

Essex Contract Bridge Association

President: Mrs M Curtis
Vice President: R Green
Hon. Chairman: J C Williams
Hon. General Secretary: Mrs A Hartley
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs L Fleet
Hon. Tournament Secretary: E Cockle
Hon. Membership Secretary: N Bardsley
Hon League Secretary: B Hunt
Hon Schools & Youth Liaison: G Foster
Hon. Teachers' Liaison Officer: A Cundy
Hon. Webmaster:: S Riach
Members of the committee: D Valtisiaris, Ms N Cook, K Thompson
Co-opted to the Committee: T Philpott

Delegates to the EBU: Mrs M Curtis, Mrs A Hartley, K Thompson
Senior Tournament Director: Ms N Cook
Regional Representative for Clubs: D Valtisiaris
Hon. Auditor:

County Representation:
Chairman of Selection Committee: I Moss
A Team Captain: P Oake
B Team Captain: B Hunt
C Team Captain: Mrs M Vede
Committee Member: K Thompson

Hon. Chairman
 Dr J. C. Williams
 Beightons
 Bassetts Lane
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Essex Contract Bridge Association

A constituent member of the English Bridge Union

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORTS & ACCOUNTS and COUNTY NEWS LETTER

For the year 1st May 2012 to 30th April 2013

**Minutes of the 66th Annual General Meeting of the ECBA,
 held on Saturday 18th May 2013 at Little Baddow Memorial Hall.**

Present: Mrs M Curtis (*Hon President*), J Williams (*Hon Chairman*), Mrs A Hartley (*Hon General Secretary*), B Hunt (*Hon League Secretary*), 4 other Officers and 22 other members.
Apologies for absence: E. Cockle, N. Cook, W Godber, D Green, C Megahey, I. Moss, P O'Gara, A Philpott, S Riach, M. & S. Smith, J Sutcliffe, B Telford and M Wright,

1. Hon Chairman's Opening Remarks

Dr John Williams welcomed those present and outlined the plans for the evening. He congratulated a number of Essex members who had done well during the past year in competitions further afield, in particular the B Team who had won their section of the Metropolitan Cup for the second year in succession. He recorded his thanks to Tony Philpott, who was not present. He reported that Tony was retiring after many years of hard work as Treasurer of the ECBA and also as Chairman of the Selection Committee. He had expressed an interest in remaining on the Committee and it had been agreed that he should be co-opted. The Committee members had invited Mrs Linda Fleet to take over as Treasurer and they were delighted that she had accepted nomination. John reminded the members that four years ago he promised to undertake the Chairman's role for three years and further, if required and if he felt able. He was keen for new blood on the Committee.

He thanked all members of the Committee for their support and hard work over the year.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

These had been previously circulated to all members. They were agreed to be a correct record and acceptance was proposed by Dennis Valtisiaris, seconded by Mrs Linda Barker and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Hon Secretary's Report

This is attached in full. Its adoption was proposed by Peter Oake, seconded by Alaric Cundy and agreed by the meeting. The Chairman thanked Mrs Audrey Hartley for her report and hard work over the year.

5. Hon Treasurer's Report

In Tony Philpott's absence the Treasurer's report was presented by John Williams. Copies of the Income and Expenditure Accounts and the Balance Sheet were circulated at the meeting. The Treasurer's Report is attached in full. It was agreed to leave the election of an Examiner of the Treasurer's books for the coming year to the ECBA Committee when Mrs Linda Fleet's preferences were known. Tony wrote that the hand over to Linda was going along smoothly. Its adoption was proposed by Dennis Valtisiaris, seconded by Mrs Linda Barker and agreed by the meeting.

6. Subscriptions 2013/2014

The County part of the P2P subscription for the coming year would be 5p (a reduction of 1p). Direct membership subs remained at £6 and there was no fee for clubs. Acceptance was proposed by Dennis Valtisiaris, seconded by Mrs Linda Barker and agreed by the meeting.

7. Hon Tournament Secretary's Report

This is attached in full. Its adoption was proposed by Mrs Mary Homer, seconded by Peter Oake and agreed by the meeting. The Chairman thanked Mr Ted Cockle.

8. Hon League Secretary's Report

This is attached in full. Its adoption was proposed by Alaric Cundy, seconded by Frank Morrison and agreed by the meeting. The Chairman thanked Mr Bernie Hunt.

