

Sussex County Bar Billiards Association
2023 Annual General Meeting
Held at Burgess Hill CC
8th August 2023

1. **Register Of Attendance:** Stuart Carruthers, Jean Brackenridge, Matthew Knight, Nigel Senior, Kevin Tunstall, Martin Cole, Alan Brackenridge, Colin Green, Bob Hall, Graham Sparksman, Ian Giffen, Michelle Baden, Greg Walsh, Stuart Mephram, Tony Jenner, Ros Appleby, Trevor Appleby, Dave Hampton
2. **Apologies For Absence:** Dave Ingram, Ric Bithell, Jan Bithell
3. **Minutes of AGM 2022:** Proposed Tony Jenner, Seconded Michelle Baden
4. **Matters Arising:** None
5. **Chairpersons Report:** (Stuart Carruthers) Thank you to everyone who has come along to attend tonight's meeting; it is great to see so many people here to provide their input and views on the running of Sussex Bar Billiards. I would like to start by thanking the Burgess Hill Constitutional Club and their staff for both hosting us tonight and providing a venue for some of the events. I would also like to thank the Roffey Club for hosting tournaments and providing storage for the AEBBA tables. As always, I would like to offer my personal thanks to the other members of the committee for all their hard work during the past year. The amount of time and effort they put into the administration and running of competitions and keeping everyone informed of developments is incredible. Without the effort they provide we wouldn't have the quality of competitions we currently enjoy. 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. Without these people arriving early or staying late these events wouldn't happen so we can only be thankful for them for giving their time and effort. This was particularly relevant during the Sussex Masters and Open weekend where other events at the Roffey Club left us short of time to both set-up and clear the hall. The number of people who helped at both ends of a long weekend was remarkable and I am thankful to everyone of you. I make no apology for singling out Stuart Mephram who has given so much of his time in helping to manage the tables and the van and also done a brilliant job in getting the tables into the two venues we have used and setting these to allow a high standard of play. Congratulations are offered to the winners and runners-up in all of these competitions. We have witnessed high level and closely fought leagues and tournaments and I'm sure some more details of these will follow in relevant the secretary's reports. It has been great to see a variety of players making the latter stages of the tournaments and shows the depth of talent in Sussex at the moment. This depth of talent has also led to Sussex having their now normal good year in National competitions. Details of the county teams performances will follow later, but we also provided the winners of the AEBBA Team Championship, the World Champion, AEBBA Seniors and Under 30's, as well as four Open winners. Ten different Sussex players have made the semi-final stage of an Open this year underlining the strength in the county at the moment. I would like to wish everyone a successful year ahead.
6. **Correspondence:** None
7. **Treasurers Report & Accounts 2022/23:** (Jean Brackenridge) As you can see made a large loss this year. Couple of extras are AEBBA affiliation, and Sponsorship Sussex Open. These were not in the accounts last year as they were paid the year before when things were cancelled. We also paid the entry fees for the 3 Sussex teams representing Sussex in the County Championships and there was a table repair.
The trophies are now all engraved up to date. Approximately 50 trophies were not bought this year for the interleague home and away and one day runners up.

The Sussex Open made a small profit. This was mainly due to having 84 entries due to Guernsey players who were over for the International. Without these there would have been a loss. The sponsorship by Sussex and particularly Brighton I'm not sure will happen in future years. We used to have about 5 leagues sponsoring the open and my personal feeling, and putting on my Brighton treasures hat, I don't think it's right that just one league only sponsors the open. If you take out the extra entries and some sponsorship it would turn the balance in to a loss of about £400. So after all the doom and gloom I'm suggesting there are no increases in fees this year but that next year's treasurer keeps a close watch on how things are going as this year's accounts are a truer record of how things are after the previous few years.

Proposed Stuart Mephram Seconded Ros Appleby

- 8. Home & Away Inter League:** (Matt Knight) Good Evening, another challenging Inter-League season with a number of matches called off and, ultimately, one not played at all which is extremely disappointing. The committee decided to void the match and no points were awarded. It is very difficult to make judgment calls about the outcome of matches when only written submissions are available, personal opinions might vary from those in a committee capacity Other matches were called off and subsequently rearranged and then one had to be rearranged again! I often wonder if those who call them off have any consideration for their opponents when they do call them off as, through no fault of their own, those teams then have to make additional arrangements. Looking at the calendar for the coming season there are very few Sundays available let alone "spare" ones, matches should be played on the schedule date, even if one of your "star" players is not available. And, I am afraid if you do call it off it is then the "offending" team who need to show greater flexibility when rearranging. On the table it was another thrilling season with Redhill A and Worthing A finishing level on points in Division 1 with the former prevailing due to a higher number of legs won. Worthing needed to win their last match at home to Redhill 7-0 to snatch the title, but despite a valiant attempt fell just short. Well done to Redhill A on winning the title Division 2 saw West Sussex win the title, well done to them and a deserved return to Division 1 awaits. Redhill B secured the runners up spot after a remarkable comeback win in their last match at home to the champions having been 3-1 down Thank you to the Committee for their support and hard work especially during some difficult periods in the season
- 9. One Day Inter League Report:** (Nigel Senior)

B Teams 18/2

Again a shame to have only 3 teams for this event. Brighton B ran out comfortable winners to retain their title, again Redhill B were their closest challengers but had to settle for runners up. Jim Greensted & Jean Brackenridge from Brighton B top performed gaining 11 points from a maximum of 12. Jim had the days highest average at 8,918.

