She was aiming to start the competition at the end of May and she would be consulting regarding face-to-face or online shortly. She was conscious that there were still significant reservations about face-to-face. JH commented regarding the new venues that their room hire charges could affect the entrance fee.

Action: AG

4.3 Championship Teams and Sussex League 2022

David Galpin (DG) had reported that the Championship Teams was progressing satisfactorily with the competition now at the semi-final stage. Although it was intended that the semi-finals and final would be played face-to-face, he had allowed one of the semis to be played online as both teams requested that. Hopefully the remaining two matches in the competition will be played face-to-face. The League had got off to its usual slow start, Eight matches across the 4 divisions had so far been played, but there was over half a year still to play so nothing of concern at this early stage.

At this point DG took advantage of the Zoom connection to conduct the draw for the Championship Teams Plate competition. PC drew the numbers and DG assigned the teams selected. Details will be communicated shortly.

4.4 Congress and GP events

- Spring Congress – Based on the relatively slow recovery of face-to-face sessions in clubs, the TC had decided by correspondence that it was too early to hold this event face-to-face as previously planned
- Autumn Congress – First thoughts were that this might be held face-to-face at Patcham but dates were still to be agreed. Plans would also be influenced by experience from the Sussex Candles (see below).
- GP Weekend with Kent CBA – It had been agreed in principle to hold this on 22/23 October at Tunbridge Wells. There was a dialogue to be had over logistics such as marketing and accommodation.
- GP online event – Discussions were in hand with the EBU to finalise the date. 4 December was likely to be requested.

Actions: PC

4.5 Other 2022 Events

- Charity Sims – This was likely to be towards the end of the year. The Seaford nomination selected to benefit in 2021 would be carried for ward to benefit this year. PC would finalise arrangements with the organiser (Gerry Stanford) in due course.
- Open Sims – Yet to be planned. It was now likely to be part of the 2023 programme.
- Ladies Pairs – The organiser (Joy Mayall) would be discussing shortly (with Peter Langston) arrangements to hold this face-to-face on a date in August or September.
- Sussex Candles Swiss Teams – This normally very popular event was now set to be our first major face-to-face event post pandemic. It would be marketed emphasising the 'fun' nature of the event with assurances about the environment (social distancing of tables, use of sanitizers, etc). Hopefully, this would allay concerns. The entrance fee would be very competitive, accepting that it will be a 'loss-leader' aiming to kick-start the face-to-face programme. Catering arrangements would be as before.
- Teams of Eight – Held last weekend, disappointingly with only two teams entered. Horsham narrowly defeated the Avenue (by just 2 crossimps) and will represent Sussex in the Garden Cities.
- Mid-week Swiss Pairs – Arrangements for this BP event were still to be finalised with Henfield.

Actions: PC

4.6 GP events in 2023

A dialogue had been opened with the EBU. Our initial thoughts were that the combined weekend with Kent might be repeated along with an online event towards the end of the year.

Action: PC

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4.7 Charity events with Kent and Surrey

The Ukraine Appeal events with Kent and Surrey had generated a total donation of nearly £11,000. JH had been in communication with the DEC to arrange for secure payment and he confirmed that the amounts involved from events and additional donations were fully auditable. The situation regarding gift aid and Government matching was unclear. Doubtless the DEC would respond if necessary.

4.8 Forward Calendar

PC indicated that he wished to return to the publication of a fully populated forward calendar. Competition information during the pandemic had necessarily been published 'piecemeal' as arrangements were confirmed. He would work with organisers to achieve a full calendar as soon as possible.

Action: PC

5. TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

5.1 Committee vacancies

Other pressures had prevented progress here. This would be picked up again as part of the current review of the overall organisation – see 5.2.

Action: DW

5.2 Review of TC and Organisers

DW had circulated a paper. TC members agreed to reflect on this ready for a discussion at the next meeting.

Action: DW

5.3 CTD

PC had tried to contact Steve Foster regarding this role but had yet to receive a reply. Another possibility might be Steven Kennedy but his availability was uncertain. PC would continue to try to resolve this as soon as possible.

Action: PC

6. EBU COMPETITIONS WORKING GROUP

PC reported that the Eastbourne Congress would take place face-to-face in August but over only four days (Thursday to Sunday) compared with 11 days pre-pandemic.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MP referred to the boards for the Candles. A set had been duplicated pre-pandemic (for the cancelled Spring Congress 2020). The hand records were headed accordingly. Do they need to be re-printed? TC members agreed that they could be used as is provided the breaks are consistent.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 29 July 2022