9. Amendments to the Constitution:

The following amendments to our Constitution were presented by Mrs Audrey Hartley. The first was a recommendation from the Laws and Ethics Committee of the EBU, the second a clarification asked for by Ian Moss and Mrs Audrey Hartley and the third a recommendation from the EBU Chairman. John Williams pointed out that he and Mrs Audrey Hartley had gone through the Constitution very carefully and tidied up a number of items including the numbering of some paragraphs. The acceptance of these amendments was proposed by Frank Morrison, seconded by Alaric Cundy and agreed by the meeting.

- a. After 13.6.5: *"The County Association will deal with any disciplinary allegations referred to it from its affiliated clubs using the Disciplinary Procedures set out in this constitution. This may involve investigation, a hearing and an appeal, however if a proper hearing has already been held then the County Association should only convene an appeal hearing. Normally no action will be taken in respect of a complaint relating to an alleged offence which occurred three months or more prior to a formal complaint in writing made to the appropriate Officer."*
- b. 4.10.1 iii) is an active, bona-fide member of an affiliated bridge club in Essex.
Changed to
4.10.1 iii) is an active, bona-fide member of a *bridge club* affiliated to Essex.
- c. 3.6 an insertion in the 4th line:accounts duly *examined*, for each Annual General Meeting, *after which an Independent Examiner for the following year will be elected.*

9. Election of officers

All of the current Committee members were willing to stand again with the exception of Tony Philpott. Mrs Linda Fleet had been proposed by Tony Philpott and seconded by Mrs Audrey Hartley for the position of Treasurer. All were elected unopposed.

10. Any Other Business

Simon Moorman said that he would like to see more done for middle ranking players to improve their game. Many players wanted to improve but playing with partners of a similar standard to their own with no mentoring was not making this possible. Dennis Valtisariis said that he and Mrs Nicole Cook were discussing the possibilities of improvers' classes. John Williams said that the Chelmsford Club had been giving bridge tuition on Tuesday afternoons which was proving so popular that they had found it necessary to hold a second class on Wednesday afternoons. They were hoping to persuade members of the classes to join the Chelmsford Club as they gained greater confidence. It was agreed to invite Simon to the next ECBA Committee meeting to discuss his ideas more thoroughly.

The trophies and prizes were presented by the President, Mrs Margaret Curtis and she and Mrs Audrey Hartley were thanked and presented with bouquets. There was then a cheese and wine buffet and followed a game of bridge.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

<u>May</u>	Corwen Trophy:		6th	P Oake & S Moormen
	Kent GP:	Swiss Teams:	10th	M Curtis & D Sherman
			8th	R Elliott, A Kitchin, T Todman & D Tennet
<u>June</u>	Riviera Congress:	Swiss Pairs:	1st	S Riach & D Clark
	Berks & Bucks GP:	Swiss Pairs:	8th	R Perriman & M Wren
	EBU Spring Congress:	A Pairs Final:	6th	G Chadha
		Swiss Teams:	6th	W Godber, J Stimson, M Campbell & B Hackenbroch
<u>July</u>	Herts/Essex GP:	Swiss Pairs:	3rd	J Stimson & B Hackenbroch
			5th	M Curtis & D Sherman
	EBU Summer Seniors:	Swiss Teams:	7th	S & C Taylor, J & R Tattersfield
		A Pairs Final:	4th	S Burt & L Burt
		B Pairs Final:	1st	A Cohen & R Register
			5th=	M Curtis & D Sherman
<u>Sept</u>	Surrey GP	Swiss Pairs:	2nd	J Williams & D Cooper
	Hertford GP	Swiss Pairs:	2nd	P Johnson, P Scotting, T Verran & R Tatur
	Metropolitan Cup:		1st	Essex B Team
<u>Oct</u>	Marmaris Congress:	Swiss Pairs:	1st	P Oake & S Moorman
		Open Pairs:	1st	P Oake & S Moorman
		Mixed Pairs:	1st	M Homer & A Kitchin
		Mens' Pairs:	4th	P Oake & S Moorman
		Swiss Teams:	1st	P Oake, S Moorman, M Homer & A Kitchin
	Felixstowe Congress:	Swiss pairs:	1st	M Smith & S Smith
			5th	P Oake & S Moorman
		Swiss Teams:	1st	P Mollison, V Mollison, B Hunt & B Davies
			3rd	P Oake, S Moorman, R Elliott & S Riach
<u>Nov</u>	Middlesex GP:	Swiss Pairs:	2nd	A Mayo,
			7th	S Riach & J Lapszys
		Swiss Teams:	1st	P Johnson, P Scotting, B Gladman & T Verran
	EBU Seniors' Congress:	Pairs A Final:	4th	M Curtis & D Sherman
<u>Feb</u>	Fuereventura Congress:	Pre-Congress Pairs:	6th	L Burt & S Burt
		Swiss Pairs:	7th	L Burt & S Burt
		Open Pairs:	6th	L Burt & S Burt
<u>Mar</u>	National Pairs Final:		1st	G Chadha
	Easter Festival:	Swiss teams:	8th	P Oake, S Moorman, I Green & A Green
			1st	T Verran & G Wootton
	Portland Pairs:	Swiss Prs B flight: Welwyn Heat:	2nd	M Curtis & D Sherman – 46th overall.

