

**SUSSEX COUNTY BAR BILLIARDS ASSOCIATION
2020 Annual General Meeting
AGENDA**

- 1. Register Of Attendance**
- 2. Apologies For Absence**
- 3. Minutes Of AGM 2019**
- 4. Matter Arising**
- 6. Correspondence (Any queries on reports/accounts)**
- 7. Sign Off Accounts**

8. Inter-League Discussion

The Committee are putting forward 2 options:

- 1. The 2019/20 season is cancelled. Final league positions as they are now. New season to start when government guidelines allow.**
- 2. The 2019/20 season to be completed by April 2021. The 2020/21 will be cancelled and 2021/22 season start in September 2021.**

Please email/pm me what your preferred option would be so we can get an idea of how people feel about these before the AGM.

It would also be helpful if Captains could let me know if they are likely to have a team and venue for next year.

9. Election Of Officers

Chairperson: Stuart Carruthers

Vice Chairman: Martin Cole

Treasurer: Jean Brackenridge

Secretary: Jean Brackenridge

Competitions: Tony Jenner

Inter League Secretary: Matt Knight

1 Day Events: Jean Brackenridge to co-opt helpers

All Officers are willing to stand again. If there are any other nominations for these positions please e-mail/pm me or they will be voted for en-bloc

10. Rules & Amendments

Additional Rule: Committee Proposal

Emergency Rule: The Committee will put in any rules regarding Inter-League/Competitions that are deemed necessary for the smooth running and safety of its members.

11. Any Other Business

Sussex County Bar Billiards Association
2019 Annual General Meeting
Held at Burgess Hill Club
13th August 2019

1. **Register of Attendance**

Dave Hampton, Stuart Carruthers, Matthew Knight, Jean Brackenridge, Tony Jenner, Nigel Senior, Michelle Baden, Rob Hall, Joe Oakley, Phil Oakley, Iain Giffen, Ros Appleby, Stuart Mephram, Kevin Tunstall, Colin Green, Alan Brackenridge, Martin Cole, Paul Jobbins, Chase Newman, Terry Molloy, Trevor Appleby.

2. **Apologies For Absence**

Ric Bithell, Jan Bithell, Sheena Wood, Graham Sparksman, Jim Greensted.

3. **Minutes of AGM 2018**

Minutes were agreed as a true record.

Proposed: Rob Hall, Seconded: Tony Jenner

4. **Matters Arising**

None

5. **Chairpersons Report** (Stuart Carruthers)

I would like to start by thanking everyone for attending tonight and to everybody who has supported the association over the past year.

Special thanks need to go to the committee for all their hard work during the season and to the individuals for organising and running the admin for the competitions and leagues that have been played.

Jean Brackenridge, Matthew Knight and Tony Jenner between them have gone above and beyond, as they normally do, in their respective roles and we all owe them enormous gratitude for the work they put in.

Thanks Nigel Senior for providing formats and to Stuart Mephram and Alan Brackenridge for the hard work they put in the build up to every event in preparing the tables; I'm sure we can all agree they have done a great job this year. I would like to thank everybody who has helped in assembling or dismantling the tables, this often forgotten part has been easier with so many people lending a hand.

Finally, and definitely not least, to the Roffey Club for hosting the Masters and the Open in June and to our hosts tonight the Burgess Hill Constitutional Club who have been brilliant hosts to us throughout the year and hopefully for a long time to come. I would like to congratulate all the winners and runners-up from all events this year, with a particular note to Stuart Mephram who played fantastically to claim his first Sussex individual event with a win at the Off The Spot a couple of weeks ago.

It's been a good year for Sussex in National events with Kevin Tunstall and Nigel Senior dominating by winning three events each in 2019. I would also like to congratulate Phil Osborne on reaching the Final of the World Championships.

The highlight for me personally was the unexpected triumph of Sussex B at the County Championship last September. A great team performance lead to Sussex becoming the first B team to ever win this event and I would like to congratulate all seven players and to thank Tony Jenner for his role on the day as a non-playing captain.

Again the number of entries in competitions and leagues has been falling this year, and venues are becoming harder to find. As a committee we will be looking at ways to try and promote interest of our competitions and the game within Sussex and we would welcome any ideas or help in doing so.

