



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORTS & ACCOUNTS

For the year 1st May 2014 to 30th April 2015

**Minutes of the 68th Annual General Meeting of the ECBA,
held on Saturday 16th May 2015 at Barleylands.**

Present: P. Mollison (*Hon Chairman*), Mrs A Hartley (*Hon General Secretary*), Linda Fleet (*Hon Treasurer*), B Hunt (*Hon League Secretary*), 5 other Committee Members and 16 other members.

(See Appendix G for full list of attendees)

Apologies for absence: Margaret Curtis, Nigel Bardsley, Ted Cockle, Dennis Valtisiaris, Chris and Sue Taylor, Ian Moss, John Williams, Mary Homer and Wendy and Peter Williamson.

Presentation of Trophies

As there were not sufficient members present at 5 pm to form a quorum for the AGM, the presentation of trophies took place before the meeting to allow time for more members to arrive. The list of trophy winners is included in the newsletter. The presentations were followed by a short break for refreshments and then the AGM was opened.

Special thanks to Dorothy Cundy & Alan Aylott who agreed to come at the last minute to make the meeting quorate.

1. Hon Chairman's Opening Remarks

Paul Mollison welcomed those present and outlined the plans for the evening. He began by expressing the sadness felt by all on hearing about Sue Taylor's serious illness and sent our very best wishes to Sue and Chris at this difficult time.

He offered thanks to the previous chairman, John Williams, who had implemented many positive changes, but resigned in unfortunate circumstances just after last year's AGM. He has been impressed with the amount of work that is undertaken by members of the committee behind the scenes, in particular by Audrey Hartley (as secretary), Ted Cockle (as Tournament Secretary) and Linda Fleet (as Treasurer).

With a few minor exceptions, he felt there was little wrong with the ECBA, and that his main focus since accepting the post of Chairman had been in trying to improve communication with the membership and attempting to boost

attendance at County events. He reported that a survey of just over 200 of the more experienced players in the county had had a response of nearly 50%.

He also reported the increased use of the First Class Bridge Academy at Barleylands by the EBU for heats of various competitions, including Really Easy events, the Portland Pairs and from next year, the National Pairs.

He mentioned the decision by the committee to use some of the financial surplus built up over the last few years to give each affiliated club 1000 ECBA personal scorecards, with a smaller number to be sent to non-affiliated clubs.

He mentioned the committee's plans to develop events for less experienced players.

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 Peter Oake, seconded by Tony Philpott and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Hon Secretary's Report

This is attached in full (Appendix A).

Its adoption was proposed by Tony Philpott, seconded by Alaric Cundy and agreed by the meeting. The Chairman thanked Audrey Hartley for her report.

5. Hon Treasurer's Report

Linda Fleet's report is attached in full (Appendix B).

Copies of the Income and Expenditure Accounts (Appendix C) and the Balance Sheet (Appendix D) were circulated at the meeting.

Acceptance was proposed by Simon Moorman, seconded by Mike Harbour and agreed by the meeting. The Chairman thanked Linda Fleet.

6. Appointment of the Hon Examiner for 2014/2015

The appointment of Michael Vandome as Hon Examiner for 2015/2016 was proposed by Tony Philpott, seconded by Marcia Levan-Harris and agreed by those present.

7. Hon Tournament Secretary's Report

Val Mollison read Ted Cockle's report in his absence. This is attached in full (Appendix E).

Adoption of the report was proposed by Peter Scotting, seconded by Catriona Lovett and agreed by the meeting.

8. Hon League Secretary's Report

Bernie Hunt reported that this was the first year that League results had been posted by the teams directly to the EBU via the EBU's website, which appeared to have worked very well, and fortunately every team had at least one member with internet access.

He reported that there is the possibility of some teams dropping out of next year's league, resulting in fewer teams, but there is likely to be at least one new team. He will be contacting all the league teams in advance of next season to get their opinion on the idea of having smaller divisions with home and away matches.

The adoption of his report was proposed by Pat Johnson, seconded by Marcia Levan-Harris and agreed by the meeting. The Chairman thanked Bernie Hunt.

9. Alterations to the constitution

Two alterations to the constitution were proposed.