Income and Expenditure Account for the 2012/2013 Season

	<u>2012/2013</u>		<u>2011/2012</u>	
	£	£	£	£
<u>P2P, Club and other EBU Income</u>	4762		6353	
Less Life Members	<u>100</u>		<u>96</u>	
		4662		6257
<u>COMPETITIONS</u>				
<u>Fees</u>	10775		9770	
<u>Sponsorship</u>	<u>200</u>		<u>Nil</u>	
	<u>10975</u>		<u>9770</u>	

EVE GOBLETS

Ladies

1	Sue Taylor	35
2	Winnie Godber	34
3	Margaret Curtis	26
4	Audrey Hartley	19.5
5	Val Mollison	19
6	Catriona Lovett	15
7	Pat Watson	12
8=	Sandy Smith	10
8=	Alison Spencer	10

Gentlemen

1	Peter Oake	46
2	Robert Elliott	42
3=	Sandy Riach	37
3=	Ian Moss	37
5	Bernie Hunt	33
6	Martin Smith	30
7=	Peter Scotting	28
7=	John Stimson	28
7=	Mike Graham	28

EBU MASTER POINT RANKING LISTS 2012

(Premier Grand Master, Grand Master & Premier Life Master)

1	Mr C Taylor	13010
2	Mrs S Taylor	12951
3	Mr M Wren	12932
4	Mrs M Curtis	7861

(Life Master, Premier National Master & National Master)

1	Mr S Moorman	10339
2	Mr R Perryman	9317
3	Mr E Marks	8784
4	Mr R Register	7978

(Star Premier Regional down to Regional Master)

1	Mr M Harbour	7421
2	Mrs M Rastin	7379
3	Mr A Mundy	6482
4	Mr D Tennet	4675

(Star Premier Master down to Tournament Master)

1	Mr D Clark	5648
2	Mrs P Clark	5413
3	Mr F Morrison	5325
4	Mr S Margutti	4436

(Star Master, Advanced Master, Master & County Master)

1	Mrs P Johnson	5500
2	Mr A Aylott	4977
3	Miss C Wood	4481
4	Mr B Davies	4137

(District Masters, Area Master, Club Masters & Local Master)

1	Mr M Tempest	2172
2	Mr I Wilson	2140
3	Mr P Meyer	1394
4	Mr M Wildig	1348

Ranks shown are as at 01/01/2013. Total points column includes net points.

WEST ESSEX LEAGUE CHAMPIONS AND RUNNERS-UP 2012/2013

Division 1

- Loughton Collier:** Phil Collier, Michael Watson, Peter Scotting & Sandy Riach
- Redbridge:** Margaret Curtis, Richard Green, Tony Phillpott & Nigel Bardsley

SOUTH EAST ESSEX LEAGUE CHAMPIONS AND RUNNERS-UP 2012/2013

Division 1

- Barleylands:** Peter Oake, Rob Elliott, Dave Duffy & Bernie Harrison.
- May & Baker:** Jill & Roger Tattersfield, Alaric Cundy, Chris Megahey, Ted Cockle & Martin Smith.