Wishing everybody a good and successful season to come.

6. **Correspondence**

None

7. **Treasurers Report and Accounts for Season 2018/19** (Jean Brackenridge)

Managed to turn around last years loss. Mainly saving on trophies, less expense on County shirts and small saving on table hire costs. I would like to thank Ros for allowing us to use her table for some of the competitions.

We are in a good financial position however, I do feel as Stuart mentioned, that competition entries need to be looked at and discussed under Any Other Business. I know leagues and number of players are either decreasing or remaining roughly the same but the number of entries for a County with as many leagues as we have is poor. We have gone from £1400 income in 2016 to £900 in 2019. A difference of £500 which equates to 100 entries.

As I said we are in a good position financially at the moment so I'm not going to propose any increase in fees.

On to the Sussex Open

I feel £700 is a reasonable balance to try to maintain.

Most opens are struggling for numbers, some getting less than 64. Although ours seems to be thriving, 90 entrants this year, even without the Guernsey contingent it would have been 80 plus, it's nice to know the money is there to help out in future years if needed. Also we can't rely on sponsorship as you can see has reduced drastically this year. I would like to thank the sponsors we did have.

The accounts were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Kevin Tunstall, Seconded: Stuart Mepham

8. Secretarys Report (Jean Brackenridge)

I think everything went ok this year.

Minutes and updated rules were sent to League Secretaries. They were also put on probboards and the Sussex Website so were widely available for anyone to read.

All Leagues have been sent the affiliation form for the 2019/20 season so hopefully will start receiving them back soon. I will then have details of all the secretaries that I can update and send any information to.

I have booked the following dates, venues and tables for next season.

Singles/Doubles 11th/12th January

One Day Inter-League

B Teams - 22nd February

Division 2 – 23rd February

Ladies – 29th February

Division 1 – 1st March

These will all be at Burgess Hill

Sussex Masters/Under 30's – 6th June

Sussex Open 7th June

These will be at Roffey Club

Not yet booked is the Off The Spot/British Ladies

If decided we will go ahead with this I am suggesting 25th/26th July at Burgess Hill

9. Inter-League Report (Matt Knight)

Congratulations to all winners and runner up this year.

There were two matches not played and 7-0 was awarded to the teams not at fault. There was also a problem with teams re-arranging games (particularly one team) which is not really acceptable. Teams must try to sort any games they are thinking of postponing as soon as possible as there are very few spare Sundays.

The probable start date for the first match is 29th September 2019.

10. One Day Inter-League Report (Jean Brackenridge)

All days went reasonably well and congratulations to all the winners.

Few moans on one of the days over trouble getting scorers for some games. I may look at the formats to try and add a bit more time in between rounds to overcome this.

I would like to second what Stuart said and thank everyone who helped over the weekends. Not going to mention everyone again but thanks to all of you.

11. Competitions Report (Tony Jenner)

Competitions all went smoothly although numbers were down. The mixed doubles (4 entries) went ahead and the Captains (8 entries) also went ahead. Congratulations to all winners. Thankyou to Stuart Carruthers on the admin for the singles/doubles weekend.

12. County Team Report

Sussex County A (Nigel Senior)

Sussex A underperformed this year but finished 2 points behind the winners. Congratulations to Brighton B.

Sussex County B (Tony Jenner)

Winners of Division 1. Good team spirit and all players did their bit. Thankyou to the Sussex A team for their support especially in the final match.

Ladies Sussex County A (Rob Hall on behalf of Lorraine Hall)

Finished second from bottom so improved on previous year. Another great day and everyone happy to be playing in division 2.

13. Inter-League Formation

There was discussion about various formats with 14 teams this season. Some ideas were 6-5-3, 5-5-4, Ric Bithell had put forward an idea for 6-4-4 formation all of which were discussed.

There was a show of hands for 5-5-4 which received 2 and 6-4-4 which received 16.

The Committee will decide on the format to be used. The Committee will also make a decision on which teams will unfortunately either miss out on promotion or if two teams from a division will be relegated.