The first is to replace the two positions of Teacher Liaison and Schools Officer by one position of Education Officer. This would reflect the fact that we haven't had a Schools Officer for some years now as teaching bridge in schools is difficult for someone outside the school itself, and would better reflect the EBU's structure of a separate charity, EBED, for bridge education. The Education Officer's role would include liaison with any teacher who may start teaching bridge in schools, but he would not be expected to go into schools to teach and/or set up teaching in schools where there is no bridge teacher.

Acceptance of the alteration was proposed by John Sutcliffe and seconded by Marcia Levan-Harris. There were no votes against.

The second was to rectify the omission of any reference to President and Vice president in the constitution, and the proposal was to amend the section concerning Life Members to include details of how individuals are appointed to these positions, and their rights in meetings. The alteration was accepted with a small change to the wording to make it clear there is only one Vice President.

The acceptance of the alteration was proposed by Marcia Levan-Harris and seconded by Albert Kitchin. There were no votes against.

The revised text for the relevant sections of the constitution is attached (Appendix F).

10. Special Resolution proposed by Paul Mollison, seconded by Chris Taylor and Val Mollison

Paul Mollison proposed the following "For the 2015-16 season onwards, all small/medium (e.g. up to 20 tables) Sunday ECBA bridge events be held at Barleylands".

Paul Mollison handed over the chair of the meeting to Tony Philpott for the duration of this agenda item.

Paul presented his case for the change, citing the fact that in the survey conducted last year, Barleylands came out as the most popular venue, However, the main reason for the proposal is the amount of equipment that has to be transported to alternative venues: boards, bidding boxes, cloths, stationery, bridge mates, computer, bridgemate server, tea, coffee, squash, milk, biscuits, cups etc. Points clarified in the discussion that followed was that the proposal would be to use the Education Room at Barleylands, rather than the Bridge Academy room, if there were more than 12 tables, and that the maximum capacity of both rooms is just over 30 tables. Peter Oake proposed that the proposal be amended to include events up to 24 tables, seconded by Peter Scotting,

A vote was then taken with 21 votes for the proposal, 1 vote against and 3 abstentions.

11. Election of Offices

The Officers seeking election or re-election are:-

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Hon. Chairman	Paul Mollison	Audrey Hartley	Theo Todman
Hon. Secretary	Val Mollison	Audrey Hartley	Brian Davies
Hon. Treasurer	Linda Fleet	Dennis Valtisiaris	Margaret Curtis
Hon. Tournament Secretary	Sue Taylor	Dennis Valtisiaris	Theo Todman
Hon. League Secretary	Bernie Hunt	Val Mollison	Ted Cockle

Hon. Membership Secretary	Nigel Bardsley	Margaret Curtis	Ted Cockle
Hon. Education Officer	Keith Thompson	Paul Mollison	Val Mollison
Hon. Web Master	Theo Todman	Sue Taylor	Chris Taylor
Hon. Committee Member	Dennis Valtisiaris	Chris Taylor	Linda Fleet
Hon. Committee Member	Audrey Hartley	Tony Philpott	Alison Spencer

As there were no contested positions, the nominees were elected en masse, proposed by Tony Philpott, seconded by Jon Ward.

12. A.O.B.

Paul Mollison started by stating that this agenda item is to allow members to put forward ideas that they would like the committee to think about, but that there would no voting on issues raised or decisions made.

12.1. The first suggestion from Peter Oake was that we should consider reducing the quorum for an AGM in view of the fact the meeting today started over 1 hour late due to the need to wait for the 3 more people to arrive to make up the quorum of 25. Any new quorum can only be changed by proposing a resolution to be voted on at a future AGM.

12.2. Marcia Levan-Harris suggested a facility on the website to allow people to ask for team mates and/or partners for the county events. Such a facility would allow players to be matched up with others for whom they do not have contact details. Paul Mollison has been offering to match people up on his reminder emails but this has been done only in the last week or so before a competition. Peter Scotting suggested extending the idea to leagues and knock-out competitions. Theo Todman offered to investigate.

12.3. Simon Moorman suggested that more effort should be put into getting clubs to encourage more members to participate in competitions. It was pointed out that all clubs are already contacted about all events with a request to pass on the information to their members and that the committee was already looking at ways to get the list of members email addresses completed and updated so that details of events could be sent to members directly. Marcia Levan-Harris suggested providing slips at clubs for individuals to complete with up-to-date details. Val Mollison agreed to look at this idea.

