

**FINAL DRAFT**  
**Sussex County Contract Bridge Association**  
**A meeting of the Tournament Committee of the SCCBA was held via Zoom**  
**on Friday 28 Feb 2025 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 final draft minutes of the meeting held on 22 Nov 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 Invitation Pairs**

AG reported that the 2024 series had completed with Yves Lebrech & Colin Leigh finishing first and Chris Jepson & David Clifton second. Thanks were due to AG for her unerring planning and organisation, to Stephen Kennedy for his assured direction and to Mervyn Wotton (MW) for the speed and accuracy of the website reports. Preparations for the 2025 series were well under way with a consensus reached in favour of online and all dates selected. TC members were content with the latter and AG will publish them over this weekend. AG aired a number of options for finding additional pairs and TC members were content for her to use her discretion in pursuit of same. AG also sought TC views on:

- Use of robots – robot pairs can be used to avoid a half table with results retained. Otherwise only human partnerships allowed.
- Use of substitutes – may only be used up to three times. Only one reserve best result to count

**4.2 NYST 2025**

PC reported a successful event. 19 teams had entered with Mike Allen/Andy Ryder & Philip Hunt/David Dickson sharing first place with Michael Keeping/Matthew Smith & David Benjamin/Matthew Read with 83 VPs. A significant reduction in venue costs delivered an event surplus of £150. Thanks were due for meticulous planning and marketing by JM and pragmatic management by PC, JH and Stephen Kennedy on the day.

**4.3 David Pavey 2025**

PC reported another successful event, delivering a small surplus. 24 pairs had entered with Robert Turvey and Jenny Redman coming top with 67.31%. Thanks were due to Eileen Perrigo for a well planned and organised event enjoyed by all attendees.

**4.4 Horsham Welcome Pairs 2025**

This was due to be held on 2 March with 12 pairs entered.

**4.5 Championship Teams**

David Galpin (DG) had reported that the 2025 Championship Teams was well underway. It had now reached the semi-final stage and both matches had been arranged for dates in March. The final is therefore likely to be played during April, well within the deadline for submitting the SCCBA team for the EBU Pachabo. DG had also completed the draw for the Plate competition which involves 8 teams and should be completed by June.

**4.6 Sussex League**

DG had also reported that the Sussex League 2024, the timetable for which had been extended to the end of February, is now complete, the final match having been played on 13 February. He had emailed all Captains to confirm this and that the new season would start in May. MW had prepared the entry form and it would be made available to entrants at the beginning of April. JH is arranging for the prizes to be paid and DG had taken the necessary action to generate the Master Points and the UMS charge.

**4.7 Sussex Pairs Final 2025**

This will be held on 16 March. PC expressed many thanks to the organiser, Gerry Stanford (GS), for his tireless work seeking to populate the 22 pair, all-play-all event. 19 pairs were confirmed with further time and effort being expended to fill the other three slots. MP confirmed that two sets of boards had been prepared for the event.

**4.8 Charity Sims 2025**

DW reported that heats had been held with a record 74 tables at eight clubs, generating total donations expected to be c£1500. As previously agreed at the last MC meeting, this would be uprated from reserves to allow a donation of £1000 to each of the selected charities – Eastbourne & District Samaritans and Sage House Dementia Support (Tangmere). Margaret Parkinson & Chris Robbins were overall winners, receiving the Joe Gibson trophy, with Andrea & David Galpin receiving the over 70s silver salver. Thanks were due to Mervyn Wotton for the speed and accuracy of his work to merge and publish the results.

**4.9 GP Events 2025 & 2026** Dates for this and next year's events had been confirmed with the EBU and Kent CBA had indicated they were content to continue the joint weekend event at the end of October each year.

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### 4.10 EBU Nine High Corwen

PC reported that arrangements were in hand for the Sussex heat to be played online (BBO) on 27 April with the winners receiving the Lord Newton trophy

**Action: PC**

### 4.11 EBU National Pairs SE Regional Final

PC reported that this would be played online (BBO) on 23 March with Stephen Kennedy directing. Entries were going well with 21 pairs registered in the first week.

### 4.12 EBU Garden Cities teams of eight – Sussex heat

PC reported that this would take place at Patcham on 29 March. He would be in touch with GS shortly to finalise arrangements, including the TD to be appointed.

**Action: PC**

## 5 COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

### 5.1 County TDs – Replenishing list

DW reported that he had prepared a draft email to club committees seeking nominations for experienced club TDs to undertake county TD training. This would issue shortly and he would report back in due course. TC members agreed that during their shadowing period trainee county TDs could be paid 50% of the standard director's fee per session and claim reimbursement of travel costs at the prevailing mileage rate

**Action: DW**

### 5.2 SCCBA resources – Club responses relevant to TC matters

DW reported that his plea to affiliated clubs to find additional volunteers to strengthen county committees and add to competition organisers had produced no responses. This had been discussed at the Officers' meeting earlier today and preparations were in hand to invite the Chairs of the bigger clubs to a Zoom meeting as soon as possible to discuss matters further.

**Action: PC/DW**

### 5.3 Sussex Pairs – Heats or single event

GS had reported the considerable difficulties he had encountered in assembling the 22 qualifiers needed for the all-play-all final and asked the TC to consider redefining the competition as a one-day event in 2026. TC members observed that such a change would lower the level of GP awards to be awarded, make the number of entries and therefore the movement difficult to predict, and the quality of the field might be lower. PC agreed to discuss matters further with GS and MW and report back.

**Action: PC**

### 5.4 NGS limits for events for the less experienced

MW had noted that different NGS limits were being used in these events and asked the TC to consider whether standardising on a single level would be more appropriate. DW explained that the guidelines for these events gave organisers the flexibility to set the level for their event at that which would reflect the less experienced community at the host club and most likely to maximise the number of entries. TC members agreed with this approach but suggested that the organisers concerned should be consulted before considering matters further. DW agreed to clear lines with TC members with a draft of the email to be sent.

**Action: DW**

### 5.5 Welcome Series Invitations

DW reported that further contact with Chichester and Eastbourne had generated positive responses. Eastbourne were now in dialogue with DW with a view to agreeing a date for their Welcome Pairs and Chichester's committee would be considering their capacity to hold a heat shortly. DW would continue to liaise as required.

**Action: DW**

### 5.6 Eastbourne BC – Host for county events

DW reported that EBC had indicated a desire to host county events to provide a more convenient venue for members of clubs in the east of the county. DW had indicated that the TC would consider this further at its next meeting. He also advised that EBC were already hosting heats of the Sussex Pairs and the Charity Sims and there was now likely to be a Welcome Pairs event later this year. TC members were supportive in principle and noted that revival of the Kremer Dersch event might be offered. PC indicated that he would visit the club's new premises to discuss matters further.

**Action: PC**

### 5.7 Inter-county & inter-club – Chichester BC initiative

DW reported that CBC had opened a dialogue with other clubs in West Sussex and Hampshire & Isle of Wight with a view to creating more opportunities for competitive bridge, particularly teams, between clubs and counties. DW had indicated SCCBA support in principle and a desire to be kept informed of developments. He would report back in due course.

**Action: DW**

## 6. EBU COMPETITIONS & TDD WORKING GROUPS

PC advised that there were no significant matters to report.

## 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No further business.

## 8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 6 June 2025