

FINAL DRAFT
Sussex County Contract Bridge Association
A meeting of the Tournament Committee of the SCCBA was held via Zoom
on Friday 13 Sept 2024 commencing at 11.30am.

0. PRESENT: P Clinch (PC – (Chairman), 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 final draft minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2024 were agreed as presented.

3. MATTERS ARISING

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

4. TOURNAMENT PROGRAMME

4.1 Championship Teams

David Galpin (DG) had reported that the 2023/24 competition is now complete. The main final was played in mid-June, won by Chris Jepson's team, and the Plate final was played on 19 August, retained by Peter Rowell's team. On completion of both parts of the competition he had written a short article which is on the county website. He had emailed all captains to advise them of the end of the season and to inform them of the new season to start in a few weeks-time. Master Point awards had been made by MW and UMS charges had been agreed with JH and the EBU. Finally, JH had paid the 3 prizes for the competition totalling £120. DG will shortly be liaising with MW to publish the entry form for the new season on the website at the beginning of October with entries by early November. DG will propose to do the draw at the Avenue event on 6 November. At the beginning of October he will email all current captains, and possibly a few from the League who are not currently playing, to remind them of entries then being open. In his start-of-season letter he will include reference to the date of the Pachabo Cup and advise regarding any changes to the qualification rules.

Action: DG

4.2 Sussex League

DG had reported that the league is proceeding reasonably well, with a hoped for finishing date of the end of October, although exceptionally this could be extended to the end of November. He had issued his mid-season update to team captains around the middle of last month when almost half the teams had not played half their matches. This has improved a little in the last 3 weeks or so and the situation with matches played is now as follows :-

Number of Matches played (all max. 6)	Number of teams
6	0
5	3
4	10
3	4
2	5
1	3
0	0
	Total 25 teams

One or two teams had asked if the league could revert to its pre-Covid timescale of September to April, ie an autumn and winter competition. DG suggested extending the current season to the end of February to allow those teams who are behind to catch up; starting the 2025/26 season in May 2025 to run through to March/April 2026. This would put us on track to start the 2026/27 League season in September 2026, through to April 2027. TC members agreed with this approach and DW undertook to advise DG accordingly, allowing him to clear lines with Team Captains in due course.

Action: DW/DG

4.3 GP events 2024 and 2025

PC reported that the entry of just 20 pairs to the 2024 GP Swiss Pairs at Patcham BC on 28 July had been disappointing but the event had produced an exciting finish. David Norman and David Dawson were the winners with the top three pairs covered by just two VPs. Planning for the 2024 GP Congress with Kent, including the Sussex Swiss Teams, at Tunbridge Wells BC over the last weekend in October, was well in hand. DW advised that the EBU had agreed that our GP events in 2025 could take place on the dates equivalent to those in 2024.

4.4 Invitation Pairs 2024 & 2025

AG reported that the 2024 season was half way through and proceeding as planned.. DW asked whether the continuing majority preference for online sessions suggested that AG's considerable efforts to persuade a return to face-to-face sessions should now cease. AG indicated that she would like to consult pairs past and present once more regarding their preferences, online or face-to-face, well in advance of the planned start date of the 2025 season and report back in due course.

Action: PC

4.5 Sussex Candles

PC reported that the disappointing entry of only 13 pairs had resulted in a loss and he understood the arguments in favour of moving the event to a less costly venue. However, Henfield is regarded as a venue more suitable than most for an event involving refreshments and he is keen to return to it in 2025 to see whether the entry level can be raised and the costs reduced. TC members agreed.

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4.6 Autumn Congress 2024

PC reported that whilst the Pairs event was just viable with 11 pairs entered thus far, with only one team entered at this point it looked as though that event would have to be cancelled. This was doubly disappointing given the commitment to donate the proceeds to CRUK as part of our BIABD programme. PC agreed to issue one more mailshot in pursuit of more entries. It was noted that the surfeit of events around the BIABD festival week will probably have affected entries to events soon afterwards.

Action: PC

4.7 Other 2024 events

Preparations for the EGBB and Ladies Pairs were in hand although entries for the latter were currently low.

4.8 EBU Corwen Trophy 2024

Representing Sussex, Peter Rowell and Francis Kelly had played well to finish well inside the top half of the field.

5. TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

5.1 Competition Calendar 2024/25

DW reported that the populated calendar had been transferred to the county website and copied to Club contacts in August as planned. Future updates would be applied to the online calendar.

5.2 Pachabo Qualification

DW had circulated a paper reviewing the EBU qualification rules as currently published on their website. TC members were asked to consider whether those rules provided sufficient flexibility to deal with circumstances such as those experienced in finding a team to represent Sussex in 2024. On balance, TC members felt that the published rules, together with the additional publicity proposed by the Championship Teams organiser (DG) should be sufficient. MP added that it would not be disastrous if we were not able to enter a team. DW agreed to check with the EBU that the currently published rules were not subject to the addition of any further flexibility for 2025.

Action: DW

5.3 EBU 9-High Corwen Trophy 2025

DW had circulated a paper summarising the background to this new competition and listing the issues to be decided to enable planning of Sussex's participation. TC members considered these and decided:

- Qualification process – Single event during prescribed period 1 Jan – 31 Mar 2025.
- F2F or online? EBU final will be online so Sussex qualification should also be online.
- Organiser – PC agreed to be the organiser and will choose the date..
- Entry fee – Agreed as £3 per person
- Trophy – Agreed that Lord Newton trophy should be assigned to this new competition. PC will clear lines with LN.

Action: PC

5.4 Welcome Series Invitations

DW reported that Chichester BC and Eastbourne BC had been invited to consider holding a Pairs event at times other than those currently adopted by Horsham and Worthing. DW would follow up soon and report back at the next meeting. It was noted that the Worthing event organiser had recently reported that a low entry level might force cancellation of their event planned for the end of September.

Action: DW

5.5 West Sussex trial of tablet computers (in place of BridgeMates)

DW had circulated a paper summarising the results of this trial. Initial experience suggested that WSBC would continue with tablets having identified reduced costs and ease of use benefits. It was noted that Avenue and Horsham were also using tablets and DW agreed to monitor experience at all three clubs and report back in due course.

Action: DW

5.6 CTD Job Description

PC believes that Stephen Kennedy is broadly content with the job description originally recorded in the minutes of the MC meeting held on 31 July 2019 but he had yet to discuss in detail how this would be delivered. He would do so as soon as possible.

Action: PC

6. EBU COMPETITIONS & TDD WORKING GROUPS

PC reported that the CWG membership was now more diverse and future discussions would benefit from a wider range of experience and expertise.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PC reported that the LlanBrighton Congress, an event being planned by Oliver Cowan and a group of Welsh players, is to take place in Brighton on 15/16 June 2025 and this clashes with the Sussex Candles. He would therefore move the Candles to a date towards the end of June.

Action: PC

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 22 Nov 2024