

**Sussex County Bar Billiards Association
2024 Annual General Meeting
Held at Burgess Hill
6th August 2024**

Meeting Started 20:05

1. Register Of Attendance:

Bob Hall, Stuart Carruthers, Greg Walsh, Michael Wilson, John Slee, Jean Brackenridge, Ros Appleby, Kevin Tunstall, Colin Green, Matthew Knight, Trevor Appleby, Alan Brackenridge, Stuart Mepham, Terry Molloy

2. Apologies For Absence:

Martin Cole, Tony Jenner, Dave Ingram, Ian Giffin and Graham Sparksman

3. Minutes of AGM 2023: Proposed Stuart Mepham Seconded Kevin Tunstall

4. Matters Arising: None

5. Chairpersons Report:

I would like to start by thanking everyone who has come along to attend tonight's meeting; obviously it is important we get a wide range of views on the running of Bar Billiards in Sussex.

On behalf of the SCBBA I would like to thank the Burgess Hill Constitutional Club and their staff for hosting the AGM tonight but for also providing a fantastic venue and welcome for the one day events we held here during the first quarter of the year. I would also like to thank the Roffey Sports and Social Club for hosting our summer tournaments and also providing storage of the - AEBBA van and tables.

I would like to offer my personal thanks to all the members of the SCBBA committee for their hard work during the past year. I am in awe of the amount of time and effort they put in, normally unseen in the background, to keep everything running smoothly and to update everyone with information and results.

Thank you to everyone who has helped and assisted during the Sussex events this past year. From setting-up and taking down tables, to running the admin and selling raffle tickets these events wouldn't be possible without so many people giving their time and effort.

As usual at this point I make no apology for singling out Stuart Mepham who, despite not holding an official role within SCBBA, probably puts in more work

than anyone else in managing the tables and the van and then setting-up the tables for multiple competitions.

My congratulations are offered to the winners and runners-up of all the competitions that have been played over the last year, and I'm sure more details of these will follow in the relevant reports later in this AGM.

The depth of talent in Sussex at the moment continues to amaze and it would take me far too long to even mention the highlights; but it is safe to say the county has produced a lengthy list of winners of various tournaments. It has also been good to see some new additions now regularly playing in both our Sussex competitions but also taking part in the Nationals events.

I wish everyone a happy and successful season ahead.

6. Correspondence: None

7. Treasurers Report & Accounts 2023/24:

As you can see from the accounts we managed to turn the large loss last year of £600 around and made £150 profit.

Although income was down £200 we saved nearly £1000 on expenses. This was mainly due to trophies & engraving down £300, OTS table hire down £200 which I managed to get AEBBA to reduce the cost by 50% if an AEBBA competition was held the following day, £150 on sponsorship to the Sussex Open and £250 on table repair.

I propose that there is no increase in affiliation and inter league fees next year.

One thing I would like to propose is a gratuity payment of £100 to Stuart Mepham. Stuart collects and drives the AEBBA van and unloads, reloads and sets up tables for all our competitions. This would be £25 for each competition we hold. I would like a vote on this to agree or reject this proposal.

The Sussex Open had no sponsorship this year but managed to break even. Its nice to know that if in future years we don't get the number of entries we have in recent years that we will still be able to hold it.

As mentioned last year the accounts with RBS have been a nightmare. After 6 months of trying to get online banking to make life a lot easier I had no joy. I had letters saying the legal entity was wrong, then told we cant have online for this account and whenever I tried to phone they wouldn't speak to me because we didn't have telephone banking. So after lots of forms, phone calls and letters with no joy I have applied for treasurers accounts with Lloyds.

The Sussex Open account is now open and they are doing the trs from RBS on 9th August.

At the time of writing this report the forms for Sussex County are in progress and if all goes ok the account should be active middle of this month. Once the details of account are known I can get the inter league registration forms out with new details.

I would like to propose that once the accounts are open I add Stuart Carruthers and Nigel Senior to the accounts with full access and to have any 2 of 3 to authorise payments.

Proposer – Ros Appleby

Seconded – Stuart Mepham

8. Home & Away Inter League: (Matt Knight)

Good Evening, I am pleased to report that we avoided too many postponements this season which makes life much easier for players and administrators alike so thank you all for that.

Division 1 was very close going to the last round of matches with 3 teams in contention for the title, but only Brighton A had it in their own hands. A dominant display on the Prince of Wales table saw them defeat West Sussex 5-2 to give them the Home and Away title to go with their Division One one day victory earlier in the season. A notable double which is not achieved as often as you would think so well done to them on a great season. Worthing A finished runners up one win behind.