14. Election of Officers

President: Dave Hampton

Chairperson: Stuart Carruthers
Vice Chairman: Martin Cole
Treasurer: Jean Brackenridge
Secretary: Jean Brackenridge
Competitions: Tony Jenner
Inter League Secretary: Matt Knight
1 Day Events: Jean Brackenridge to co-opt helpers

The above were voted en bloc. **(Proposed: Kevin Tunstall, Seconded: Ros Appleby)**

Sussex County A Capt – Kevin Tunstall
(Nigel Senior & Kevin Tunstall were put forward. A vote was taken. Nigel Senior – 7 Kevin Tunstall – 9)
Sussex County B Captain – Tony Jenner **(Proposed: Martin Cole, Seconded: Rob Hall)**
Ladies A Captain – Michelle Baden **(Proposed: Joe Oakley, Seconded: Ros Appleby)**

15. Rules & Amendments

None

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(Jean Brackenridge) We need to look at Competitions and find ways to improve the entries. Various thoughts and ideas were discussed. Jean to look into this.

MEETING CLOSED 21.40

REPORTS

Chairmans Report – Stuart Carruthers

I would like to start by thanking the committee for all their hard work during the past year.

The last few months have seen many difficult decisions had to be made and I thank them for their views and timely responses. Having a committee who can provide different perspectives and challenge each other is certainly a positive and hopefully leads to better outcomes.

I would also like to thank everyone who helped and assisted during the Sussex events over the past year; from setting-up the tables, running the administration desk to selling raffle tickets. Congratulations are offered to the winners and runner-ups in all of the competitions that have been held over the past 12 months. A high-quality Sussex Championship weekend was held in January and the decision to play the Captains and Over 50s following the B Team One Day Inter League in February certainly seemed to be successful.

Sussex have had a good year in National competitions, and to highlight one I would like to congratulate the Sussex County A team for their success in the County Championship last September.

Usually at this point I would look forward to a successful year ahead and wish you all good luck in any upcoming matches. However, at this current time that message feels slightly redundant.

As well as the rest of society Bar Billiards is facing much uncertainty and a difficult period ahead. While the regulations and guidelines remain ambiguous, views across the county differ as to how and when we can resume playing.

The fact we are having to hold this AGM remotely via Zoom shows the impact COVID-19 is having on our lives. I think every one of us wants to get back playing in a safe and secure environment; the difficulty is that means different things for different people.

The idea of returning to playing in exactly the same way we did before the lockdown may prove impossible. Unfortunately, some venues, teams and individual players may never return to playing our great game; and some of the current guidance and restrictions may stay in place for a long time and may eventually become the “new normal”. The future of table supply may also prove an issue with Tarratt’s looking to reduce their involvement in bar billiards.

It is therefore up to all of us to try and establish a “new normal” for bar billiards. This may involve trying new formats for competitions and being more flexible in how the current rules of leagues and competitions are enforced to encourage playing. An example may be allowing greater flexibility in the player short rule to get all legs played rather than having a walkover.

It is also up to all of us to respect the views of others and to try and make everyone feel as safe and secure as we possible can when playing bar billiards.

This is probably the most difficult period having ever faced Bar Billiards and while I believe we can emerge as strong as before this will take hard work, patience, flexibility and concessions from all of us to be able to achieve this. Radical thinking may also be required in how bar billiards is structured in Sussex with many local leagues, which were already low on numbers, set to struggle further. While this is officially outside of the SCBBA remit it may be something we have to lead on going forward in order to help bar billiards continue to prosper in the county.

Hopefully, the discussion at the AGM around Inter League will prove useful and help us to agree on a future strategy around how to resume SCBBA activities.
Please all stay safe and hopefully will see you all again in person soon.

Regards
Stuart Carruthers
SCBBA Chairman

Treasurers Report - Jean Brackenridge – Secretary/Treasurer SCBBA Account

I feel we are still in a reasonable financial position.

A few explanations on the accounts as it has been a strange year, as it has for everyone.

Income – Competition fees are down due to the Off The Spot/BIOC Ladies weekend being cancelled. This usually brings in income of approx. £300. This is usually offset by the expenditure of table hire for this weekend.

Trophies and Engraving – I have all the individual trophies for this year as they were ordered in early March. I have agreed with Roger Brown Trophies that any not given out will be used for next year and just new plates to be put on.

