



Essex Contract Bridge Association

A constituent member of the English Bridge Union

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 19.30 on Wednesday 30 October 2019 at Paul and Val Mollison's house – Tekoa Lodge, Mayes Lane, Sandon, Essex, CM2 7RW

Present Petra Bromfield, Linda Fleet, Paul Mollison, Val Mollison, Sue Thorburn

1. **Welcome** Paul Mollison welcomed those present. Apologies received from Bernie Hunt, Pat Johnson, John Sutcliffe and Dennis Valtisiaris
2. **Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 19 June 2019** 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)

General The annual report of club officers has been made to the EBU.

Bridge in schools Val Poter continues to do a great job introducing bridge to Essex schools. He will be asked to join the committee and be the Single Point of Contact with the EBU on education.

b. Treasurer (Linda Fleet)

Bank Balance (at 25.10.2019)

£9,270 - Barclays & Lloyds (Compared to £9,143 at 25.10.18)

£15,994 - Skipton as at 01.04.2019 (Compared to £15,826 01.04.2018) (the rate has reduced again to 1%)

Competitions The Warboys series of events continue to make a small surplus each month which covers the cost of the overall prize. The Autumn Daytime Pairs was not as well attended as the Summer Daytime Pairs and so there was a small loss overall.

The entries for the Fletcher and Cup for Clubs were significantly less than last year with over £200 less received in fees so they will show a loss when all the charges are received. Hopefully next year, when the event is to be held at Barleylands, the numbers will increase. The Cup for Clubs may attract more teams if there were fewer boards. This can be considered next year when it is planned to be run as a separate event.

There are still some UM charges to come in from EBU so last year's figures have been used.

UM For the six months April/Sept 2019 the UM payment received by ECBA is £1,273 - (£1,257- 2018).

Electronic Banking Paying by BACS through Lloyds is working very well. We are still transferring money by cheque from Barclays but I will contact them and arrange to set up a DD.

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c. Tournament Secretary (Val Mollison)

Events There were a few problems when Cath Fox did the computer for the Margaret Curtis in June. Val has revised the notes and will be available (from home) to help on future occasions. She will do the set-up for the Sue Taylor and make sure the correct number of boards are specified. She will let Bernie know board numbers as soon as possible.

Richard Banbury is booked for Mixed pairs and Swiss Pairs. He had to drop out of the Cornell but Rob Sassoon has been booked instead.

Last year's knockouts are complete and the new competition is underway. The competition descriptions showing the new length of matches in the semi-finals and finals have yet to be updated. The correct length shows on the competitions and Val will make sure players know before semi-finals start

County matches The software change needed for county matches in the new version works fine. There is now another glitch with uploading to Bridgewebs. There is a clunky workaround which Richard Banbury has referred to Jonathan Lillycrop at EBU. Val is liaising with them to get it resolved.

M&S food as a buffet seems to working out OK.

Directing and Scoring The event computer guide is complete subject to checking. A troubleshooting guide will be compiled as different problems occur

d. League Secretary (Bernie Hunt)

A team has dropped out of the premier league so a straight 3 league Essex wide set up will be run.

e. Webmaster (Petra Bromfield)

Petra thanked committee members and others for prompt feedback which enabled her to keep the website up to date. She will double check the links between different pages to check all content matches eg competition start times.

She will liaise with Val to ensure neither have problems with the latest version of Bridgewebs.

f. Shareholders

Linda is keeping a watching eye on this but it is expected that Dennis will be more active when he returns to the UK. All reports are on the EBU website.

5. **Herts/Essex joint venture.** The GP events in July and September have resulted in a proposed distribution to each county of £1,750.
The July surplus was £1,920.85 (down £373.41 on July 2018 but the September surplus was £1,580.46 (up £443.76 on September 2018) giving an Overall Surplus £3,501.31
Herts have their committee meeting this week and when both counties have approved the results the money will be transferred.
6. **Payment of prizes** It was agreed that, as far as possible all payments would be by BACS and would be made shortly after the results of an event were finalised.
7. **Seniors Cup** Although the competition has been revised to a daytime event open to all age groups there is still a seniors cup and Val maintains a separate spreadsheet of results. It was agreed there should be a proposal at the AGM to discontinue this trophy.
8. **AGM** The AGM is scheduled for 10 May but this is now a Bank Holiday weekend. It was agreed the AGM and mixed teams should move to 3 May. Petra will put this on the website and Sue will notify club secretaries.
9. **Date of next meeting** The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15 January 2020 at Val and Paul's home. Paul then closed the meeting. The committee would like to thank Val and Paul for their hospitality.