Division 2 was even closer, Worthing B and Redhill B finished with 6 wins each but Worthing prevailed having won just a single leg more than their nearest rivals. To show how close it was both teams won their last matches 5-2 which meant Worthing just kept their noses in front on legs won. Well done to Worthing B on winning the league, commiserations to the runners up who filled the same spot as last season.

I have produced a draft "dates" sheet for the coming season and you will see, once again, that it is a packed schedule with very few blank Sundays.

Thank Stuart Carruthers for updating the website even though his laptop was damaged. Waiting to see how many teams enter this year to enable us to do the fixtures and the leagues.

JB asked if it was 6 & 4 teams would we balance it 5-5 – MK said we will have to wait and see how many and what strength teams we get entering.

Thank you to everyone who played last season and good luck for the upcoming one.

9. One Day Inter League Report: (Nigel Senior)

B Team 24/2

Good to see an extra team from Billingshurst this year to make a 4th team. A very close event where the teams finishing 3rd and 4th won 2 matches out of 3, and the top two teams only won one. But it was legs that counted and Worthing B came out on top beating Redhill by one point with Brighton a further point back. 9 maximum points were secured by Dave Ingram and Ric Cunningham from Worthing. Also Rick Dewdney from Billingshurst got maximum points and with that the highest average of 11,657.

2nd Division 25/2

Billingshurst edged out favourites Tunbridge Wells by 1.5 points to secure promotions to Division 1 next year. Curt Driver & Pete Sainsbury both took the maximum 9 points for Tunbridge Wells but this was matched by Billingshurst's Lee Cable & Dick Dewdney. Curt had a reasonable average of 15.798 helped by a 20,580 break.

Ladies 2/3

5 teams took part, Brighton took the title by 2 points to retain the title, again Redhill were runners-up. It all came down to the final match where Brighton beat Redhill 8-7. Jean Brackenridge scored a maximum 12 points, also she had the highest average of 8,014.

1st Division 3/3

Brighton convincingly took the title from Worthing, winning by 6 points. This was despite a team change on the day with Sandra Hall stepping in for a not too well Kev Hall. No one managed 12 points on the day, Jim Millward topped the list dropping a half point with a 200 hole finish against Joe Oakley to secure that drawn game. Bob Hall took on the role as the senior Hall taking 11 points with the days high average of 11,126. Martin Cole made a 22,430 helping West Sussex avoid relegation which was the fate of Littlehampton.

Many thanks to Stu C, Matt K and Jeannie B who helped run the days. Stu Mepham 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)

Another very competitive and high class season of Sussex Competitions. There were 25 entries in the singles, 8 in the Ladies Singles, 15 in the open Doubles, 12 in the Over 50s and 8 in the mixed doubles.

The Singles were won by Kevin Tunstall who beat Martin Cole in the final. The Plate was won by Nigel Senior who beat Bob Osborne in the final. Jean Brackenridge beat Michelle Baden in the Ladies Singles final and in the Plate, Lorraine Hall beat Melissa Beach. The Over 50s was played in the evening after the B team one day inter-league and the winner was Stuart Mepham who beat Matt Knight in the final. Like-wise the Mixed Doubles was played in the evening after the Ladies One Day Inter-League and was won by Melissa Beach and Martin Cole who beat Lorraine and Bob Hall in the final.

Big thanks go to Stuart Mepham for all his hard work, transporting tables, getting them in and out the venues and to Stuart Carruthers for all his hard work doing all the Admin over the weekends. Thanks to Jean and Alan Brackenridge and James Whittle who turned up and helped with getting the tables in and to all those that stayed to get the tables out and back on the van. Thanks to Burgess Hill Constitutional Club for hosting the weekend and for making us welcome and allowing us in on the Friday to get things set up.

Thank you to all the players that took part making it a successful season as without your support there would not be competitions.

The Watney Mann is becoming harder to get teams to enter and we only had 5 teams compete. The competition was won by The Stags Head A who beat the Prince of Wales.

11. County Team Report:

Sussex A (Kevin Tunstall)

Hi everyone, last years County championships were one of the closest for a few years. As it turned out, we lost two of our five matches and with only three points separating four teams, if either of those defeats had been wins, then we would have been victorious and not Kent, who won all five matches.

Disappointing, but I'm sure with the quality of players at our disposal, we will rectify the outcome this year. Thank you.

Sussex B (Tony Jenner)

I again had the pleasure of being the non-playing captain of the Sussex B team of Daniel Wheal, Bob Hall, Martin Smith, Dave Ingram, Chris Cox, Mike Daw and Stuart Carruthers. It was another competitive day but Sussex B did not have their best day and in the end fifth of the 6 teams. They were one point ahead of Bucks after managing to beat them 4-3 in the last series of games.