Division 2

- Academics:** Ray Clarke, Albert Kitchen, Paul Mollison, Gary Howchen & Bernie Hunt.
- Unit 4+2:** Linda Fleet, Mary Homer, Tim Connett, Steve Ensor & Theo Todman

Division 3

- Leigh Thorpe:** Sally Brown, June Atkins, Alan Goss & Pat Nicklin
- Weakenders:** Coral Fallon, Jon Ward, Margaret Rastin & Alan Aylott

Expenses

Accommodation, refreshments and T.D.'s	5397	5194
Cost of Duplimate hands and Bridgemates	672	796
Tournament Directors	1436	498
EBU and other charges	617	740
P2P	277	Nil
Donation to Charity	0	183
Prizes (including Sponsorship prize)	<u>1935</u>	<u>1170</u>
	<u>10334</u>	<u>8581</u>

641 1189

LEAGUES

Receipts	540	600
Prizes and EBU Fees	<u>132</u>	<u>230</u>
	408	370
Interest Received Gross	97	5
Surplus on joint EBU events	<u>1050</u>	<u>1560</u>
	6858	9381

EXPENSES

County matches	2137	2194
Printing and stationery	208	169
AGM Current Season	400	340
AGM Previous Season	Nil	199
Tournament Director Course	Nil	119
Meetings	Nil	79
Postage and telephone	501	459
Engraving and repairs	178	305
Web Site	80	97
Bridgmate Purchase	3360	Nil
Bidding Box Purchase/Cards	107	168
Sundries	<u>40</u>	<u>57</u>
	7011	<u>7011</u>
	4186	<u>4186</u>

Excess of Expenditure over Income (2012 Surplus)

Less transfer to Tollemache Reserve Fund	Nil	Nil
Less transfer to New Equipment Fund	Nil	2500
Less transfer to Youth Development Fund	<u>Nil</u>	<u>1198</u>
	-153	1497

The Sponsorship of £200 was kindly provided by Barbara Cornell in memory of her late husband, Ray Cornell and presented to the club entering the Garden Cities Trophy.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31/03/2013

	31/03/2013	31/03/2012
	£	£
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Stock of ties,spoons, vouchers and stamps	150	306
<u>DEBTORS</u>		
Entry fees due and payments in advance	185	250
<u>CASH</u>		
On current account and in hand	2706	559
On Business Bonus Account	8509	9004
Skipton Building Society 90 Day Account	<u>10000</u>	<u>10000</u>
	<u>21550</u>	<u>20119</u>
<u>LESS CREDITORS</u>		
Hire of halls, fees in advance and prizes	<u>2622</u>	<u>1037</u>
	<u>18928</u>	<u>19082</u>
<u>REPRESENTED BY</u>		
New Equipment Fund	2500	2500
Youth Development Fund (see Note 1)	2000	2000
Tollemache Reserve Fund (see Note 2)	1000	1000
Capital account	13581	12085
Excess of Expenditure over Income (2011/2012 Surplus)	<u>-153</u>	<u>1497</u>
	<u>18928</u>	<u>19082</u>

HONORARY TREASURER: *A.J.Philpott*

I have examined the books and records of the Essex Contract Bridge Association and, in my opinion, these give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31/03/2013

HONORARY AUDITOR: *J.Cordingley*

Note 1: The Youth Development Fund represents funds originally donated by the Thurrock Club on their closure with the express wish that they be used to develop youth Bridge. The Fund was subsequently topped up by the ECBA.

Note 2: The Tollemache Reserve Fund is to cover the extra costs involved on occasions when Essex qualify for the final.

Note 3: It is the policy of the committee to write off expenditure on trophies, cards, boards and stationery in the year of purchase.

Hon. General Secretary's report 2012 - 2013

Good evening Ladies and gentlemen. This is my second report to you as the General Secretary of the Essex Contract Bridge Association. This year has been more tranquil than the last and I am getting a better understanding about what the job entails.

