

FINAL DRAFT
Sussex County Contract Bridge Association
A meeting of the Tournament Committee of the SCCBA was held via Zoom
on Friday 1 Sept 2023 commencing at 11am.

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

1. APOLOGIES – Mrs A Galpin (AG).

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The final draft minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2023 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 Autumn Congress

PC reported that the entry level for the teams was encouraging whilst the pairs was a little low. Some complications with online entries were being resolved and a reminder email was about to issue to the full list.

4.2 Invitation Pairs 2024

AG had reported the proposed dates and locations for eight sessions, one each month from March to November with two sessions at each of four clubs. She had checked EBU and SCCBA calendars to avoid clashes. TC members were content with these proposals and noted that they were still subject to confirmation with the clubs concerned and that discussions with a fifth club might lead to changes to the draft schedule. AG had also sought TC views on the charge which host clubs could apply for use of accommodation, equipment and set-up. £60 had been applied when the competition was last held f2f in 2019. DW suggested that the previous charge ought to be uprated for inflation in line with the recently approved changes to expenses policies. This would suggest a ceiling of £72. JH was concerned about the viability of the competition if f2f numbers were significantly lower than recent online sessions. He agreed to discuss the details with AG as soon as possible

Action: JH/AG

4.3 Championship Teams and Sussex League

David Galpin (DG) had reported that:

- Championship Teams – Whilst the 2023 main competition had been completed in May, the Plate competition was only now reaching the final stage. The latter would be held on 21 Sept. Immediately after that DG would complete the MPs and UMS processes and advise teams accordingly. At the same time he would request that entries for the 2024 competition be made in October to enable matches to be commenced in early November.
- Sussex League – With two months to go until the target for completion, there was mixed progress. On the one hand four teams had completed all matches with the winners of Division 3 already decided; on the other, two teams in Division 1 had yet to play any matches. Having sent a reminder at the end of July, DG would consider another to Division 1 teams shortly. Other teams were on schedule to complete by the end of October.

4.4 GP events 2023 and 2024

The 2023 Swiss Pairs had taken place face-to-face at the end of July, generating a useful surplus. The 2023 Swiss Teams would take place on 28/29 October and run jointly with Kent CBA at Tunbridge Wells BC. Dates for 2024 would be the equivalents of 2023 and were now in the EBU and SCCBA calendars.

4.5 Mixed Pairs 2023

Held successfully recently, generating a small loss. An issue with a parking fine had been resolved and guidance had been updated to avoid a repetition.

4.6 Other 2023 events

JM had reported that entries for the **Ladies Pairs** were “dribbling in” and she was preparing to email participants from the last two years. The **Worthing Welcome Pairs** had been cancelled because of a low level of interest but the **East Grinstead Basic Bridge** event was going ahead and MP confirmed that the boards had been dealt and delivered. PC observed that, as some players were still unsure about returning to face-to-face bridge, a more proactive approach to marketing was needed to encourage higher entry levels.

4.7 Planning for 2023/24 Competitions Year (September to August)

DW reported that the calendar, populated as far as possible had been published on the website mid-August as planned. Data for the Invitation Pairs 2024 would be added and ‘TBC’ dates would be confirmed as soon as possible.

4.8 Welcome Series Teams competition

PC reported that a trophy had been donated by Lord Newton to enable the introduction of a teams competition for inexperienced players. PC was exploring options for a club to host the event in 2024

Action: PC

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5. TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

5.1 Committee vacancies

Other pressures had prevented progress here. PC agreed to sound out options previously discussed.

Action: PC

5.2 CTD

Discussions with a possible candidate were in hand.

Action: PC

6. EBU Competitions Working Group

PC reported that there was nothing requiring TC discussion on this occasion.

7. EBU Tournament Directors Development Group

PC reported that there was nothing requiring TC discussion on this occasion

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PC reported that a meeting of County Chairmen is to be held by the EBU on 20 Sept. He would report back to the MC on 22 Sept.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 24 November 2023