13. Special Resolution proposed by John Williams, seconded by Albert Kitchin and Alison Spencer

John Williams submitted the following proposal, read in his absence by Paul Mollison:

“The best thanks of the meeting be extended to the Secretary, Audrey Hartley; the Chairman, Paul Mollison and the whole Committee for their hard work over

the last year. And also specifically to Ted Cockle, Alaric Cundy and Tony Philpott all of whom, I understand, will be retiring after a long successful service to the association.”

Paul Mollison then made a presentation to Tony Philpott in recognition of his 40 years of service on the Committee.

Paul Mollison then declared the meeting closed and invited everyone to stay for cheese, wine and a game of bridge

Val Mollison (General Secretary Elect)

Appendix A: Hon. General Secretary's report 2014 - 2015

Good evening Ladies and gentlemen. This is my fourth and last report to you as the General Secretary of the ECBA.

Last AGM

At the last AGM very little appreciation was given to the hard work of all of the Officers of the Association. There were one or two constructive thoughts aired but a lot of criticisms were about things over which the Committees had little control. All of the Committee spend a lot of time and effort to manage the affairs of the ECBA, to set up and run competitions for the enjoyment of members, to seek new competitions to attract more members to take part, to encourage the teaching of bridge to all ages, to help all level of members to improve their standard, to promote "Best Behaviour at Bridge", to provide information to all about our programme of events, to keep abreast of what is happening outside our county, nationally and internationally, to raise funds to help pay the expenses of those representing Essex and to try to reduced costs of all this so that the Essex portion of the P2P can be reduced. The committee members do not get paid for all the work they do, they only get out of pocket expenses.

John William's resignation

The day after the AGM John Williams decided to resign from the committee and the position of Chairman. He had intended to resign at the end of the year and the committee had already been considering the problem of replacing him. The Committee held a special meeting to discuss the problem of a successor and decided to exercise their power under the Constitution to fill this vacancy for the rest of the year by co-option. They advertised for people interested in taking on the role of Chairman, and co-opted Paul Mollison to fill this position.

I would like to put on record the debt owed to John by all Essex members. He took over the Chairmanship at the time of the great upheaval of the introduction of P2P and Universal Membership. All members of clubs that affiliated to the ECBA and hence to EBU became members of the EBU and the clubs were charged per head for each game. Many clubs chose not to affiliate and John spent a lot of time and effort liaising with all clubs to encourage them to stay under the umbrella of the EBU. It is thanks to John and Tony Philpott that we have as many affiliated clubs as we do. The clubs didn't like the Universal Membership per-capita charge imposed by the EBU's policy. John decided to see how Essex could reduce their costs. One of the biggest cost came from the printing of our programmes for our Competitions and the Annual AGM report and Newsletter. It was decided that these would no longer be printed and distributed to all members as all information would be available on the website. They did recognise that there would be some members who did not have internet access and it was decided that, given the names and addresses, hard copy would be posted to them. Since I have been responsible for it, I have sent hard copy to all Club Secretaries for their notice board and an email copy for them to distribute to all club members that can receive emails. This was the biggest saving made though there were others. The P2P charge was made up of an EBU portion, initially of 29p, and an ECBA portion,

initially of 9p. Each year the EBU portion has gone up 1p, while as a result of John and Tony's hard work the Essex portion has reduced by 1p. Thus keeping the P2P charge at the same value. That is until this year, and for this year it was decided to keep the Essex portion at 4p. Besides this work, John was very keen on visiting each affiliated club, joining them for a game and making himself available to answer any questions club members wished to ask. He also visited any non-affiliated club willing to invite him in an effort to try to win them back. He believed that we should be promoting bridge throughout Essex, affiliated or non-affiliated, and that we should make a greater effort to involve the clubs with the Essex Committee and bridge.

Changes to the Committee

Over the year there have been big changes in the committee membership.