THE FLETCHER TROPHY

1 st	Loughton –	Michael Watson, Nigel Bardsley, Patrick O'Gara, Wendy Colman Marion Cook, John Birch, Sue French & Rod Hudson
2 nd	Hutton –	Fran Alexander, Dennis Valtisariis, Theo Todman David Tennet David Clark, Sandy Riach, Simon Moorman & Peter Oake

ESSEX CLUB TROPHY

1 st	Collier Row	Robert Elliott, Kit Charlton, Ann Savory & John Rowden
2 nd	Lingwood	Alan Rodger, Alan Jones, Lionel Thacker & J Murray
3 rd	Loughton 3	Keith Thompson, Ray Green, Pat Watson & Graham Olliffe

TONY KELVIN TROPHY

1 st	Winnie Godber, John Stimson, Sue Taylor & Chris Taylor
2 nd	Peter Oake, Robert Elliott, Mike Graham & Ian Moss

MIXED PAIRS

1 st	Laurie Burt & Stephanie Burt	4 th	Catriona Lovett & Mike Harbour
2 nd	Sandy Riach & Pat Watson	5 th	Bernie Hunt and Judith Moorman
3 rd	Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	6 th	Chris Taylor & Sue Taylor

ESSEX SWISS PAIRS

1 st	John Leake & Sheila Evans	5 th =	Ray Clarke & Bernie Hunt
2 nd	Stuart Dunstan & Tony Verran	5 th =	Ashley Nicklin & Graham Foster
3 rd	Peter Oake & Simon Moorman	7 th	Winnie Godber & John Stimson
4 th	Chris Taylor & Sue Taylor	8 th	Richard Perryman & Mike Wren

PLAY WITH AN EXPERT

1 st	Janet Starkey & Mike Harbour	3 rd	Marcia Levan-Harris & Graham Foster
2 nd	Tanya Genthe & Nicole Cook	4 th	Jeff Jones & Bernie Hunt

HELLIAR TROPHY (to be renamed as the Ray Cornell Trophy)

1 st	Thorpe Bay B	Roger Bright, Bob Hair, Paddy Murray & Jill Hair
2 nd	Mountnessing A	Roger Tattersfield, Jill Tattersfield, Chris Megahey & Alaric Cundy
3 rd	Mountnessing B	Margaret Curtis, Frank Morrison, Alan Eames & John Sutcliffe
4 th	Thorpe Bay A	Graham Foster, Richard Register, Allan Greenstein & Yvonne Dias
5 th	Hutton A	Peter Oake, Simon Moorman, Sandy Riach & David Clark

Thorpe Bay won the Ray Cornell prize and the right to represent Essex in the Garden Cities Trophy

ESSEX PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP The first four qualify to represent Essex in the Corwen.

Final		Consolation	
1 st	John Sutcliffe & Chris Megahey	1 st	Ted Cockle & John Williams
2 nd	Margaret Curtis & David Sherman	2 nd	Peter Oake & Simon Moorman
3 rd	Ian Moss & Mike Graham	3 rd	Jacek Lapszys & Manny Marks
4 th	Graham Foster & Paul Ewers	4 th	Sandy Riach & Robery Elliott
5 th =	Audrey Hartley & Albert Kitchen	5 th	Richard Perryman & Mike Wren
5 th =	Ray Clarke & Bernie Hunt	6 th	Tony Philpott & Nigel Bardsley
HEAT – Spoon winners			
1 st	David Piper & Frank Morrison	2 nd	John Sutcliffe & Chris Megahey

GWEN HERGA TROPHIES

Ladies:

1 st	Wendy Coldham & Pat Watson
2 nd	Winnie Godber & Sue Taylor
3 rd	Jill Hair & Yvonne Dias

Gentlemen:

1 st =	Chris Megahey & Alaric Cundy*
1 st =	John Williams & Ted Cockle
1 st =	Frank Morrison & Ian Moss
4 th	Jacek Lapszys & Sandy Riach

* won the trophy by the split tie procedure

ESSEX SWITCH CUP

- 1st Martin & Sandy Smith, Paul & Val Mollison
2nd Peter Scotting, Phil Collier, Sandy Riach & Michael Watson

QUALIFYING HEAT OF THE NATIONAL PAIRS

- 1st Sandy Riach & Jacek Lapszys 2nd Peter Oake & Rob Elliott

ESSEX NATIONAL PAIRS TROPHY

Sandy Riach & J Lapszys

ESSEX TEAMS OF FOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship

- 1st Martin Smith, Ted Cockle,
Ian Moss & Mike Graham
2nd Peter Oake, Robert Elliott,
Bernie Harrison, Dave Duffy & Gad Chadha

WARBOYS TROPHY

- 1st David Clark & Sandy Riach 2nd Yvonne Dias & Alan Greenstein
3rd Val Mollison & Brian Davies 4th Graham Foster & Richard Register