No perpetual trophies have been engraved yet hence the lower amount in the accounts.

Although I had collected a few trophies this task obviously came to a grinding halt. I will continue to collect them when this is possible but it may be a case of engraving when possible and probably getting them up to date next year.

The sponsorship for Sussex Open will be left in the Sussex Open account to be used towards the next Open

Sussex Open Account

Not much to say on these. The sponsorship received will be used for the next Open.

I have a few cash refunds to be returned for entry fees which will be returned as and when I see people.

If anyone has any queries on the accounts could they please either e-mail them to me or send me a pm and I will do my best to answer them before the AGM or refer them to the AGM.

I also need a proposer and seconder to sign off the accounts as a true record. Again please either e-mail or pm me if you are happy to do this.

Secretary's Report – Jean Brackenridge

I have booked the following dates for next year. These will be held at Burgess Hill Club. We decided the Doubles/Singles weekend should be played later in the year rather than early January.

20th February – B Teams

21st February – Div 2

27th February – Ladies

28th February – Div 1

17th April – Doubles

18th April – Singles

Home & Away Inter-League Report – Matthew Knight

Where does one begin when compiling a report for the season just gone? Our wonderful game will seem insignificant to many, most of whom have never heard of it. To some however, it is important for their mental health, with the chance to socialise and interact with others who share their passion. Lifelong friendships have been nurtured through the playing of bar billiards, can we save the game that we all love?

When Brighton A secured an unassailable lead in Division 1 following a high-quality victory over nearest rivals Worthing A the world was already changing. I don't think any of us knew quite how much but it was not long before it became pretty obvious that things were very serious and we were not going to escape the pandemic.

With the Inter-League season now curtailed and a great deal of uncertainty about the future the committee have come up with some ideas that we are putting forward for consideration at the AGM.

Reporting on the 2019/2020 season itself apart from Brighton A certain to top Division 1 the positions in the other divisions remain undecided, not helped by a number of fixtures still outstanding because matches were not played on their scheduled dates. It is certainly unimportant now but always a shame when matches are not played on the scheduled date,

Hastings perennial offenders. It seems inevitable that we will lose them and others whatever decisions are made at the AGM. I just hope we are able to play some form of Inter-League, maybe not next year, but hopefully the following one.

Matthew Knight
Inter-League Secretary
July 2020

One Day Inter-League Report – Jean Brackenridge

Fortunately these survived before lockdown restrictions came into force.

All days went well and I would like to congratulate all winners.
Thanks to everyone who gave up their time to help over the two weekends.

Competitions Report – Tony Jenner

Sussex doubles saw a day of high class bar billiards, with there only being two entries for the ladies doubles the decision was taken to let the ladies take their chance in the men`s competition, so they got a fair number of games. The winners were Curt Driver and Gerry Fitzjohn, who beat Kev Hall and Phil Osborne in the final. The plate was won by Mark James and Grant Tully who beat Jim Greensted and Mike Daw in the final.

Sussex Singles. Another high class day of bar billiards which saw Kevin Tunstall defeat Stuart Carruthers in the final, but well done to Stuart on making his first final. The Plate was won by Barry Holt who beat Kev Hall in the final. The Ladies final was won by Jean Brackenridge beating Michelle Baden in the final, the plate was won by Jan Bithell who beat Lorraine Hall in the final, the ladies set a very high standard of bar billiards throughout the day.

Sussex Captains and Over 50s was trialed this year as a one day competition and we saw both the number of entries increase and the standard of play rise. Captains Winner Martin Cole Captains Runner-Up Jean Brackenridge. Over 50s winner Jim Greensted Over 50s runner-up Dave Reeves.

Unfortunately the mixed doubles did not take place. The Watney Mann was cancelled due to Covid19.

Sussex County A – Kevin Tunstall

My first experience as Sussex A captain and I wasn't disappointed. An excellent team performance saw the A side overwhelm the opposition, winning four matches and losing one to Surrey. Three 5-2 victories and a very satisfying 6-1 win sending Kent down to Division 2 next year. An exceptional 5 out of 5 from Matthew Knight, 4 wins each for Nigel & Phil, 3 wins each for Martin Cole & Joe. 2 each for Ian and myself (not my best day playing

wise but still a very proud Captain).

