



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 5 May 2021

Present Petra Bromfield, Linda Fleet, Pat Johnson, Valdie Poter, John Sutcliffe, Sue Thorburn

Note Paul and Val Mollison are taking a break from the committee because of personal issues. Sue Thorburn is acting as chairman in Paul's absence. Valdie Poter and Bernie Hunt have resigned although Valdie will attend the committee to discuss Youth bridge.

1. **Welcome** Sue Thorburn welcomed those present.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 24 February 2021** 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 acting chairman.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes not already included in the agenda** None
4. **Reports from Officers**

a. General Secretary (Sue Thorburn)

The EBU had issued a set of guidelines for resumption of Face-to-Face bridge but there are still a number of unknowns. The EBU are meeting for further discussions on 26 May. Only clubs with reasonably large premises to allow social distancing and a good supply of boards etc. will find it possible to resume. Bernie Hunt plans to reopen on 21 June. He has offered the use of his premises to other clubs but this may not be practical for clubs with members that wish to play locally.

Sue had looked at the number of affiliated clubs. Since the pandemic started 4 clubs Collier Row, Ilford, Monday and Old House have ceased operation. Brevion have disaffiliated. Sue will try to confirm whether Rochford and Rayleigh is still in operation. There is one new affiliated club, Maple. It is a small private club.

It was recognized that more clubs may find it difficult to resume if numbers playing F2F drop and clubs are no longer financially viable. It may also be difficult to find volunteers to run the clubs. Some clubs may choose to amalgamate. It was felt that a smaller number of well attended clubs may be preferable and that the more successful clubs would be those offering a mix of online and F2F. When the position on resumption is clearer the committee will have to consider what assistance can be given to clubs hoping to resume F2F. A list of current affiliate clubs is attached.

There had been a steady trickle of player bans during the pandemic including Essex members Andrew and Anne Smith.

b. **Treasurer** (Linda Fleet)

Bank Balance at 03.05.2021

£10,465.30 - Barclays and Lloyds (£10,002.00 – 31.03.2020)

(including £163.25 held for refunding from cancelled competitions in 2020)

(It also includes bequest of £1,000 from Margaret Curtis ring fenced for special use)

There had been some problems because of the complex mandate at Barclays but Sue now had received a code from Barclays to allow online authorization.

£16,224.91 – Skipton as at 01/04/2021 (£16,163.01 – 01/04/20)

Competitions Attendance at the Championship Pairs was about average. The competition breakdown is attached. There is a balance of £123 to offset against the Corwen entry of £400.

UM Nothing to report.

Insurance There had been a series of emails from the EBU about their insurance policy. Linda had been keeping an eye on this but the EBU now seem to have resolved the issues.

Independent examiner The accounts for the year end 31.03.2021 have been given to Petra for independent examination.

c. **Tournament Secretary** (Pat Johnson)

Pat has kindly stood in for both Val and Bernie.

Championship Pairs Qualifier There was a problem with some players being blocked from registering. This was because they had paid ECBA and not Ibex. Nicole had been given the names of the entrants but they were still blocked and this meant that Linda had to contact a number of people on the day. The actual event ran smoothly.

We have now decided to use Alan Rodger and RealBridge in future

Home Counties League Following Bernie's resignation, Pat agreed to take over the running of the league. Jon Ward will take over one of the teams, using C squad players and Pat will run the other one using B squad players.

Pat is liaising with Alan Rodger who will direct and set up our home matches on RealBridge. He had a few outstanding questions which Pat has resolved. This will give him good practice for the County matches. He will be paid £30 for a 24board session.

2021/22 Calendar Pat circulated the draft calendar (attached). The date for the Sue Taylor will be decided when the Tollemache date is confirmed.

Subject to Pat confirming Alan Rodger's availability, the Margaret Curtis will be held on RealBridge on 26 June. It will switch to a straight Pairs competition. Once Pat can confirm Alan's availability, Petra will publish details on the website.

Margaret Curtis Pairs - 24 boards

1.00pm 26 June on RealBridge

£10 per pair entry, no prizes

LATER Alan Rodger has confirmed he is available.