ESSEX SENIORS' CUP

Seniors' Summer Pairs

- 1st Simon Moorman & Steve Cade-Bowyer
2nd Paul & Val Mollison
3rd Ian Moss & Peter Oake
4th Chris & Sue Taylor
5th Alan Aylott & Margaret Rastin
6th Roger Bright & Bob Hair

Seniors' Autumn Pairs

- 1st Graham Foster & Richard Register
2nd Simon Moorman & Steve Cade-Bowyer
3rd Ian Moss & Peter Oake
4th Keith Thompson & Richard Postle
5th Cecil Leighton & Monty Kringoltz

Seniors' Spring Pairs

- 1st George Vede & Maureen Vede
2nd Ray Clarke & Albert Kithchin
3rd Mary Homer & Linda Fleet
4th Michael Wren & Richard Perryman
5th Cecil Leighton & Monty Kringoltz
6th Ian Moss & Peter Oake

Final seniors' Cup

- 1st= Ian Moss
1st= Peter Oake
3rd= Steve Cade-Bowyer
3rd= Simon Moorman
5th= Graham Foster
5th= Richard Register

SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS

May 2012	Tue	9 th	A Kitchin & S Moorman	Jan 2013	Mon	5 th	P Nettlingham & G Chasmer
	Thu	2 nd	R Elliott & S Riach		Tue	6 th	A Kitchin & R Clarke
Jul 2012	Mon	7 th	M & S Smith			3 rd	D Cooper & J Williams
Sep 2012	Mon	1 st	A Coral & D Sherman			4 th	A Webster & P Archer
Oct 2012	Tue	1 st	P Bennett & D Balch	Feb 2013	Wed	6 th	A Greenstein & Y Dias
		9 th	A Segal & D Embleton	Mar 2013	Mon	6 th	P Mollison & B Hunt
	Wed	2 nd	C & S Taylor			7 th	I McLauchlan & A Hartley
Jan 2013	Mon	1 st	P Mollison & B Hunt		Wed	7 th	P Murray & P Sullivan

ESSEX MIXED TEAMS OF FOUR:

- 1st Audrey Hartley, Alison Spencer, John Williams & David Cooper
2nd Catriona Lovett, Mike Harbour, David Tennet & Theo Todman
3rd Ian Moss, Nicole Cook, David Sherman & Frank Morrison

THE GEORGE CURTIS TEAMS

- 1st Robert Elliott, Peter Oake, Winnie Godber & John Stimson
2nd Alaric Cundy, Chris Megahey, Jill Tattersfield & Roger Tattersfield
3rd Margaret Curtis, David Sherman, Ian Moss & Frank Morrison

At home

So, what have we achieved during the past year? We have continued as usual with our normal competitions. We had one small hiccup with a last minute change in venue, but only one pair failed to get the message and I offer them my sincere apologies; other than that everything went smoothly. We tried out one new venue – Writtle Village Hall. This proved to be a very airy room, plenty of space, good kitchen facilities with tables and chairs provided. The parking was a little difficult for some but everyone found a space not too far from the hall. There is a car park opposite on the far side of the duck pond and parking is allowed on the streets that criss-cross the green.

Further afield

Several of our members have taken part in competitions further afield; Green Pointed One Day Events organised by neighbouring counties, EBU congresses and overseas tournaments and cruises. In these, some of our members have been very successful as mentioned by John earlier.

Inter-county Competitions

We have also continued to take part in the Eastern Counties Leagues. Tony Philpott has been Chairman of the Selection Committee for several years but has now resigned and I thank him for his work there. Ian Moss has replaced him as Chairman and Keith Thompson has now joined the three team captains to form this Committee. There are eight counties that take part in the Eastern Counties Leagues though Cambridge University are often not able to field a C Team. This year the Essex A and C teams were 5th and the Essex B team 3rd. We also took part in the Metropolitan Cup, where, for the second year in succession the B team won their section. This year we did not take part in the Pachabo but we did enter a team in the qualifying round of the Tollemache; sadly the team did not qualify for the final.