Chris Taylor: In the Autumn, Ian Moss retired from the post of Selection Committee Chairman and we were very pleased to welcome Chris Taylor as his replacement. Ian was Chairman for about 4 years and it was he that felt that our A and B squad members needed greater experience against stronger players. To give them that he resurrected the Warboy's Trophy Competition for A and B squad members and entered a team called the Saxons in the London Super League. I would like to thank Ian for all his hard work.

Sandy Riach: After Christmas Sandy Riach, our website manager, decided to resign for health and family reasons. Sandy had done a great job with our website and any requests from committee members were rapidly implemented. Thank you Sandy for all your hard work. We have been very lucky to obtain the services of Theo Todman to take over from Sandy. Theo is retired and has more time to devote to the job and considerable expertise. He has revamped the website and added quite a few innovations which will give service to all members. You are doing a great job Theo.

Tony Philpott: At our January meeting Tony Philpott, Ted Cockle and Alaric Cundy announced their intention to resign at the end of March and not seek re-election. Tony had stayed on the Committee for a while after he resigned from the post of Treasurer because he felt his experience would be useful as support for Linda. Now she is more confidently settled in her post, and he has moved further away and will be playing in Suffolk most of the time he felt it was time to leave the Committee. Thank you Tony for your help and support.

Ted Cockle: Ted has been saying he wished to resign for a couple of years and been persuaded to stay on, but he now feels it is time to go. Ted has dramatically changed the way we deal with entries to our competitions. We can still enter by post or phone and pay by cash or cheque but most entries are now made on the website and increasingly payment is made by BACs. It is possible to see who has entered each competition on the website, so if one is trying to put together a team or find a partner one can see who is already playing and who is not. This is a very useful service. Thanks Ted for all your hard work. Sue Taylor has volunteered to take on the duties of Tournament Secretary, unfortunately Sue is not well at the

moment and her job is being covered by several Committee Members. We send our very best wishes to her.

Alaric Cundy: Alaric has been on the Committee for about 15 years, he took over responsibility for Teacher Liaison from Ann Owen when she left to live in Spain. He has kept very good tabs on teaching in Essex and has worked hard to encourage bridge students to take part in our “Play with an Expert” and “PRO/AM” Competitions, both competitions are doing well, mostly because of Alaric’s success in finding students willing to enter. I have to congratulate our “Experts” who have been very willing to give up their time to partner the students. Keith Thompson has volunteered to take over from Alaric. His new post will be Education Officer with responsibility for liaison with all teachers of bridge.

Me: I had already announced at the time of the last AGM that I wished to resign as General Secretary at the end of the next year; provided that we could find a successor. We have been very fortunate that Val Mollison’s studies have now finished and she is willing to take over this role. I will stay on the Committee as an ordinary Committee member for one more year as there will be so few left with much experience.

So as you can see there will be great changes in the composition of the ECBA Committee for the coming year.

Gift from the ECBA

The EBU decided that they would give to all clubs a set of playing cards for 24 boards. The ECBA thought that was a nice idea and that we should match it in some way. We decided on a supply of score cards. This would save each club a certain amount of money and if we designed it properly it could help both the clubs and the ECBA. What we have produced is a score card that advertises ECBA events. If this encourages more players to enter our events then it may help us to reduce P2P even further.

Competitions

All our competitions have continued as before with one additional competition. The Committee decided that we should try a B-flight competition held at the same time as our Championship Pairs designed for non-squad members. We were delighted that 10 pairs decided to put their toe in the water and try this new event.

In the Eastern Counties League the Essex A team were placed 5th out of 8, the Essex B team were placed 2nd out of 7 and the Essex C team were placed 3rd out of 8. Congratulations to all who took part, but particularly to the B and C squads. The different number of teams taking part for the A, B and C squad is because Cambridge University has a few very good players and the rest have very little experience. They felt that it was too daunting for their second team to play against B-squad players and they asked if they could enter a team against the C-squad instead. In the past if they only had two teams they played against the A and B teams.

In the Metropolitan Cup we fared less well, the A team finishing last, the B team 4th out of 7 and the C team 5th out of 9.

This year the Saxons were in the top four of the second division at the end of the winter round robin and these four teams are now in a playoff round robin to decide who goes forward into division one. Scores from the first round robin are carried forward and the Saxons are now in the lead with 166 VPs and their nearest rivals have 149 VPs. There is one match to go and we wish them good luck.

