



Essex Contract Bridge Association

A constituent member of the English Bridge Union

Hon. President
Mrs. M. Curtis

Hon. Chairman
Paul Mollison

Hon. Tournament Secretary
Nicole Cook
nicole@nicoleanncook.com

Hon Secretary
Val Mollison
val@valmollison.com

Hon. Treasurer
Linda Fleet
linkarb@outlook.com

For all the latest news of bridge in Essex visit <http://www.essexbridge.co.uk>

11 July 2016

Dear Secretary,

Please find enclosed a copy of:

1. The programme of Essex events for September 2016 to May 2017.
2. The 2016 AGM Minutes & Reports
3. The County News Letter for 2015-2016
4. Flyers for your notice board
 - a) main competition programme
 - b) competitions for less experienced players.
 - c) League promotional flyer

I will also send you electronic versions of these by email.

Inter-club Competitions *(If any of your team members have any special dietary requirements please let the ECBA Secretary know a week before the event.)*

The Fletcher Trophy for teams of eight will be held at the Anglo European School on Sunday, October 30th 2016 starting at 14.00 hours. The entry fee is £90 per team of eight which includes provision of a plated tea at the break between sessions.

Entry is by invitation only. The following clubs are invited to enter teams: Alpha, Chelmsford, Collier Row, Hutton, Lingwood, Loughton, Mayflower, Mid-Essex, Mountnessing, Southend & Leigh, Thorpe Bay and Waltham Forest. If any other club would like to be invited to take part in the Fletcher Trophy please contact the Tournament Secretary to discuss this.

The Club Teams of Four Trophy: will be at the Anglo European School alongside the Fletcher Trophy on Sunday, October 30th 2016 starting at 14.00 hours. The entry fee is £45 per team of four which includes provision of a plated tea at the break between sessions.

All clubs are invited to enter one or more teams of four for this competition. It is an ideal event to give up and coming players and middle ranking club players experience in a teams event as many of Essex's strongest players will be playing in the Fletcher Trophy. The turnout for this competition was disappointingly low last year. We urge you to support this event by entering a team whether or not you are entering a team in the Fletcher. If you have players who would like to enter but you cannot raise a complete team then please contact me and we will try to find some extra players. This year we have decided we will also consider players who put their own teams together to represent a club or to enter as an independent team, so even if your club is not willing to pay for a team, please let your players know that they can enter themselves.

P.T.O

The Ray Cornell Trophy: will take place at Anglo European School on Sunday, February 12th 2017 starting at 14.00 hours. The entry fee £55 per team of four which includes provision of a plated tea at the break between sessions. Clubs may enter one or more teams.

This event is two competitions in one. Firstly, the competition is a simple multi-teams of four format of four with the trophy going to the winners. Secondly, is the competition to win the right for the club to represent Essex in the Garden Cities Competition. To be eligible a club must enter two teams designated A and B. If a club enters more than two teams the A and B teams must be named before the start of the competition. The winning club is the club whose A and B teams' positions when added together has the lowest value; and the club will receive the prize of £200 to help defray the costs of representing Essex in the Garden Cities Competition.

Leagues

The number of teams in the Leagues has been dwindling for several years now. We would like your help in trying to reverse this trend. First of all, could you encourage your players to consider entering a team. There are several divisions in the league which means that the leagues suit all standards of players.

With this in mind we want to draw your attention to the proposed **new Friendly Fours League**, specifically designed to suit teams with little or no experience of teams. Details are included on the enclosed programme. To make it as easy as possible for teams to get involved we would like to ask if your club would allow teams to play their home matches at your club, with the teams paying the normal table money to do so. We feel this would help those teams who might find the prospect of supplying refreshments and sorting out the mechanics of the match a little daunting at first. It would also give these new teams access to a director on the night to solve any procedural problems.

We would also like to point out if there are any players who would like to play but can't find team mates (for the Friendly Fours or the main leagues) that we are willing to try and match players up with team mates of a similar standard. We already have a few names for the Friendly Fours. As an extra incentive, we would like to offer new league players free entry to a seminar on teams tactics. We will put together a guide on how to run a teams match for those who need it.

New Mentored Switch Teams

We are also planning to run a trial of a new type of competition, again aimed at giving experience to players with little or no teams experience called the Mentored Switch Teams. This would consist of one experienced player playing with three less experienced players, playing roughly one third of the boards with each other member of the team. This will be a single session event, playing approximately 21 boards (subject to the number of teams entering). Ideally non-experts should enter as a threesome, but we will put together pairs and individuals as necessary to form teams. Players can find their own "mentor" or we will find mentors for them.

I have included a flyer to promote both the leagues and the new mentored teams and I hope you will draw this to the attention of your members.

Yours sincerely

Val Mollison. ECBA Secretary