



Essex Contract Bridge Association

A constituent member of the English Bridge Union

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 19.30 on Wednesday 24 April 2019 at Paul and Val Mollison's house – Tekoa Lodge, Mayes Lane, Sandon, Essex, CM2 7RW

Present Pat Johnson, Paul Mollison, Val Mollison, Sue Thorburn

1. **Welcome** Paul Mollison welcomed those present. Apologies received from Petra Bromfield, Linda Fleet, Bernie Hunt and Dennis Valtisiaris
2. **Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 16 January 2018** These had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the minutes were a correct record of the meeting. A copy was signed by the chairman.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes not already included in the agenda** None
4. **Reports from Officers**
 - a. **General Secretary** (Sue Thorburn)

Bridge in Schools Val Poter is now working with the Anglo European on an after-school group. This will extend the initiative to an older age group. He is also hoping to set up a teaching club for children. Val is considering applying for further funding from the Education fund. The committee is happy to support his work

Essex Clubs Brentwood is now unaffiliated but is still open. Witham has closed.

Keep Bridge Alive Launched on 14 February, the University of Stirling's new research team will explore interactions within bridge regarding well-being, healthy aging and social connection.

To date they have had responses from only 10 of 800 clubs contacted and the committee is unaware of any support from Essex clubs.

- b. **Treasurer** (Linda Fleet)

Bank Balance (at 31.03.2019)

£10002 – Lloyds & Barclays (Compared to £10516 at 31.03.18)

£15,994 – Skipton (Compared to £15825 at 31.03.18). Includes interest £167

Competitions The Spring Seniors, Swiss Pairs, Gwen Herga and Mixed Pairs all made a surplus, but, because of the entry fees to the Garden Cities, the Cornell made a loss. Overall for the year the competitions showed a surplus of £554 (2018 – Surplus £860) and the GP Events brought in a half share of surplus of £1,700 (2018 -£2,000).

P2P This year we have received £2,428 in P2P slightly down on 2018 - £2,574.

I'd like to record my thanks to Tony Philpott who has kept this list up to date since I became treasurer. Tony has decided to give his allegiance to Suffolk and this is the last sheet he will prepare. The spreadsheet will now show the monthly total not the individual totals per club

Prizes The total this year is £1,278 (2018 - £1,086) As last year we have ordered cash from bank and I have prepared the envelopes as last year for AGM. Because the B Flight was cancelled at the last minute, I have £20 to hold on until next year.

Annual accounts The provisional accounts are being prepared and will be with Petra soon. They show a surplus of approx. £645 compared to surplus last year of £1,981. There is a drop in income of just under a £1,000 accounted for by £300 less from Essex & Herts, £525 less as no seminars were run this year and an increase of £450 paid in directors courses.

c. **Tournament Secretary** (Val Mollison)

Events The Warboys, Gwen Herga, Spring Seniors and Championship Pairs all went well. There were no entries at all for the B flight so maybe we should drop this. The start time for the new season Seniors was confirmed as 10.30.

There was the perennial problem with the food at the Seniors and an AGM proposal to discontinue food is planned. A complaint from a player about the lack of refreshments at the Championship Pairs has been noted.

Richard Banbury may be asked to direct the Mixed pairs this year. It is one of the events that can cause significant computer changes and is better handled by someone who isn't playing. He's a bit more expensive than Alan. We might not get him next year because of the EBU panel directors' weekend which happens every other year.

The knockouts are more or less on schedule except for Teams of 4 plate

County matches Still no sign of the software change and it has not yet been possible to contact Ian Mitchell.

Directing and Scoring Work on the Event Computer Guides should be completed during the summer.

Catering We need to find new caterers and will find out if the restaurant at Barleylands does outside catering. A buffet will be provided at county matches.

d. **League Secretary** (Bernie Hunt)

In Bernie's absence Paul commented that the new league structure seemed to be working well but the possibility the West Essex league could fold may affect longer term arrangements.

e. **Webmaster** (Petra Bromfield)

No report as Petra was unable to attend the meeting.

f. **Shareholders** (Dennis Valtisiaris)

Dennis had circulated an extract from the EBU shareholders' report summarizing the final position on GDPR. Sue will check the EBU are aware Keith Thompson has been nominated as a shareholder.

5. **Herts/Essex joint venture.** Little activity at present. The leaflets have been printed
6. **Eastern Counties working Group** No Essex clubs were interested in participating
7. **Qualification to play in Cornell and Fletcher** As the Cornell is the qualifier for the Garden Cities, EBU requirements on club allegiance must be met. The committee agreed players must have played an average of once per month for the club they represent. This will apply to the A and B teams. The same qualification will apply to the Fletcher.
8. **Fletcher venue 2020** Paul proposed the Fletcher should be moved to Barleylands. This may require the Cup for Clubs being moved to another date if it cannot be accommodated at Barleylands on the same date.
9. **Contribution to equipment costs at Barleylands** It was agreed the ECBA should provide support to replace equipment used in county events. Bernie would be asked how he would like this to be organized.
10. **Reducing length of finals and semi-finals in knock-out competitions** Although the final should be 64 boards and the semi-final 48, captains usually agreed to play fewer boards. It was agreed rounds should be 32 boards in the Teams of 4 and 30 in the Switch with the exception of the final which should be 48 unless the captains agree to play fewer boards.
11. **AGM** Two proposals had been received; one to discontinue food at the Seniors and another to change the name and age qualification for that event.
12. **AOB** Work on production of the certificates is underway.
13. **Date of next meeting** The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19 June 2019 at Val and Paul's home. Paul then closed the meeting. The committee would like to thank Val and Paul for their hospitality.