

**Sussex County Bar Billiards Association  
2025 Annual General Meeting  
Held at Burgess Hill CC  
12th August 2025**

**Meeting Started 20:08**

**1. Register Of Attendance:**

Alan Brackenridge, Colin Green, Dave Hampton, Graham Sparksman, Greg Walsh, Ian Giffen, Jean Brackenridge, Jim Millward, Kevin Tunstall, Matthew Knight, Michael Wilson, Nigel Senior, Rob Hall, Stuart Carruthers, Stuart Mepham, Terry Molloy, Tony Jenner

**2. Apologies For Absence:**

Michelle Baden

**3. Minutes of AGM 2024:** Proposed Stuart Mepham Seconded Dave Hampton

**4. Matters Arising:** None

**5. Correspondence:** None

**6. Chairpersons Report:**

I would like to start by thanking everyone who has taken the time on this hot sunny evening to come along to attend tonight's meeting; while numbers attending remain low it is still important from those present that we get a wide range of views on the running of Bar Billiards in Sussex.

On behalf of myself and the SCBBA I would like to thank the Burgess Hill Constitutional Club and their staff for hosting the AGM tonight and also providing a fantastic venue for the one-day events we held earlier in 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. It continues to amaze me the amount of time and effort they put in the background to keep everything running smoothly and keeping the tournaments alive.

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.

Thank you to everyone who has helped and assisted during the Sussex events this past year. I would like to highlight a few individuals who I think have turned up to all four events to help set-up the venue and tables, these are Stuart Mepham, Tony Jenner, James Whittle, Alan Brackenridge and Jean Brackenridge. Without these people the events would not happen.

As is now normal 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 one negative is that I have had to highlight so few people as having helped set-up the tables for our events. At the end of the events it is then normally these same people helping to remove the tables and clean-up. I hope next season we can get more volunteers to assist in these tasks.

I wish everyone a happy and successful season ahead.

## **7. Treasurers Report & Accounts 2024/25:**

Not much to say about the accounts this year. We broke about even with no great differences in this year's accounts compared to last years.

Therefore I suggest all fees are kept the same next year. I also propose that we make a £100 gratuity payment to Stuart Mepham as we did last year for all the work he does driving the van and setting up tables for our competitions.

The Sussex Open made a small profit this year mainly due to the number of entries which was due to Guernsey players entering the open after the International held on the previous evening.

Proposer – Kevin Tunstall

Seconded – Tony Jenner

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

Well done to Worthing A on winning Division One with Joe Oakley successful in his first season as captain. Worthing won their first six games then squeaky bum time as they lost their next three before eventually clinging on to lift the title by one leg after a win against five-man Tunbridge Wells.

Worthing A had seven wins and 42 legs, Brighton A had seven wins and 41 legs (having lost 12-2 to Redhill A over the season) and Redhill A had seven wins and 41 legs (having lost twice to Tunbridge Wells).

Well done to Nigel Senior on topping the individual rankings.

Division Two was also very close with Redhill B (5 wins and 29 legs) topping the tables on legs won from Littlehampton (5 wins and 27 legs).

Redhill B's last match (postponed from Series 9) was conceded to Mid Sussex.

Colin Southouse topped the Division Two individual standings.

I am working fixtures on the basis that Redhill B will be promoted, as Worthing B were in the previous season where they did fulfil all their fixtures despite losing all ten.

There also might be a Brighton C side for next season, which would mean two division of six teams.

Thank you to Stuart Carruthers for keeping the website up to date with the results and stats.

I have produced a draft dates sheet for next season. As can be seen it is a packed calendar for the coming season.

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

Nigel Senior: Tunbridge Wells turned up to last match against Worthing A with only five players. This was very disappointing from a personal perspective as we had played for nine months and had three teams battling on the final day with a chance to win the league. As a question would they have only had five if they had something to play for? Because they are invited to play in the Inter League they should have made more of an effort and I think a letter should be sent. It would be nice to get an apology as was a disappointing end to the closest season I can remember.

Kevin Tunstall: Pointed out that Worthing A had seven player that evening and would have preferred to play all seven legs.

Terry Molloy: Asked could they be penalised

Tony Jenner: Pointed out that they haven't broken any rules

Matthew Knight: Not the first time that this has happened. They regularly want to rearrange matches.

