

FINAL DRAFT
Sussex County Contract Bridge Association
A meeting of the Tournament Committee of the SCCBA was held via Zoom
on Friday 27 Feb 2026 commencing at 11.30am.

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

1. APOLOGIES: None

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The last meeting had been planned for 21 November 2025 but DW's enforced absence caused it to be held informally, without minutes. Actions were identified and taken forward.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Actions from the last meeting not yet completed would be picked up under the relevant items below.

4. COMPETITIONS PROGRAMME

4.1 Invitation Pairs

AG reported that she had attracted three additional pairs for this season and was pursuing five more. Payments were now being pursued. The new season would start on 25 March.

Action: AG

4.2 Championship Teams

David Galpin (DG) had reported that one of the first-round matches, due to be played by mid-January, had unfortunately been delayed but was finally played last weekend. That left one quarter final, both semis, and the final to be played by the end of April and DG was confident that could be achieved. He couldn't start the Plate event until the outstanding quarter final has been played as it was the first match for one of the teams involved who would go into the Plate if they lost.

4.3 Sussex League

DG had also reported that the League season was drawing towards a close, with a hoped-for completion date of the end of March, more likely to be the end of April. 4 of the 25 teams had played all their matches and most of the other teams have only 1 or 2 left to play. 2 teams had only played 1 and 2 matches respectively but DG was in regular contact with both captains. The one who had only played 1 match had assured DG that all of his remaining matches had been arranged. DG was therefore confident that all matches in the competition would be played by the end of the season. By way of an interesting postscript, DG commented on the divide in ability between the top division and those below. For the third season running, the promoted team, including his team last season, had lost all its matches and had been immediately relegated back to division 2.

4.4 New Year Swiss Teams

DW reported that 18 teams had competed with Carrington/Nadim and Stanford/Geddes taking top spot on a split tie from Halberg/Clark and Ford/Allen. Technical glitches had delayed publication of the results and work was in hand to implement a permanent solution.

4.5 Charity Sims Week

DW reported that 132 pairs had competed in 6 club heats. 15 pairs had scored over 60% with Mallows/Williams taking top spot.

5 TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

5.1 County TDs – Replenishing list

DW reported that planning for who might attend the EBU County TD course at the end of May was in hand, particularly to identify which potential candidates should be encouraged to book a fully subsidised course. DW was waiting for further advice from the EBU before approaching candidates.

Action: DW

5.2 Chichester BC – New Club BP event

DW reported that a message from CBC prior to the last MC meeting had indicated that they were not yet ready to continue the dialogue. DW suggested that this should be removed from the agenda until there was further progress to report. TC Members agreed.

5.3 IT equipment upgrade for county TDs

PC reported that following the difficulties experienced at the NYST event, he had retrieved the laptop and expected to resolve matters shortly.

Action: PC

5.4 Competition Rules – Clarification for Mixed Heats

DW had circulated this clarification, drafted by Mervyn Wotton. TC Members were content for it to go to the next MC meeting for approval.

Action: DW

5.5 EBU National Pairs SE Regional Final

PC reported that arrangements were now in place for Sussex to host this event.

FINAL DRAFT

5.6 GP events in 2027

DW had completed a draft Sussex return for the request from the EBU, using the 2027 equivalents of the dates agreed for 2026. PC had confirmed with Kent CBA and would agree a booking with Patcham CC shortly, in time to meet the EBU deadline at the end of March.

Action: PC/DW

5.7 Club TD Training

PC reported that two clubs (Patcham and Seaford) had expressed interest in this. Patcham had also offered to host a course if there was sufficient demand in Sussex. Unfortunately, EBED were a trainer short and could not therefore add a Sussex based course to their schedule for the first half of 2026. PC agreed to speak to Eddie Williams to see whether he might be willing to take this on.

Action: PC

6. EBU COMPETITIONS & TDD WORKING GROUPS

PC advised that there were no significant matters to report.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – to be advised.