This year's new events

When your Chairman was visiting Essex Clubs many members said they wanted more competitions where ordinary club members didn't have to play against strong players. "Play with an Expert" and "Pro/Am" are aimed at less experienced players giving them an experienced partner to introduce them to a wider range of players. This year we are introducing a new competition aimed at middle ranking club players which we hope will prove popular. On the 9th of June we are holding an invitational event for Essex's strongest players. Parallel with this will be the new Club Pairs Competition, open to Essex players who are not members of the A, B or C squads. We have asked all clubs to select up to four pairs to represent their club. There will be medals for the first three places and a prize for the club whose top two pairs have the highest combined score. We will also invite the top pairs to form a team of four to represent Essex as the third C team in the Metropolitan Cup should they so wish. Providing events for the enjoyment of ordinary club members is something very dear to John William's heart and I thank John for all his efforts in that direction over the past year.

The Afternoon Pairs League

After a successful pilot we decided to run two leagues each year. They will be on the fourth Thursday of each month at Barleylands. The Spring League will be in March, April and May, and the Autumn League in September, October and November. At the moment we only have one division. Ideally lots of pairs would enter and form several divisions so that players would play against others of a similar standard to themselves. It is an attractive form of the game in that pairs play matches of approximately eight boards against each other pair in their division. Eight board matches are much more satisfying than the two or three board matches one plays in club duplicate.

The Teams of four Leagues

Following on from the Afternoon Pairs League there is a similar opportunity to play longer matches against players of a similar standard in our team leagues. Because Essex is a large county there are two leagues, one for teams in the South and East of Essex and another for teams in the West of Essex. Matches are played in homes though some teams are starting to use club premises where these are available. The home team provides a modest supper which compensates for the expense of the travel for the away team. Matches are of twenty-four boards playing twelve boards against each of the opposing pairs. Team games are regarded by many as the finest form of the game. I know I am talking to the converted in many cases but I am keen to encourage ordinary club members to join the leagues. Division one is for our top ranking players, the next levels are for middle ranking players and so on down to a beginner's league which is also open to non affiliated players.

Thanks to our tournament organisers

It is thanks to Ted Cockle, Bernie Hunt, Nicole Cook and one or two other non Committee members who organise and run the Competitions and Leagues that they run so smoothly. They do a great job.

Website

Our website has a huge number of “hits” during the year so we must be doing something right there. Sandy Riach continues to work hard to keep the website and its additions in a logical format and up to date. Sometimes there is too much being required of the home page and Sandy is concentrating on keeping the home page simple while continuing to accommodate everyone’s requests. Thank you Sandy.

Disciplinary Panel

During the year we had a very good response to our appeal for Essex members to sit on a Disciplinary Panel. We now have a Panel of nine members and I extend my gratitude to them for volunteering. I had planned a meeting of this panel but have not yet found a convenient date. The Panel Members have been given a copy of the Constitution and recommended to read the EBU Bye Laws that relate to Conduct and Disciplinary Committees. I am pleased to report that we have not received any written complaints of bad behaviour during the last year and so have not yet needed to call on their services. With respect to disciplinary problems I do recommend to all clubs, whether Member or private, affiliated or non-affiliated that they have a Constitution approved by the EBU. There are example Constitutions on the EBU website and John and I would be happy to help if needed.

Orange Book

The Orange and Tangerine books which list systems, conventions, alerting etc are to cease on July 31st to be replaced by one book to be called the Blue Book which comes into force on August 1st. The change in colour was made because of the confusion between the various editions of the Orange book. The Laws & Ethics Committee promise that the Blue book will be shorter and clearer – I very much hope it will be. They say they do not intend to make many changes but among other things there will be a small extension to the announcements currently in use to include continuations after a strong 2NT and a requirement to alert unusual, high level bids above 3NT during the first round. They also are removing level 3 as most competitions are now played at level 4. If clubs wish to restrict level 4 in any way there will be a list of recommend exclusions.

Blue Points

We ran our first Blue Pointed event in January and we are to hold our second in June. The first was our Swiss Pairs Competition and the second will be the George Curtis Swiss Teams on June 30th. A few clubs have elected to hold their own Blue Pointed events, notably the Woodham Ferrers’ all Swiss Congress in the Winter, Collier Row Swiss Teams in the Spring and Mayflower’s Charity game in the Autumn. If any club is interested in running a Blue Pointed event please consult with me first so that we can fix a good date in the Essex calendar.