EBU and County Congress Successes

There were a number of creditable achievements by Essex Members in National Competitions and County GP Congresses. Any one finishing in the top 10 is doing well and quite a few did. I have trawled through the results as best I can and if I have missed anyone out I apologise. The most notable results that I found, restricting myself to first three places, are:

Sim Pairs:

April 2015:	British Spring Pairs	Wednesday	1 st Alan Cohen & George Wilcox
May 2015	EBED	Tuesday	3 rd Andrew Mundy & Paul Cast
May 2015	EBED	Thursday	3 rd Ted Cockle & Tony Philpott

EBU Easter Really Easy Pairs
3rd David Cannan & Jean Cannan

Easter Festival A Flight Swiss Pairs
2nd Tony Verran & Brian Gladman

Bedfordshire March GP Teams
3rd Chris Chorley, Paddy Murray, Richard Perryman & Mike Wren.

EBU Monte Negro Swiss teams
2nd Graham Foster, Frances Alexander, Mike Harbour & David Clark

Brighton Friday Speed Ball Pairs
2nd Nicole Cook & Phil Godfrey

Brighton Friday Speed Ball Pairs
3rd Robert Elliott & Ian Green

Brighton Swiss Pairs
1st Stephanie Burt & Laurie Burt

Summer Seniors' Congress
3rd Graham Foster & Steve Cade-Bowyer

EBU News

The Directors of the EBU are seeking to change the structure of the Laws & Ethics, Selection and Tournament Committees. At present these are Standing

Committees and members are elected by the Shareholders (Essex has three Shareholders). They would like to change these Committees to Sub-Committees with the members being appointed by the Board of Directors. They would like to be able to reduce the number of members in the Tournament Committee and to split the Laws & Ethics Committee into two. At present the L & E deal with the Laws, blue and white books and also the Disciplinary matters. They would like to have the L & E Committee dealing with publications only and create a separate Committee to deal with Disciplinary matters. In a way they already do this to a certain extent, in that they have moved away from judging matters themselves and created a panel of people who have agreed to sit on Conduct and Disciplinary Committees to deal with a problem when it arises. They would like now to divide it more formally. Your Committee are in favour of the L & E split but are less happy about the idea of the Directors appointing the members of these sub-Committees. This matter has been discussed at the last Shareholders meeting and will be again discussed at the Chairmen's Meeting in July. It will then be presented, with some adjustments I hope, at the AGM in November.

The EBU's Tax appeal will be held in July.

Next year's diary had gone to press and would be printed in Scotland and the EBU are reasonably confident it will be ready for the August issue.

Thanks

I would like to thank all of the Committee members past and present for their help and support over the last four years, they have been a pleasure to work with. When I agreed to take over from Margaret as General Secretary I said that I thought they should get some-one younger but that I would do the job if that is what they wanted. Taking over from Margaret was tough, but I had been on the Committee before in the 1990s and early 2000s and for three years I was Tournament Secretary so I had a pretty good idea as to what the job entailed. And in any case Margaret was at the other end of a telephone wire and always willing to help with advice. Bridge is what we are here for, so without the Committee's hard work we would have no bridge outside the club environment. I would like to thank everyone who helps or participates; I believe that Bridge is a very powerful tool to help keep us mentally active and alert so please continue with your efforts. Thank you.

Audrey Hartley (Retiring General Secretary)

Appendix B Hon. Treasurer's Report 2014-2015

Bank Balance at year end

£8,385 - Barclays

£15,188 - Skipton

As you can see from the accounts we had a very similar surplus of income over expenditure to last year of £2,028 (£2,145 - 2014) – I have transferred £601 from the Development fund to cover the mentoring expenses.