Hopefully when we get round to defending the title, I will get the chance to make it two from two as skipper.

Thank you

Sussex County B – Tony Jenner

Sussex B went to the county championships as surprise defending champions and put up an excellent showing and were not disgraced and by finishing 3rd will hopefully remain in the top division. Well done to Mike Daw, Stuart Mepham, Bob Hall, Daniel Wheal, Jim Greensted, Chris Cox and Stuart Carruthers. Once again it was an honor to captain the side.

Sussex County Ladies – Michelle Baden

Sussex Ladies achieved their best position since playing alongside the men's teams, finishing 3rd out of the 5 division 2 teams. The days started with a respectable 5-2 loss to eventual winners Bucks, Lorraine Hall securing a win by 100 points over Dawn Jordan. This was followed up with a 4-3 victory over Oxon B – Jean, Jan and Lorraine all scoring over 6k with their wins. A strong Berkshire team was up next, only Jean could avoid the whitewash as we went down 6-1, leaving us a point behind Oxon ladies with them to play in the last game. It was a tight match but Sussex won 4-3 to finish above Oxon Ladies on aggregate score. Jean and Lorraine won 3 games out of 4. Michelle and Jan won 2 apiece and Bella won 1. Ros was unlucky losing some close games, and many thanks to Sheena for stepping in to play in place of Sandra

| SCBBA ACCOUNTS | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2020 | 2019 |
| | | |
| AFFILIATION FEES | 1070.00 | 1120.00 |
| COMPETITION FEES | 575.00 | 905.00 |
| FOOTBALL CARDS/RAFFLES | 756.00 | 653.00 |
| INTEREST RECEIVED | 1.31 | 1.01 |
| SPONSORSHIP | | 50.00 |
| | 2402.31 | 2729.01 |
| LESS EXPENSES | | |
| | | |
| AEBBA AFFILIATION | 30.00 | 30.00 |
| SUSSEX WEBSITE | | |
| TROPHIES & ENGRAVING | 844.57 | 1342.56 |
| TABLE HIRE - 1 DAY INTER-LEAGUE | 420.00 | 420.00 |
| TABLE HIRE - SINGLES/DOUBLES | 360.00 | 300.00 |
| TABLE HIRE - OTS WEEKEND | | 300.00 |
| BANK CHARGE | | 4.00 |
| SPONSORSHIP SUSSEX OPEN | 120.00 | 120.00 |
| COUNTY T SHIRTS | 45.00 | 60.00 |
| | 1819.57 | 2576.56 |
| | | |
| (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR YEAR | 582.74 | 152.45 |
| | | |
| OPENING BANK BALANCE | 1581.47 | 1429.02 |
| (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS | 582.74 | 152.45 |
| CLOSING BALANCE | 2164.21 | 1581.47 |
| | | |

| SUSSEX OPEN | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| | 2020 | 2019 | |
| INCOME | | | |
| ENTRY FEES | | 900.00 | |
| TRUCK FUND | | 90.00 | |
| SPONSORSHIP | | | |
| SCBBA | 120.00 | 120.00 | |
| BRIGHTON | 60.00 | 60.00 | |
| MR & MRS B | | 120.00 | |
| WORTHING | | | |
| DONATION | | 9.00 | |
| | | | |
| RAFFLE | | 254.00 | |
| INTEREST | 0.42 | 0.47 | |
| | 180.42 | 1553.47 | |
| LESS EXPENSES | | | |
| | | | |
| TROPHIES | | 150.50 | |
| TABLE HIRE | | | |
| AEBBA | | 420.00 | |
| TARRATS | | 201.60 | |
| AEBBA TRUCK FUND | | 90.00 | |
| FOOD | | | |
| PRIZE MONEY | | 740.00 | |
| | | | |
| | 0.00 | 1602.10 | |
| | | | |
| (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR YEAR | £180.42 | -£48.63 | |
| | | | |
| OPENING BANK BALANCE | 705.60 | 754.23 | |
| (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS | 180.42 | -48.63 | |
| CLOSING BALANCE | £886.02 | £705.60 | |
| | | | |