



Essex Contract Bridge Association

A constituent member of the English Bridge Union

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 19.30 on Zoom on Wednesday 24 February 2021

Present Bernie Hunt, Pat Johnson, Paul Mollison, Val Mollison, Valdie Poter, John Sutcliffe, Sue Thorburn

Apologies Petra Bromfield, Linda Fleet

Before the committee meeting, Cath Fox outlined the work she has been doing to investigate support for bridge in the future. The committee felt the proposed calendar would have little application for arranging county events and prioritised continued support for Valdie Poter's Youth bridge initiatives. She has prepared the attached presentation to a conference The New Bridge Normal: Opportunities and Challenges on 29 June. She felt attendance of a representative from Essex could be helpful

1. **Welcome** Valdie Poter welcomed those present.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting held on Friday 4 December 2020** 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 secretary on behalf of the chairman.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes not already included in the agenda** None
4. **Reports from Officers**

a. General Secretary (Sue Thorburn)

The only communication from the EBU that needs noting is regarding a banned player.

b. Treasurer (Linda Fleet)

Bank Balance at 30.11.2020

£11,288.53 Barclays and Lloyds (£9,871.85 - November 2020)

(including £240.75 held for refunding from cancelled competitions in 2020)

This includes a bequest of £1000 from the estate of Margaret Curtis.

£16,163.20 – Skipton

Competitions The Mixed Pairs, Gwen Herga and Swiss Pairs were all well attended. The competition breakdown is attached.

UM The EBU has been asked to refund any UM due to the county. The EBU subscription list is attached.

Independent examiner Petra was thanked for producing an independent examination of the accounts to 31 March 2020.

c. Tournament Secretary (Val Mollison)

In addition to the issues discussed in minute 8, Val felt the only item of note was the need to have a procedure to deal with non-payment of entry fees for online competitions. It was agreed that a cut-off of at least 24 hours before the event should be in place. If payment has not been received the entry will not be allowed. This should avoid the need to impose sanctions for non-payment

d. League Secretary (Bernie Hunt)

Essex has been invited to play in a Home Counties Teams of 8 competition for B and C squads. It can be played on BBO or RealBridge..

Bernie raised the question of the resumption of the Essex league. Although there are many advantages to playing on line there are a number of regular league players who will only play face to face. It was agreed to postpone a decision to the next meeting when more information on the resumption of face-to-face bridge should be available.

e. Shareholders

It was agreed there should be no immediate appointment of a third shareholder.

f. Webmaster (Petra Bromfield)

Nothing to report

5. **Herts/Essex joint venture.** The event on 31 July/1 August will be on RealBridge. The venue has been booked for September 18/19 with the possibility of face-to-face bridge under review
6. **Friends of Essex award** Paul felt this was outdated and not a meaningful awarded. It was agreed there would be no further awards
7. **ECL format** John said that in general the captains supported playing online with the option to reintroduce face to face play when possible. The main advantage is the greater flexibility in choosing a date partly due to the removal of the need to travel. Some players are unwilling to play online and thus the squad sizes are reduced. However, the plan is to continue with three teams.

8. **Review of online county events** The Gwen Herga and the Swiss Pairs took place without any serious problems. It was agreed a cut off was needed (see minute 4c) and that players need to recognize there are sometimes issues with emails and the onus is on them to contact the county. Players should be instructed to contact the ECBA if they don't receive the RealBridge link by a certain date.

Pat had identified potential slots for three events:

18 April Championship Pairs
9 May Mixed Teams
20 June Margaret Curtis

The main issue running events online is to select the right platform. RealBridge is better for teams but is not mature software. BBO is more stable and more suitable for pairs. Essex has county level directors experienced in RealBridge but not in BBO although Valdie felt this was easily remedied either by employing an experienced director or finding a candidate to be trained.

It was agreed the Championship Pairs should go ahead and Val will research the best platform and format. Bernie felt ten tables was the likely number of entrants which will affect the format. Val said Sue's suggestion to allow players from other counties but who would not qualify for the Corwen was not viable.