When sending the payment confirmation Linda will send either the link or a password to use the link on the website to players.

d. Shareholders

Nothing to report

e. Webmaster (Petra Bromfield)

Business as usual

5. **Herts/Essex joint venture.** The Herts committee met last week and proposed that the July and September 2021 events take place online. From 2022 until the foreseeable future the July event will be F2F and September 2022 event will continue to be played on line. It was agreed agreement from Essex could be confirmed with the Herts committee.

6. **Youth Bridge** Valdie Poter gave an update of his work on Youth bridge

Schools Because of the pandemic nothing has happened since March 2020. Valdie will start making enquiries with the schools whether they are prepared for us to do online teaching on real bridge or whether we could go back to teaching at schools in late autumn which maybe an issue for buddies

Expenses Total expenses to date are £695.20. £500 had been allocated but this will soon need topping up. It was agreed the £1000 bequest from Margaret Curtis should be made available to Valdie. It would be a fitting tribute to her and should be publicised in her name.

EBED Val is in touch with the new EBED Youth Coordinator - Joan Bennett. She is co-ordinating a school start from September. More to follow. EBED have also agreed to give free membership to the children if they wish to join the EBED online school.

Website A Bridgewebs page called Youth and School bridge club has been set up. It is currently running on a trial licence. A budget of £100 a year is suggested to keep the site running.

Youth Bridge Holiday Club Bernie, assisted by volunteers, has agreed to give a taster lesson at his club on Saturday 3rd and 10th July. If there are enough children and everything in place, there will be a day a week summer holiday club to do a fast-track learning at Barleylands and/or another venue depending on the response. Children will be charged £36 for a 6-week course.

Communication Valdie is considering whether the best route was via club secretaries or headteachers. It was agreed there should be no charge for Youth Bridge as long as the Margaret Curtis bequest was available.

Valdie has spoken to some other counties about joining forces to ensure we get a critical mass of children. Other counties will need to contribute to the cost.

7. **AGM** Because of the pandemic there was no AGM in 2020. Linda was concerned that there were now two sets of accounts which she felt could not be published because they had not been agreed by an AGM. After a discussion about the pros and cons of a live or virtual AGM it was agreed to announce the plan to hold an AGM on 12 September with time and format to be confirmed. We also need to decide if there will be a Mixed Teams competition on the same date.
8. **Resignation from ECBA and selection committee** John is looking for a replacement for Bernie Hunt as B team captain. In the interim he felt there were no issues as Robert Elliott has selected both A and B teams. **LATER** Brian Davies has agreed to be captain at least until F2F bridge resumes in earnest.

With little activity at present there is no immediate need to add to the ECBA committee. The AGM includes the committee re-election and at that stage we should know more about the plans for Val and Paul Mollison's return.

9. **BAMSA conference** Cath Fox had outlined the draft of her paper for the conference at the last meeting and Paul Meyer has now recorded a presentation. It is not strictly an Essex event but is advertised on the website and members are encouraged to attend. Valdie said there is a group in the midlands doing excellent work on moving bridge forward. He will give Sue details.
10. **Any Other Business** Pat had circulated correspondence between the counties about alerting rules and system cards. John will talk to Robert Elliott and Jon Ward and agree the procedure. System cards can be sent to the EBU or go on the Essex website.
11. **Date of next meeting** The next meeting will be held on Zoom at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11 August 2021. It was agreed all future meetings should be on Zoom and Valdie kindly offered the use of the Chelmsford licence. Sue then closed the meeting.

Affiliated Essex clubs May 2021

Alpha
Apple
Billericay Mayflower
Chelmsford
Felsted
Hamlet Court
Hutton
Lingwood
Loughton
Maple
Mid Essex
Mountnessing
Rochford & Rayleigh ?
Southend and Leigh
St Annes
Thorpe Bay
Upminster and Cranham
Waltham Forest
Westbury
Woodham Ferrers