Ladies (Michelle Baden)

A fun day was had by all as usual for this competition. It is a shame we have no competitors left in the ladies division but think this shows the strength of sussex and the willingness of the ladies to travel and enjoy the day. Although we finished last we did manage to rack up 19.5 points.

12. Inter League Formation:

Depends on how many teams enter and have seen a few notes from AGM's and there is no confirmation that these teams will have an inter league team this year.

13. Election Of Officers:

President: Dave Hampton

Chairperson: Stuart Carruthers

Vice Chairman: Martin Cole

Treasurer: Jean Brackenridge

Secretary: Michelle Baden

Competitions: Tony Jenner

Inter League Secretary: Matt Knight

1 Day Events: Nigel Senior Asst. Stuart Carruthers

Sussex A Captain Kevin Tunstall Proposed

Sussex Ladies Captain Michelle Baden

All officials to stand as before Proposed Ros Appleby Seconded Colin Green

14. Rules & Amendments:

Proposal to introduce a new competition rule and change to competition rule 20.

Proposed: Michael Wilson

Seconded: John Slee

Current rule:

20. The following SCBBA competitions shall be designated as "SCBBA Closed" events:

Sussex Masters

Mens Singles

Ladies Singles

Sussex Off The Spot

Proposal:

(A) Remove Sussex Off the Spot from the closed events

20. The following SCBBA competitions shall be designated as "SCBBA Closed" events:

Sussex Masters

Mens Singles

Ladies Singles

(B) New rule relating to entry to SCBBA Off The Spot

21. Entry to the SCBBA Off The Spot event shall be restricted to players who fulfil at least one of the following criteria during the same year-long season (Sep – Aug):

They only play in Bar Billiards Leagues affiliated to SCBBA

They do not represent a County other than Sussex in any AEBBA individual or team event

They have played at least 50% of league matches within any league affiliated to SCBBA

Any player who, having competed in the SCBBA Off the Spot event on those terms, is found subsequently to have breached this undertaking, shall be banned sine die from all bar billiards events under the auspices of SCBBA.

MW said they feel that is unfair that people who compete in Sussex leagues are not allowed to play in some Sussex competitions because they affiliate for another county, even though they have played for Sussex Leagues for many years. The proposal is for anyone who only plays in Sussex leagues or who plays a minimum 50% of games in a Sussex leagues should be allowed to play in the Sussex Off the Spot.

KT asked if John Slee plays in Billingshurst league – he does but affiliates to Surrey therefore at present doesn't meet the criteria. SC stated that the current rule is that no player who plays for another county in that year is eligible – the proposal is to change the list of closed events and to take the Off the Spot out of this list and make it open for players with the above criteria. RA – what is the number of entries at present? SC – 32 as an average. We can take more entries and we won't stop Sussex players entering as we don't have a limited amount of entrants. MK said that although it would be ok for entries it would lengthen the day and sometimes we have time limits for venues.

NS said he wants to protect Sussex Competitions and keep them for Sussex players only. Players from another county won the doubles one year and that caused issues. JS understands that it is an issue with some players, he stated we should not be playing in the singles and understand the reason for that. We feel that the Off the Spot is a stand alone competition that finishes on that day and no-one goes advances to a further competition because they won it. We would like to play in the comp to strengthen it. MK asked if they saw it as a reward for taking part in a Sussex league. JS said it should be offered but not as a reward.

MW said there are two different ways of looking at it – only people who represent Sussex can play SCBBA comps or anyone who play Sussex leagues should have the right to play in some competitions.

RA – it is a ranking event? SC – yes.

MK – I think 50% is too low. MW said he would be happy to amend that figure.

A vote was held on part A of the proposal to change rule 20 and remove the Sussex Off The Spot from the closed competition list. The vote went 8 for and 5 against – and the rule was accepted.

Two amendments were then suggested before the vote on part B of the rule change for a new rule 21. KT proposed that the percentage should be 75% and MK said 80% of games. A vote was held on the three options and the majority went for 80% of games.

With this amendment in place the second part on the rule change for a new rule 21 to be added was passed by unanimous vote.

15. Any Other Business:

Dates for Next year

18th January – Sussex Doubles

19st January – Sussex Singles

22nd February – B Teams One Day Inter League

23rd February – Division Two One Day Inter League

1st March – Ladies One Day Inter League

2nd March – Div 1

7th June – Sussex Masters

8th June – Sussex Open

28th June – Sussex Off The Spot

Looking at possible alternative venues for the Sussex Open – has been decided that it will stay at the Roffey Club next year. Thanks to Martin Cole and Joe Oakley for looking at these venues. Roffey has agreed that they will let us have the hall for the whole weekend so won't have to rush and leave the club as in previous years.

Meeting Closed 21:15pm