Competitions

The majority of the competitions during the year made a surplus and overall this was about a £1,000 which was used basically to fund hotel expenses for the Tollemache team. The GP events in July and September gave us a surplus half share with Herts of £2,100

As it was a bumper year for the GP events last year and in order to ensure that we continue to maintain the status quo the committee have reviewed the expenses and prizes and created a new prize structure that reflects the number of entries to competitions – some have had the prizes reduced by a little and some have had prizes created – mainly the Warboys who in the past have had medals and next year will get vouchers and the winners of the 3 Seniors competitions who in the past have had spoons (the stock of which has run out) and so will also get vouchers

The prizes will be on the website when the new calendar is presented in its final form

P2P

Total for the year £2,863 (£3,731 - 2014) which is a 23% drop. This is due both to falling numbers & disaffiliated clubs and also to the decision to hold the Essex portion to 4p

We unfortunately have had another club disaffiliate – St Edith's and also Burnham who did affiliate but have now withdrawn

The amount of the Essex portion will be put on the agenda for discussion at October meeting this year

Essex & Herts GP

We are starting to get the entries in for this July's event – I think Mike has done a good job making the Entry Form very striking. I hope that we will have a good turnout this year as a proposal has been made to hold a London event the weekend before in 2016. We have made a very strong objection which is going before the EBU Tournament Committee next week

I would like to thank Michael Vandome for his examination of the accounts and Tony Philpott with his help and advice especially in keeping a check on the amount of P2P

Appendix C: Income and Expenditure

Income and Expenditure Account for the 2014/2015 Season

	<u>2014/2015</u>		<u>2013/2014</u>	
	£	£	£	£
<u>P2P, Club and other EBU</u>				
<u>Income</u>	3576		4035	
Less Life Members	-130		-104	
		3446		3931
<u>COMPETITIONS</u>				
<u>Fees</u>	11375		10404	
<u>Sponsorship</u>	200		200	
	<u>11575</u>		<u>10604</u>	
<u>Expenses</u>				
Accommodation and refreshments	5781		5462	
Cost of Duplimate hands and Bridgemates	760		559	
Tournament Directors	1583		1156	
EBU and other charges	652		891	
P2P	315		267	
Donation to Charity			0	
Prizes (including Sponsorship prize)	1785		1691	
	<u>10876</u>		<u>10026</u>	
		699		578
<u>LEAGUES</u>				
Receipts	480		440	
Prizes and EBU Fees	<u>160</u>		<u>120</u>	
		320		320
Interest Received Net (two years included)		308		198
Sale of Surplus Cards		48		
Surplus on joint EBU events		<u>2100</u>		<u>1415</u>
		6921		6442
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
County matches & Tollemache	2528		2195	
Printing and stationery			448	
AGM Current Season	350		590	
AGM Previous Season	0		-190	
Mentoring Expenses	601		0	
TGR Expenses	170		0	
Postage and telephone	669		446	
Engraving and repairs	339		181	
Web Site	88		106	
Bridgemate Purchase			0	
Bidding Box Purchase/Cards			376	
Sundries - Mileage	148		145	

	<u>4893</u>	<u>4297</u>
Excess of Expenditure over Income (2014 Surplus)	2028	2145
Plus Transfer from Development Fund	601	Nil
Plus transfer to New Equipment Fund	Nil	Nil
Plus transfer to Youth Development Fund	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>
	<u>2629</u>	<u>2145</u>

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.

Appendix D: Balance Sheet

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31/03/2015

	31/03/2015	31/03/2014
	£	£
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Stock of vouchers and stamps	70	20
 <u>DEBTORS</u>		
Entry fees due	330	248
 <u>CASH</u>		
On current account and in hand	4872	4971
On Business Bonus Account	3513	3509
Skipton Building Society 90 Day Account	<u>15365</u>	<u>15061</u>
	<u>24150</u>	<u>23809</u>
 <u>LESS CREDITORS</u>		
Hire of halls, fees in advance and prizes	<u>1052</u>	<u>2736</u>
	<u>23098</u>	<u>21073</u>
 <u>REPRESENTED BY</u>		
New Equipment Fund	2500	2500
Youth Development Fund (see Note 1)	802	802
Development fund (See Note 1)	597	1198
Tollemache Reserve Fund (see Note 2)	1000	1000
Capital account	15570	13428
Excess of Income over Expenditure (2013/14 Surplus)	<u>2629</u>	<u>2145</u>
	<u>23098</u>	<u>21073</u>

HONORARY TREASURER: Linda J Fleet

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 31/03/2015

HONORARY AUDITOR: Michael
Vandome

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 but has now been taken back to original amount and the difference held in Development Fund to assist in developing players of any age. During the year £601 was spent on mentoring.