Competition	Date	Entry Fees	Entry Fee 2020/2021	Room Hire	Refreshment	Competitions 2020/2021				UM	Profit/ Loss	
						Tournament Directors	Hands Bridge mates	Prizes	Capitation			
Champ Pairs Pairs 2018/19			30.00								0.00	**
Teams of Four			30.00								0.00	***
Switch Cup			18.00								0.00	
Mixed Teams			20.00								0.00	
Club Pairs			10.00								0.00	
Margaret Curtis			36.00								0.00	
Warboys & B Flight			5.00								0.00	
Warboys & B Flight			5.00								0.00	
Warboys & B Flight			5.00								0.00	
Warboys & B Flight			5.00								0.00	
Warboys & B Flight			5.00								0.00	
Warboys & B Flight			5.00								0.00	
Warboys & B Flight			5.00								0.00	
Warboys & B Flight			5.00								0.00	
Warboys Overall Winners											0.00	
Summer Daytime Pairs			16.00								0.00	
Autumn Daytime Pairs			16.00								0.00	
Fletcher			70.00								0.00	
Cup Clubs Teams			35.00									
Sue Taylor Trophy			36.00								0.00	
Mixed Pairs	13/12/2020	325.00	12.50			101.60				36.92	186.48	
Swiss Pairs	21/02/2021	462.50	12.50			120.00	inc estimate for Realbridge & UM			82.80	259.70	
Gwen Herga	24/01/2021	250.00	10.00			71.60				40.00	138.40	
Cornell Sponsorship											0.00	
Cornell Trophy			35.00								0.00	****
Spring Daytime Pairs			16.00								0.00	
Daytime Pairs Cup											0.00	
Championship Pairs 2	18/04/2021	323.00	15			200.00	Run by Ibex inc Ums			400.00	-277.00	
Sub Total		1360.50		0.00	0.00	493.20	0.00	0.00	400.00	159.72	307.58	
Division 1	2019/20		20								0.00	
Division 2	2019/20		20								0.00	
Division 3	2019/20		20								0.00	
		0.00		0.00	0.00	493.20	0.00	0.00	400.00	159.72	307.58	
One Day Event*		0.00			Minus Warboys on day							*
Total		0.00		0.00	0.00	493.20	0.00	0.00	400.00	159.72	307.58	
							0.00			159.72		

Month	Sat	Sun	National	Essex	Midweek	Date	National	Essex
April	4	5			6th-10th	8th		Warboys
						Mon-Thurs	Sims	
						10th	Easter Festival	
	11	12	Easter Festival		13-17	13th	Easter Festival	
	18	19	National Pairs Final		20-24	22nd		
						24th	Jersey Festival	
	25	26	25th Garden Cities Regional	Championship pairs/B flight	27th-1st		Jersey Festival	
			Shropshire Congress					
			Jersey Festival					
May	2	3		Mixed teams/ AGM	4th-8th		Bank Holiday	
	9	10	Bank Holiday w/e			13th		Warboys
			Swiss Teams Congress		11th-15th	Mon-Thurs	Sims	
	16		GP Avon Northants Sussex		18th-22nd			
		17	GP Avon Kent Mersey/Cheshire	Cambis University Away				
	23	24	Spring Bank Holiday Congress		25th-29th		Half term	
			Bank Holiday w/e			25th	Spring Bank Holiday Congress	
	30	31	Corwen		1st-5th			
June	6	7	Pachabo Oxford congress	7th Club Pairs				
	13		Garden CitiesNational		8th-12th	10th		Warboys
		14			15th-19th			
	20		GP Berks & Bucks Leics		22nd-26th			
		21	Fathers Day					
			GP Beds Berks & Bucks Dorset					
					24th-28th	26th	English Riviera Congress	
	27	28	English Riviera Congress	28th Margaret Curtis	29th-3rd	3rd	Eastbourne Summer Seniors	
July	4	5	Eastbourne Summer Seniors		6th-10th	8th		Warboys
	11	12	London Congress		13th-17th			15thDaytime Pairs
	18	19	GP Herts & Essex		20th-24th	22nd-26th	Scarborough Summer Festival	
	25	26	Scarborough Summer festival	26th Herts Home	27th-31st	31st-9th	Summer Festival Eastbourne	
August	1	2	Summer Festival Eastbourne		3rd-7th		Summer Festival Eastbourne	
	8	9	Summer Festival Eastbourne		10th-14th	12th		Warboys
	15	16			17th-21st			
	22	23		Suffolk Away	24th-28th			