Paul felt the other competitions should not be run although Valdie and Sue felt Essex should be doing more to improve their profile by supporting events and thus encourage bridge in the county. It should not concentrate purely on "county events". After a full discussion it was agreed the Mixed teams would not take place but the slot for the Margaret Curtis would be kept open although it may be pairs rather than teams.

9. **Youth bridge** Valdie will supply Paul with the text of an email to circulate encouraging online bridge for young people. There were still some safeguarding issues to resolve. **LATER** A Youth bridge website has been created.

The remaining items on the agenda will be held over to the next meeting.

10. **Date of next meeting** The next meeting will be held on Zoom at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5 May 2021. Valdie then closed the meeting.

[illegible]

THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION
SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE MEMBERSHIP YEAR 2021/2022
Fees valid from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

| | Direct Members UK | | | Club Subscription | | | Universal Membership Fees | | |
|---|-------------------|--------|-------|---|--------|-------|---------------------------|--------|-------|
| | EBU | County | Total | EBU | County | Total | EBU | County | Total |
| AVON | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.07 | 0.47 |
| BEDFORDSHIRE | 32.00 | 5.50 | 37.50 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.09 | 0.49 |
| BERKS & BUCKS | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.04 | 0.44 |
| CAMBS & HUNTS | 32.00 | 5.00 | 37.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.10 | 0.50 |
| CHANNEL ISLANDS | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.20 | 0.60 |
| CORNWALL | 32.00 | 3.00 | 35.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.08 | 0.48 |
| CUMBRIA | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.00 | 0.40 |
| DERBY | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.05 | 0.45 |
| DEVON | 32.00 | 3.00 | 35.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.04 | 0.44 |
| DORSET | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.08 | 0.48 |
| ESSEX | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.00 | 0.40 |
| GLOUCESTERSHIRE | 32.00 | 5.00 | 37.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.05 | 0.45 |
| HANTS & IOW | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.04 | 0.44 |
| HEREFORD | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.07 | 0.47 |
| HERTFORDSHIRE | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.04 | 0.44 |
| ISLE OF MAN | 32.00 | 6.00 | 38.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.15 | 0.55 |
| KENT | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.06 | 0.46 |
| LANCASHIRE | 32.00 | 4.00 | 36.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.02 | 0.42 |
| LEICESTERSHIRE | 32.00 | 4.00 | 36.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.08 | 0.48 |
| LINCOLNSHIRE | 32.00 | 5.00 | 37.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.07 | 0.47 |
| LONDON | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.08 | 0.48 |
| MANCHESTER | 32.00 | 6.00 | 38.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.00 | 0.40 |
| MERSEYSIDE & CHESHIRE | 32.00 | 4.00 | 36.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.04 | 0.44 |
| MIDDLESEX | 32.00 | 5.00 | 37.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.07 | 0.47 |
| NORFOLK | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.00 | 0.40 |
| NORTHANTS | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.02 | 0.42 |
| NORTH-EAST | 32.00 | 5.00 | 37.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.05 | 0.45 |
| NOTTINGHAMSHIRE | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.00 | 0.40 |
| OXFORD | 32.00 | 4.00 | 36.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.01 | 0.41 |
| SOMERSET | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.02 | 0.42 |
| STAFFS | 32.00 | 5.00 | 37.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.06 | 0.46 |
| SUFFOLK | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.07 | 0.47 |
| SURREY | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.00 | 0.40 |
| SUSSEX | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.07 | 0.47 |
| WARWICKSHIRE | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.07 | 0.47 |
| WESTMORLAND | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.06 | 0.46 |
| WILTSHIRE | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.00 | 0.40 |
| WORCESTERSHIRE | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.08 | 0.48 |
| YORKSHIRE | 32.00 | 0.00 | 32.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.40 | 0.05 | 0.45 |
| Direct members only: UK £32.00 Overseas £41.00 | | | | Club Fee, via County £54 for clubs who play less than 26 UM sessions per year. | | | | | |
| Junior members: 26 and under on 1/1/21 Free | | | | University: £5.00 Schools: N/A | | | | | |

Updated 02/02/2021