Note 2: The Tollemache Reserve Fund is to cover the extra costs involved on the 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.

Appendix E: Hon Tournament Secretaries Report 2015

1. Over the past year the total number of competitors in Essex competitions was similar to last year. It was disappointing that we had to cancel the Spring day time pairs and currently these day time pairs are not included in our programme. For the other competitions there was an increase over last year in 10 of them and a decrease in 8 of them and for the three remaining ones the same. This year we introduced a new competition the B flight: this was run in parallel to the Championship pairs and although we only had 9 pairs we are hoping to attract more people next year..

2. It's pleasing to report (well it is from my point of view) that over half the money for entry fees comes in via electronic banking. I would encourage everyone who has an on-line bank account to try paying their entry fees with electronic transfer to the ECBA account; it is very easy!

3. Whilst most competitors arrive in plenty of time for tournaments to start on time there are just a few who believe it's ok to arrive a minute or so before the start time of the tournament! I have therefore recommended to the committee that they should draw up some rules along the following lines:

- Anyone who arrives after the director has asked players to be seated (usually about 5 minutes before the start time) will be fined points either IMPs, VPs or a percentage of a top.
- Anyone who arrives after the official start time will be fined double the points agreed for arriving after the director asks players to sit
- There will be special mobile phone number for players to ring if they are held up because of unexpected circumstances, such as a traffic accident. In special circumstances the director might waive the penalty

4. This year I have managed to get all the trophies engraved (excluding the league cups) in time for the AGM. This might seem a simple task but trying to collect all the trophies from all parts of the county is not easy and I would like to thank all the people who collected and gave me the trophies. This means that the three knockout tournaments have again been completed before the AGM.

5. Nicole Cook has directed many of our tournaments throughout the year and I would like to thank her for carrying out this important job for us. In addition the following directors have also directed in the past year:

Val Mollison
Alan Rodger
Bernie Hunt
Audrey Hartley

So I would like to thank them as well

6. I have been Tournament Secretary for the last 7 years and I have enjoyed this interesting job but I have decided to resign and I'm sure the new secretary will enjoy it as well. So have I been a good Tournament Secretary? Of course it's usually difficult to judge oneself but if I was to ask Sir Humphrey (from Yes Minister) he would probably reply with something like "You've done OK".

Thank you Ted Cockle May 2015

Appendix F: Changes to the Constitution

1. The first is to replace "Teacher Liaison" and "Youth Liaison" with "Education Officer", which reflects the combination of these roles and with the EBU's creation of the EBED organisation. Proposed wording:

3.1 The management of the Association shall be vested in the following:

- a. *Hon. Chairman (who acts as the chairman of the committee)*
 - b. *Hon. General Secretary*
 - c. *Hon. Treasurer*
 - d. *Hon. Membership Secretary*
 - e. *Hon. Tournament Secretary*
 - f. *Hon. League Secretary*
 - g. *Hon. Education Officer*
 - h. *Hon. Web-master*
 - i. *Two elected members*
 - j.
2. The second change is to rectify the omission of a reference to President and Vice President within the Life Members paragraph.

Proposed wording:

The Committee of the Association may honour long standing members for their services to the Association by electing them as the President, the Vice-President or as a Life Member of the Association. The President and Vice-President may attend Committee Meetings but have no voting rights. A Life Member of the Association shall be given a sum each year, equal to the direct membership of the EBU enabling the member to join the EBU as a full member by this method, if necessary. These apply only to those members continuing with full membership of the Association.

Appendix G: Attendees

Committee Members

Paul Mollison (*Hon Chairman*)
Audrey Hartley (*Hon General Secretary*)
Linda Fleet (*Hon Treasurer*)
Bernie Hunt (*Hon League Secretary*)
Alaric Cundy (*Hon Teacher Liaison*)
Theo Todman (*Hon Webmaster*)
Tony Philpott
Keith Thompson
Val Mollison

Other Members

Simon Moorman
Peter Oake
Dorothy Cundy
Chris Megahey
Jon Ward
Marcia Levan-Harris
Alan Aylott
Maureen Vede
George Vede
Catriona Lovett
Mike Harbour
Peter Scotting
Pat Johnson
John Sutcliffe
Albert Kitchin
Sheena Millins