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

B Team

Won by Redhill B

2nd Division

Won by Tunbridge Wells who return to Division One

Ladies

Won by Redhill by two points in a close finish against Brighton

1st Division

Won by Brighton who retained the title by nine points from Worthing.

Many thanks to Jean Brackenridge and Matthew Knight who helped run the days.

## **10. Competitions Report: (Tony Jenner)**

The Men's Singles was won by Matt Knight who beat Kevin Tunstall in the final. The Plate was won by Nigel Senior beating Martin Cole in the final.

The Ladies Singles was won by Jean Brackenridge beating Michelle Baden in the final on the last ball.

The Doubles was won by Mark James and Jim Millward who beat Martin Cole and Barry Holt in the final. The Plate was won by Phil Osborne and Bob Hall who beat Alan Brackenridge and Jack Baden in the final.

Thank you to all who supported these events and numbers were around the same as the previous season. A huge thank you to Mike and his staff at Burgess Hill Constitutional Club for all their hard work and making us so welcome. Thanks go to Stuart Mepham for all his hard work ensuring the tables are at the venues for our events and then helps unload, set up and level the tables before working hard at the end to get everything down and away on the van. Thanks to Jean and Alan Brackenridge, James Whittle, John Slee and Stuart Carruthers for their help with the tables as without this

small band of volunteers we would not have any events. It would be nice to see more help. Last but not least to Stuart Carruthers on the Admin for the weekend as the days ran smoothly and on time.

The Over 50s was played in the evening after the B one day inter league and went well despite a long day. The winner was Stuart Mepham who beat Roger Taylor in the final to retain his title.

The Mixed Doubles was held after the Ladies One Day (again a long day) and was won by Nigel Senior and Michelle Baden who beat Matt Knight and Jean Brackenridge in the final. The Plate was won by Melissa Beach and Martin Cole beating Chris Cox and Krystal Beck in a close final.

## **11. County Team Report:**

Sussex A (Kevin Tunstall)

Was a successful County Championship as Sussex A won their third title in the past four years. This is a great record and I'm such the side will be equally as strong this year. Joe Oakley and Martin Cole both won 100 percent of their matches. We use to be in the shadow of a strong Oxford side but have taken over in recent years.

Sussex B (Tony Jenner)

The team was represented by Stuart Carruthers, Dan Wheal, Dave Ingram, Martin Smith, Mike Daw, Barry Holt and Tony Jenner. The B's managed 5<sup>th</sup> place therefore avoiding relegation. Stuart won 4 out of 5 legs, Dan and Dave won 3. Mike and Martin 2 legs and Barry and Tony 1 leg. Another good effort against strong opposition. Thank you for all that represented Sussex and well done to the A team on winning the day.

Ladies (Michelle Baden)

The Ladies had a fun day in Division Two despite struggling in fourth place.

## **12. Election Of Officers:**

President: Dave Hampton

Chairperson: Stuart Carruthers Proposed Ian Giffen, Seconded Matthew Knight

Vice Chairperson: Martin Cole (incumbent)

Rob Hall nominated himself to fill this role and this was seconded by Kevin Tunstall. A vote was untaken and Rob Hall won this vote 16-0 and became the new Vice Chairperson. Thank you to Martin Cole who has filled this role since 2017.

Treasurer: Jean Brackenridge Proposed Jim Millward, Seconded Matthew Knight

Secretary: Michelle Baden Proposed Kevin Tunstall, Seconded Rob Hall

Competitions: Tony Jenner Proposed Matt Knight, Seconded Michael Wilson

Inter League Secretary: Matt Knight Proposed Graham Sparksman, Seconded Tony Jenner

1 Day Events: Nigel Senior Asst. Stuart Carruthers Proposed Stuart Mepham, Seconded Alan Brackenridge

Sussex A Captain Kevin Tunstall Proposed Alan Brackenridge, Seconded Rob Hall

Sussex Ladies Captain Michelle Baden Proposed Ian Giffen, Seconded Tony Jenner

### **13. Rules & Amendments:**

Proposal to change “Main” Competition – Home & Away’ Rule 9.

