

**FINAL DRAFT**  
**Sussex County Contract Bridge Association**  
**A meeting of the Tournament Committee of the SCCBA was held via Zoom**  
**on Friday 7 Jun 2024 commencing at 11am.**

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

**2. APOLOGIES:** None

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The final draft minutes of the meeting held on 4 Mar 2024 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 Championship Teams**

David Galpin (DG) had reported that whilst the CT final should have been played by now, as neither team was available to play in the Pachabo Cup, there had not been the usual urgency for this to be played. DG had established this week from both Captains (Chris Jepson and Dave Franklin) that the match had been arranged for 14 June, and would be played over 48 boards, rather than 64. This is allowed in the competition rules if both Captains agree. The Plate event had two matches still to be played, one of the semi-finals and the final. DG hoped that this competition would be completed by mid-July. Referring to recent correspondence with the EBU about non-participation this year in the Pachabo, DG had agreed to put something about this in his start-of-season details to Captains for the 2024/25 season to encourage availability for the Pachabo to be considered by all at an early stage. [NB see paragraph 5.4]

**4.2 Sussex League**

DG had reported that the League was well under way and most teams had played at least one match. There were five teams who had yet to start and, whilst he didn't normally do a mid-season update until July, he intended shortly to email specially those teams to urge them to start as soon as possible. At least two members of the TC were aware of the health problems in one of the five teams but DG had not been made aware of any other teams with similar problems. Whilst there was still nearly six months to the end of the season he would stress the need not to get too far behind in the playing of matches.

**4.3 GP events 2024 and 2025**

PC reported that arrangements for the 2024 GP Swiss Pairs at Patcham BC on 28 July were agreed and planning for the GP Congress with Kent, including the Sussex Swiss Teams, at Tunbridge Wells BC over the last weekend in October, was in hand. DW had advised the EBU that our GP events in 2025 would take place on the dates equivalent to those in 2024. PC noted the need to confirm the bookings for the 2025 events.

**4.4 Sussex Pairs 2024**

PC reported that the winners (Peter Rowell & Francis Kelly) would be representing Sussex in the Corwen Trophy this weekend.

**4.5 Invitation Pairs 2024 & 2025**

AG reported that the low level of interest in face-to-face sessions for the 2024 series had forced her to switch to sessions online using the same dates. Much effort was needed to attract 14 pairs and the first two sessions had been successful. For 2025, AG planned to consult pairs past and present regarding their preferences, online or face-to-face, well in advance of the planned start date.

**Action: AG**

**4.6 Spring Congress 2024**

PC reported that the SC had been successful and had generated a useful surplus. The latter was achieved in part because a BP licence had not been requested on this occasion, thereby reducing associated costs. This did not seem to have affected the level of entries received.

**4.7 Garden Cities 2024**

PC reported that the Avenue team had represented Sussex on 11 May, achieving a very creditable second place. Congratulations are due to Gunnar Halberg & Sally Clarke, Stephen Kennedy & Ollie Powell, Matt Read & Mike Allen and Peter Clinch & Julian Mitchell.

**4.8 Welcome series competitions**

DW reported that the Horsham Stepping Stone Pairs had been cancelled because of lack of interest. Horsham have now appointed a new competition organiser and plans are being prepared to hold a Welcome series event in March 2025, with a higher NGS ceiling, to open it to a wider community of potential participants. DW added that Worthing were considering holding a similar event in the autumn 2024. PC reported that previous thoughts about the introduction of a Welcome series teams event had not borne fruit. He would discuss with Richard Newton an alternative use of the trophy he had kindly donated.

**Action: PC**

**4.9 Sussex Candles**

Following receipt of some late entries, PC reported that this event would be going ahead as planned later this month. Hopefully, at least 13 tables would be participating.

# FINAL DRAFT

## 5. TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

### 5.1 CTD

PC confirmed that Stephen Kennedy (SK) had agreed to become the Sussex CTD. Discussions were continuing to agree a job description, including membership of the TC. PC would share the JD with other TC members in due course..

**Action: PC**

### 5.2 Competition Organiser Guidelines

DW reported that he had reviewed the CO guidelines in light of recent changes to the Competition Rules. He had circulated a revised draft for approval. TC members were content for that to issue to Cos after the meeting.

**Action: DW**

### 5.3 Competition Calendar 2024/25

DW reported that he would shortly be issuing the current draft of the 2024/25 competition calendar to clubs, seeking their input regarding heats, etc . The calendar, populated as comprehensively as possible, will be published on the website before the end of August. Thereafter, changes will be effected via the Webmaster.

**Action: DW**

### 5.4 Pachabo Qualification

In order to allow as many counties as possible to participate in the 2024 Pachabo, the EBU had relaxed the qualification rules for this year. This had allowed the Selection Committee to assemble a team and a Sussex entry had been submitted. The main Pachabo qualification rule (which will be re-instated for 2025) requires that the winners of the county's principal teams competition(s) should progress to the Pachabo. In light of the difficulties this year, the TC will need to look at whether a redefinition of our Pachabo qualification arrangements, in advance of the start of the start of the 2024/25 competitions year, might allow more flexibility next year. DW agreed to prepare a proposal for approval by email exchange.

**Action: DW**

### 5.5 Welcome Series Guidelines

DW reported that in light of recent developments in the qualification requirements for these events, he would review the related guidelines and clear a revision by email exchange. Subsequently, he planned to invite Chichester (which now has a very healthy teaching operation) and Eastbourne (which might be expected to re-establish its teaching streams following its move to new premises) to consider holding a Welcome series event. This would be aimed at providing more convenient opportunities for the less experienced in the far east and west of the county.

**Action: DW**

### 5.6 Alternatives to Henfield Hall (HH)

In light of the relatively high cost of using HH for weekend events (which at current entry levels made achieving break-even impossible), various alternatives had been explored. Patcham remained a good alternative but other locations had proved to have disadvantages. It was also noted that the lower charge rates applicable to mid-week hire at HH made events then more affordable.

## 6. EBU COMPETITIONS & TDD WORKING GROUPS

PC reported that the CWG's current priority was expanding the group (currently mostly EBU Board Members) to make it more diverse

## 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

## 8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 6 Sept 2024