EBU and Charity Status

I have to report that Dick Green has resigned as an Essex Shareholder and on your behalf I thank Dick for his contribution towards Essex’s views at the Shareholders’ Meetings. The Committee have appointed Keith Thompson as Essex’s third Shareholder. Margaret Curtis and I are the other Shareholders. Last year, I reported that, at the EBU’s October Shareholders Meeting in the previous year, it had been agreed that the EBU should investigate whether the EBU should apply for charity status or not. Over the past year it became clear that it was not sensible to continue with Charity Status for the whole of the EBU but that for a small part of the EBU’s activities it could work very well. Consequently the EBU are applying for Charity Status for the Educational part with the aims of furthering education in schools and among the youth of today and also to promote bridge through out the population.

Finally

I was on the ECBA Committee from 1994 to 2001 and the only members still on the Committee from those days are Tony Philpott and Margaret Curtis. Both have been of enormous help to me in my role of General Secretary. Tony has been a very easy Treasurer to work with and I am sorry that he has resigned but I am very relieved that he wishes to remain on the Committee. I have known his successor for a long while and I am sure Linda and I will work well together. Again, a great many thanks to Margaret, for being only at the end of a phone line when ever I need to use her experience or to ask for her advice. And of course thanks to all the Committee and many others for their input into our efforts to provide an enjoyable programme of activities and events for all members of our association. Bridge is what we are here for, so without their hard work we would have no bridge outside the club environment. Thank you. Thanks to everyone who helps or participates – without you life would be very dull!

J Audrey Hartley 18 May 2013

Hon Tournament Secretary’s report – 2011/12

This year the county moved into the 21st century by buying 30 Bridgemates and two servers. This means that we don’t have to hire them any more from other clubs, which will lead to a saving for the County.

For some of our competitions we had an increase and some a decrease but generally the total number of competitors is about the same as the previous year.

We introduced two new events this year, the Pro/am and the day time pairs. The Pro/am is similar to the “play with an expert” but the difference is the non-experts find their own Pro partners. The number of entries for the day time pairs has been fairly low but all the competitors have enjoyed the format of the event.

Payment by BACS has been increasing in leaps and bounds during the year. Approximately nearly 40% of all the money received for the entries comes via BACS payments.

My major moan (the only one) for the year is that two out of the three knockout competitions that I am responsible for have not been completed before the AGM. Therefore I have agreed with the members of the ECBA committee a set of rules for arranging matches. As a result of these new rules no match will be allowed to go beyond the date for that particular round. If a match is not played by the specified date one or even both teams will be eliminated from the competition. This is harsh I know (someone described me as being hard) but this seems to me the only that we can complete the competitions before the AGM. I will enforce these rules rigidly!

Nicole Cook has directed most of competitions over the past year but in addition Audrey Hartley and Val Mollison have also directed – and I thank them all for carrying this, sometimes, tricky task!

Ted Cockle May 2013

Hon League Secretary’s report – 2012/13

Quite simply a boring season for the secretary.

No withdrawals, no disputes not much for me to do.

Before going further I wish to thank Bill West for maintaining the League results and tables on the website, they are always updated promptly even when he is on holiday.

There were no surprises in the leagues, most teams performed as expected. In the First Division South East there was a final day escape for one team who avoided relegation.

We had 19 teams in the South East

Division 1 eight teams Division 2 six teams Division 3 five teams

Two teams will be relegated from Division one but only one team will be promoted from Division two We had 8 teams in the West playing in one Division

Next season: I have had applications from two new teams, one in the West and one in the South East. I propose next season to give the SE Division One Teams a working date for each fixture. These may be varied if both captains agree. I believe that an early arrangement of dates will prevent any problems later in the season.

I will also adopt the same strategy as the Competition Secretary in the League Cup and also this season’s Premier League where there is a play by date. If this date passes then both teams will be eliminated. This situation should not arise as the fixtures will be published earlier than usual. Closing date for entering the league and league cup is June 30th, I will assume that all current league teams wish to continue and there is no need for them to apply

Bernie Hunt May 2013

COUNTY NEWS

EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE 2012/2013

A Division		B Division		C Division	
1	Hertfordshire	107	1	Hertfordshire	108
2	Suffolk	87	2	Northamptonshire	98
3	Bedfordshire	84	3	Essex	86
4	Norfolk	82	4	Norfolk	74
5	Essex	70	5	Suffolk	69
6	Northamptonshire	60	6	Bedfordshire	62
7	Cambs. & Hunts.	44	7	Cambs. & Hunts.	54
8	Cambridge University	26	8	Cambridge University	9