



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 6 April 2022

Present Petra Bromfield, Pat Johnson, Paul Mollison, Val Mollison, Sue Thorburn
Apologies Linda Fleet

1. **Welcome** Paul Mollison welcomed those present.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 12 January 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 on behalf of the chairman.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes not already included in the agenda** Val confirmed she will continue to talk to other counties about combining online events.
4. **Reports from Officers**

a. General Secretary (Sue Thorburn)

F2F bridge is still running well below pre-pandemic levels. An update on the position is attached.

Sue has received some comments following the request for ideas on restructuring bridge in Essex. She will give it another week or two before circulating.

b. Treasurer (Linda Fleet)

Bank Balance at 12.01.2022

£10,617 - Barclays and Lloyds (£10,465 – May 2021)

£16,224 – Skipton (£16,163 – April 2020)

Competitions The Gwen Herga profit was £92 and the Cornell £51. Barbara Cornell again sponsored the competition and her donation has been given to First Class Bridge as the winning club.

The question of reintroducing prizes will be reviewed when we have a better idea on how the reintroduction of F2F bridge is going.

Independent Examiner Petra will be independent examiner for the 2021/22 accounts.

Friendly matches It was agreed friendly matches will only be funded by the ECBA if agreed by the committee.

c. Tournament Secretary (Val Mollison)

Teams of 4 There is a difference of opinion between teams playing in competitions which means it is necessary to set default arrangements. The default will be F2F but matches can be online if both teams agree. If a team refuses to play F2F they will forfeit the match.

Gwen Herga Low numbers have made it difficult to continue with two sections and it may be necessary to run a single event in future,

Championship Pairs Val confirmed this will continue to be for Essex players only as long as there are sufficient entries.

d. Shareholders (Linda Fleet)

Nothing to report

e. Webmaster (Petra Bromfield)

Business as usual. Petra is keeping an eye on the changes in the booking system.

f. Calendar (Pat Johnson)

Pat has circulated the draft calendar. EBU dates for 2022/23 are now available but there are still some ECL matches to finalise. She will give Petra updates for publication.

It was agreed that low numbers mean there is potential for cancellation so it is important to have early registration and an early cut off date to avoid unnecessary booking of an outside director.

5. **Herts/Essex joint venture.** The 30/31 July 2022 event is f2f and Linda will contact Bernie to confirm he will continue to provide tea and biscuits.

EBU licences are now conditional of at least one of the GP days are f2f and have agreed that the 17/18 September 2022 and 16/17 September 2023 can be online with a 50% increase in the licence fee

6. **Chairman of Selectors** Ian Moss has expressed an interest in being chairman of selectors. Paul will discuss this with him.

7. **AGM** The AGM will take place at 2.30 on 14 May. There will not be a full competition but there can be casual play after the event. Tea and biscuits will be available in Bernie's room and Val will provide some wine.

8. **Date of next meeting** The next meeting will be held on Zoom at 7.30pm on 29 June 2022. Paul then closed the meeting

F2F bridge at affiliated Essex Clubs

The information below has been taken from their websites. Last update 6 April 2022

Tables	March 2022	Nov 2021
Apple	4.5-7	7-9.5
Billericay Mayflower	6.5-7.5	6-9
Possible merger with Mountnessing?		
Brevion	8-11	9-10
Encourages inexperienced players so comparable to unaffiliated clubs.		
Chelmsford	No F2F bridge. Several online sessions	
Felsted	4.5-7	6.5-9
Hamlet Court	No website.	
Possible merger with Thorpe Bay?		
Hutton – no venue. Online only.		
Lingwood –F2F suspended. May reopen in May		
Loughton	3-4.5	2.5-6.5
Mid-Essex	Several F2F and online sessions. March numbers very similar to November	
Mountnessing	4.5-7.5	7-8.5
Rochford & Rayleigh	Seems to have reopened as Rayleigh. Not on EBU website so assume unaffiliated	
Southend & Leigh	2-10.5	3.5-12
St Anne’s	4.5-6.5	5-8
Thorpe Bay	4.5-11.5	5.5-13.5
F2F sessions are afternoon only		
Upminster & Cranham	6-8	5.5-9.5
Waltham Forest	3-3.5	no F2F
Westbury	5-9	6-8.5

Anecdotally daytime sessions are more successful than evening although numbers are down. Unaffiliated clubs also seem to be doing better although numbers are lower than pre-pandemic.