



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 12 January 2022

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

1. **Welcome** Paul Mollison welcomed those present.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 11 August 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** None
4. **Reports from Officers**

a. General Secretary (Sue Thorburn)

Sue has been keeping track of F2F bridge resuming in Essex clubs. Several clubs are finding the numbers at evening sessions are very low and the viability of some clubs is now in question. Daytime sessions are more popular. A number of clubs are continuing their online sessions. An update on the position is attached.

The possibility of financial support for clubs will be kept under review.

b. Treasurer (Linda Fleet)

Bank Balance at 12.01.2022

£10,830 - Barclays and Lloyds (£11,288 – February 2021)

£15994 – Skipton

Competitions The Mixed Pairs profit was £113 and the Swiss Pairs (combined with Somerset) profit was £100. There are currently 13 entries for the Gwen Herga.

UM At the AGM the EBU agreed an increase in the charge to 42p with a 50% surcharge for online events. The Direct Members fee is £33 and club annual fee £27. It was agreed the Essex portion would remain unchanged at 4p and, in order to help clubs, we would not charge this during the pandemic.

c. Tournament Secretary (Val Mollison)

Swiss Pairs Running an online session with Somerset worked well. Val agreed with Pat's suggestion that she should look at working with other counties. Linda recommended counties combining for an event should charge the same amount.

Cornell There is no interest in a F2F event and although online take-up may be low the competition needs to be run as it is the qualifier for the Garden Cities. Val will liaise with Richard Banbury. If numbers are very low a league could be set up and clubs could arrange their own matches.

Entries to events These need to be clearer and easier to access on the website. It was agreed the Bridgewebs list of entries feature should be used. Val will make sure she gives Petra full details of an event eg number of boards for publication on the website.

Directing Val is aware that she needs to keep an eye on the availability of directors particularly if F2F picks up.

Selection Committee John Sutcliffe is giving up the chairmanship of the selection committee. He will chair the meeting planned for late January but a replacement needs to be found.

d. Shareholders (Linda Fleet)

Linda was unable to attend the meeting. The minutes are now on the EBU website
Nothing to report

e. Webmaster (Petra Bromfield)

Business as usual. Petra asked that people keep her informed of all information to be published on the website.

5. **Herts/Essex joint venture.** The July 2021 event made £502 and the September made £464. The dates for 2022 are 30/31 July (F2F) and 17/18 September (Real Bridge). Alan Woof, who has been doing a great job, has handed over to Srimath Agalawatte
6. **2022/23 Calendar** Pat circulated the draft calendar. There are still several uncertainties – EBU events, other counties online events and reintroduction of F2F. Pat will continue to work on it.
7. **Proposal for ongoing Essex events** Paul's proposal for ongoing events was discussed with respect to Pat's calendar proposal. The updated document is attached

8. **AGM** It was agreed to aim for a F2F AGM on 14 May. There may be a pairs competition on the same day. Sue will consult clubs about the restructuring of the committee to introduce new roles

9. **Date of next meeting** The next meeting will be held on Zoom at 7.30pm on Wednesday 6 April 2022. Paul then closed the meeting.

Restarting live bridge at Essex Clubs

The information below was supplied by clubs from the EBU, in response to my emails or has been taken from their websites.

Last update 12 January 2022

Alpha – closed

Apple - Reopened successfully but now closed while current restrictions in place. Review late January. Running an online session

Billericay Mayflower – now playing in Mountnessing. Currently approx 5.5 tables but was higher in October/November Some sharing of officials. Possible merger with Mountnessing?

Chelmsford - Reopened F2F but numbers very low so closed until further notice. Runs several online sessions

Collier Row – Now unaffiliated and closed until end February

Felsted – Reopened successfully but now closed while current restrictions in place until at least 18 January

Hamlet Court – now planning at Thorpe Bay. Possible merger?

Hutton – no venue. Online only.

Lingwood – Reopened but numbers very low. F2F suspended for immediate future..

Loughton – Reopened but now closed while current restrictions in place.

Maple – Unaffiliated

Mid-Essex – open with mainly daytime F2F sessions. Runs several online sessions.

Mountnessing – Currently approx 4.5 tables but was higher in October/November

Rochford & Rayleigh – Closed

Southend & Leigh – F2F sessions low attendance, usually under 4 tables. Runs online sessions.

St Anne's – Reopened approx 7 tables, Website does not say it is closed but no sessions since 7 December

Thorpe Bay – Running F2F daytime sessions only. Also have online sessions

Upminster & Cranham -Running combined F2F/online session approx 7 tables

Waltham Forest – Been running online with 3 tables. Plan to reopen 24 January

Westbury – Reopened approx. 6 tables. Now closed until further notice

Woodham Ferrers - Closed

Ongoing Essex events

NOTE Online competitions may be combined with other counties. Prizes will not normally be awarded for online competitions.

Scrap the Warboys competition

Rob Elliot has stated that he no longer wishes to organise. It had already become too much burden to run every month. **Agreed**

Scrap the Daytime Pairs competition

This has been struggling for numbers. **Agreed**

Margaret Curtis (Teams/Pairs)

Agreed for 2022/23 Continuation will be under review as numbers are always low.

Cup for Clubs

Agreed for 2022/23 If online can be run on the same day as the Fletcher

Sue Taylor (Teams/Pairs)

Agreed for 2022/23 Continuation will be under review as numbers are always low.

Mixed Pairs

Agreed online competition for 2022/23 This competition is much easier to run online due to no issues with the numbers/movement of boards

Swiss Pairs

Agreed online competition for 2022/23 Much easier to do online. May also attract more outsiders.

Gwen Herga

Agreed online competition for 2022/23 Running two events at Barleylands was getting very crowded.

Cornell

Agreed online competition for 2022/23 Format to be reviewed depending on number of entries

Essex Championship Pairs

Hope to be F2F for 2022/23 This cannot be combined with other counties

Club Pairs online

To be confirmed as online event.

Fletcher

To be confirmed as online event. Logistically easier to setup on RealBridge

Other competitions

Switch teams **Cancel for 2022/23 review for future years**

League **Cancel for 2022/23 review for future years**

Teams of 4 **Run in 2022/23**

Mixed teams **Review depending on decision on a F2F AGM**

Eve Goblets Do not award for 2022/23

[illegible]