2nd Division 19/2

Favourites Littlehampton gained promotion to Division 1, but only beat Lewes by 4 points. Lewes' Colin Southouse scored the maximum 9 points for his team and has scored 21 points out of 21 over the last 2 years. Billinghamurst's Dave Howlett also scored 9 maximum points . The top average was recorded by Littlehampton's Dave Ingram of 8,807

Ladies 25/2

4 teams took part, Brighton took the title by 3 points with last year's winners, Redhill runners-up this time. It all came down to the final match where Brighton beat Redhill 9-6. 4 players scored a maximum 9 points, Jean Brackenridge & Michelle Baden from Brighton and Tracy Guy and Denise Wills from Redhill. Jean had the days top average with 9,667

1st Division 26/2

Worthing took the title beating Brighton by 3 points. A close finish but Worthing beat Brighton 11-10 in the last match to secure the title. Martin Cole (West Sussex) scored a maximum 12 points on the day with a top average of 11,368. Nigel Senior made the days high break with 20,490.

Many thanks to Stu C, Matt K and Jeannie B who helped run the days. Stu Mephram also for the setting up of tables. Also the Burgess Hill CC who have provided a terrific venue for these days and have been so welcoming and accommodating.

10. Competitions Report: (Tony Jenner) Sussex Doubles we once again had 16 pairs enter and ran a plate for those who lost their first game. Both competitions were keenly contested. A high-class main final was won by Mark James and Jim Millward who beat Matt Knight and Joe Oakley in the final. The Plate final was won by Nigel Senior and Chris Tupper who overcame Alan Brackenridge and Andy Farmer-Wright. The Sussex Men's Singles was contested by 28 people just one down on the previous year. Again, this was a very competitive day with a high standard of bar billiards. The main final was won by Nigel Senior who beat Mike Daw to win his 5th title. The Plate was won by Mark James who overcame Chris Tupper in the final on the last ball with Chris needing the 200 to win but just missing it and Mark made sure of the 100. The Ladies Singles was run as a Round Robin Competition with 2 groups of 3, the winner of each group playing off in the final, which saw Jean Brackenridge beat Lorraine Hall to win the title and collect her 18th title. It was good to see 6 entries and we had I believe the youngest ever competitor in the Ladies Singles, so well done to Hannah Cole for giving it a go. Thanks to all those who helped get the tables into the venue and to those who helped get them back on the van. To the two Stuart's (Mephram and Carruthers) and Alan Brackenridge for setting the tables up. A very big thanks to Stuart Carruthers for all his hard work on the Admin desk, which helps the day run smoothly and leaves me to do the running about. Mixed Doubles saw 8 pairs contest a Round Robin Competition in 2 groups of 4, the winners of each group playing the runners-up from the other group in the semi-finals. The Final was won by Michelle Baden and Nigel Senior who beat Jean Brackenridge and Matt Knight in the final. Over 50s was contested by 9 players as a straight Knock Out. The Final was won by Matt Knight who beat Alan Brackenridge. Both the Mixed Doubles and the Over 50s were run on a one-day basis as we struggle to get enough entries if we play it round the pubs. This seems the way forward if these competitions are to survive. It would be good if we can get the entries to get the Captains back underway, again in the same format but this will depend on there being time at the end of other competitions.

11. County Team Report: (Sussex A Kevin Tunstall) Great last year with Sussex winning 3 out of 4, the one they lost was against Sussex B but managed to win the tournament in the end. Looking forward to this year.

(Sussex B Tony Jenner) The B side was Stuart Mephram, Martin Smith, Chris Cox, Bob Hall, Stuart Carruthers, Kev Hall and Mike Daw, with me doing the Admin and non-playing captains role. Sussex B were leading going into the last series of games but having a bye the eventual result was out of their hands. Sussex A beat Kent in their last series to take the title and condemn the Bs to runners-up but 4 points clear of 3rd placed Kent. Another great effort by the B side.

Ladies - Michelle Baden . 3rd out of 4 with every lady winning a match.

12. Inter League Formation: West Sussex to be promoted to replace the bye in Division 1

13. Election Of Officers:

President: Dave Hampton

Chairperson: Stuart Carruthers Proposed Ros Appleby Seconded Iain Giffen

Vice Chairman: Martin Cole Proposed Stuart Mephram Seconded Tony Jenner

Treasurer: Jean Brackenridge Proposed Kevin Tunstall Seconded Stuart Mephram

Secretary: Michelle Baden Proposed Stuart Mephram Seconded Tony Jenner

Competitions: Tony Jenner Proposed Graham Sparksman Seconded Bob Hall

Inter League Secretary: Matt Knight Proposed Ros Appleby Seconded Michelle Baden

1 Day Events: Nigel Senior Asst. Stuart Carruthers Proposed Tony Jenner Seconded Michelle Baden

Sussex A Captain Kevin Tunstall Proposed Alan Brackenridge Seconded Michelle Baden

Sussex Ladies Captain Michelle Baden Proposed Ros Appleby Seconded Matt Knight

Thanks to Jean as outgoing Secretary

14. Rules & Amendments: None

15. Any Other Business: Dates for Next year.

20th January - Sussex Doubles
21st January – Sussex Singles
24th February – B Teams
25th February – Div 2
2nd March – Ladies
3rd March – Div 1
1st June – Sussex Masters
2nd June – Sussex Open
22nd June – Sussex Off The Spot

Ian Giffen – King & Barnes doubles @ Inn On The Green 1st October

Meeting Closed 8.55 pm