Proposed: Jim Millward

Seconded: Matthew Knight

#### **CURRENT RULE**

##### **"MAIN" COMPETITION - HOME & AWAY BASIS**

9. Teams will be awarded two points for each match won and one point for a draw.

#### **PROPOSED RULE**

9. *Teams will be awarded two points for each match won and one point for a draw. An additional point will be awarded to each team for completion of the match within the designated window for that fixture. For matches that are played outside of this designated window, the point will not be awarded to the team responsible for having to have the match rearranged. The team which did not require the rearrangement WILL receive the additional point.*

*Defaulting teams may have the additional point reinstated at the discretion of the SCBBA in extreme circumstances only. Examples of such circumstances would include weather so severe that the authorities urge only essential travel, or matters involving health and safety. They would specifically not include the unavailability of an individual player or players, or of a particular venue.*

*If a defaulting team makes a formal application to SCBBA to have the additional point reinstated and the decision of SCBBA is that the postponement did NOT satisfy the criteria for extreme circumstances, that team shall have a point deducted.*

Jim Millward: There is limited availability of Sunday's during the season. Some teams are postponing matches because they have one player unavailable. This is not fair on the secretary of the Inter League. This can also affect the teams they are due to play as they could be without players for the rearranged date. With not many free dates games should not be cancelled because they are one or two players short as they could go with six players and play.

Ian Giffen: Asked if it was another point deducted for an unsuccessful appeal. It was confirmed it was.

Michael Wilson: Asked a question on the definition of "designated window" and what this meant. It was agreed that the rules state Inter League should be played on a set Sunday so should be referred to as this.

Matthew Knight: Stated that all fixtures are published at the start of the season giving teams plenty of chance to find out which fixtures they made have problems with.

Nigel Senior: Pointed out that the Inter League season (with six teams) would be out of 30 points rather than 20 if the rule was accepted and that this was a big change to the structure of the points scale.

Jean Brackenridge: Suggested an amendment to change the wording from "designated window" to "on or before the date".

Rob Hall: Suggested an amendment to remove the last paragraph around the deduction of an additional point for an unsuccessful appeal.

A vote was taken for amendment 1 (Jean). This was voted for by a majority of 12-0.

A vote was taken for amendment 2 (Rob). This was voted for by a majority of 12-0.

The proposed rule was therefore amended to:

9. *Teams will be awarded two points for each match won and one point for a draw. An additional point will be awarded to each team for completion of the match before or on the date on the fixture list. For matches that are played after this date the point will not be awarded to the team responsible for having to have the match rearranged. The team which did not require the rearrangement WILL receive the additional point. Defaulting teams may have the additional point reinstated at the discretion of the SCBBA in extreme circumstances only. Examples of such circumstances would include weather so severe that the authorities urge only essential travel, or matters involving health and safety. They would specifically not include the unavailability of an individual player or players, or of a particular venue.*

This new rule was then passed by a vote with a majority of 11-0.

#### **14. GDPR:**

A new GDPR compliance statement for SCBBA has been written. This will be available for viewing on the Sussex website. Thank you to Michelle Baden for writing this.

#### **15. Any Other Business:**

Michael Wilson: What would happen if Redhill B say they don't want to play in Division One?

Matthew Knight: If we get another team they will be told they have to play in Division One. It has happened before that a team has not been promoted but that was after Covid and we don't want to make that a precedent.

Michael Wilson: They might be tight on getting a regular seven.

Stuart Carruthers gave an update on the current position with Personal Liability Insurance. He confirmed that SCBBA were still in communication with

AEBBA over this issue and hope to confirm something is in place before the end of the year.

Stuart Carruthers raised the issue of lack of help during the setting-up and packing away after events during this season. The number so helpers is reducing, and it is becoming left to a few people to do it all, some of whom should not be doing heavy lifting. If the numbers don't improve it may lead to problems in the future as these few people lose the desire to keep performing these duties for the benefit of others.

Matthew Knight: Thanked Michael Wilson, Max Burt and John Slee for helping after the events at Roffey.

Stuart Carruthers: Added that without the help of these and a non-bar billiard player at the Roffey Club the tables may have just been dumped outside the building following the Sussex Open.

Jean Brackenridge: Said that there maybe an additional work next season as the tables may need to be taken out between the two IL One Day weekends.

Rob Hall: Pointed out that without a PIL policy in place it puts people off helping due to the risk of injury and not being able to work

Nigel Senior: Said he doesn't think this would make a difference to the numbers who help.

Stuart Mepham: Too many people just turn up to play and disappear as soon as they get knocked out.

Jim Millward: Unfortunately I don't think you can do anything that would make a difference.

Stuart Carruthers: In which case we may not have these events going forward.

**Meeting Closed 21:20pm**