

FINAL DRAFT
Sussex County Contract Bridge Association
A meeting of the Tournament Committee of the SCCBA was held via Zoom
on Friday 22 Nov 2024 commencing at 11.20am.

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 final draft minutes of the meeting held on 13 Sept 2024 were agreed as presented subject to an amendment to paragraph 4.5, replacing “pairs” with “teams” in the first sentence.

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 GP Weekend with Kent CBA

PC reported that the weekend had been successful and thanked JH and Mervyn Wotton for their important contributions to the preparations. A useful surplus (£350) had been achieved.

4.2 Invitation Pairs

AG reported that the final session of the current season would take place that evening. A full turnout was expected and three pairs were in contention to win the competition. Preparations for the 2025 competition were under way and AG would be writing to Captains shortly to advise them of the dates chosen. The latter had been checked against the EBU and SCCBA calendars to avoid clashes. AG would also consult Captains regarding willingness to play online and/or face-to-face. In due course, AG would also seek TC agreement to changes to the competition's rules.

4.3 Ladies Pairs

PC reported a successful event attended by 22 pairs following extensive marketing. Joy Mayall (the organiser) had managed a last-minute difficulty with the supply of refreshments with great fortitude (including foregoing her own entry to the event) and a useful surplus of £150 had been achieved.

4.4 Championship Teams

David Galpin (DG) had reported that the 2024/25 Championship Teams competition is now under way. The draw had been made by Zoom on 8 November and details issued to Captains soon afterwards. First results were now awaited. He understood that two teams had yet to pay their entry fee and, subject to confirmation from JH that this is still the case, he would chase those concerned. In DG's email to Captains, he had included the date of the Pachabo, now being played face-to-face in Milton Keynes, a week later than initially advertised, and had asked those with aspirations to play in the Pachabo to note the date and for their team to keep it free if possible.

4.5 Sussex League

DG had also reported the League is near completion for this season. As agreed he had extended the season to the end of February, with a view to a new season starting in May. Division 3 is complete and there are currently eight matches still to be played in the other three Divisions. After Christmas he planned to chase up any teams who then have matches outstanding to ensure that they are arranged to be played by the end of February. Once all the Divisional winners are known, he would recover the trophies from the previous winners and make a trip round Sussex to award the trophies to the new winners.

Action: DG

4.6 East Grinstead BB Pairs

PC reported that further extensive marketing had attracted 23 pairs to a very enjoyable event.

4.7 EBU Tollemache Qualifier

PC reported that after a slow start the county team had worked its way up the leaderboard to be in contention to qualify in the final session, just losing out in a split tie with two other counties.

4.8 EBU Nine High Corwen

DW reviewed the elements of this new competition agreed at the last meeting and approved at the following MC meeting. PC had agreed with Lord Newton that his donated trophy could be used for this online competition and he would be selecting the date (between 1 Jan and 31 Mar 2025) shortly.

Action: PC

5 COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

5.1 EBU Pachabo Qualification 2025 et seq

DW had circulated a paper reporting a further relaxation in the EBU's rules. This would ensure that the difficulties experienced in 2024 over availability would not prevent the eventual selection of a Sussex entry. TC members agreed that DW should seek MC approval of the proposal to delegate selection responsibility to the Selection Committee should those difficulties arise again.

Action: DW

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5.2 Welcome Series Invitations

DW reported that he had received positive initial reactions from Chichester and Eastbourne and now awaited substantive responses following club management committee consideration. He would seek updates from them early in 2025.

Action: DW

5.3 Stratification

DW referred to a dialogue some weeks ago regarding the use of stratification. He had looked back to the MC approval in 2018 that stratification should be introduced to all suitable competitions. Implementation of this evolution seemed to have been overtaken by the introduction of the NGS system which had allowed the creation of competitions which restricted entry to those with an NGS grade equal to or lower than a selected ceiling. DW agreed to look at a change to the Competition Rules reflecting this development and report back.

Action: DW

5.4 NYST Organiser

Joy Mayall had reported that, whilst she would organise and market the NYST, she would not be able to attend herself. She would ensure that arrangements were made to compensate for her absence on the day.

6. EBU COMPETITIONS & TDD WORKING GROUPS

PC reported that a number of CWG members had resigned, particularly Eddie Williams (EW) following the stroke he had suffered. PC understood that EW was recovering well but, understandably he would no longer be available to direct county events. PC indicated that he would be sending a personal note of thanks to EW shortly and DW agreed to draft a similar note to express appreciation for EW's service to the county over very many years.

Action: DW

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

DW reported that, following the resignations of Eddie and Kathy Williams, only five directors remained on the county list. TC members agreed that clubs should be asked to nominate experienced club directors to receive fully subsidised training with a view becoming trainee county TDs who would be introduced to the role by shadowing the CTD or another existing county TD. DW would draft an email for PC consideration.

Action: DW

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 28 Feb 2025