WEST ESSEX LEAGUE CHAMPIONS AND RUNNERS UP

						Divison 1	
	S Dunstan	P Mattacks	A Barker	R Tatur	T Verran	Waltham Foresters	Champions
S Prince	A Coral	R Green	N Bardsley	D Sherman	M Curtis	Redbridge	Runners-up

Premier League Play-off

L Raven A Stanley C Morris PO'Gara

A Forrest

Loughton O'Gara

K Thompson R Green L Forrest

Loughton Thompson

May and Baker (J Tattersfield) heat Waltham Foresters (T Verran) in the final

League Cup

Semi Finals: Loughton Collier beat Crowstone

Hanley beat Phoenix

R Hanley, J Orton, M Sherer, E Newman, B Tweddell

Loughton Collier

Runners-up:

Winners:

P Collier, P Scotting, W Coldham, P O'Gara

P Watson, J Mansfield

FOR FULL RESULTS AND COUNTY NEWS

www.essexbridge.co.uk

CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORTS & ACCOUNTS and **COUNTY NEWSLETTER**

Autumn 2008

Minutes of the 61st Annual General Meeting of the ECBA, held on Saturday 10th May 2008 at Brentwood County High School, Brentwood, Essex.

Present: Mr R. Green (Hon Chairman), Mrs M. Curtis (Hon Secretary), Mr A. Philpott (Hon Treasurer), Dr R. Tattersfield (Hon League

Members of the Committee and 30 members of the Association

Apologies for absence were received from: A Cundy, I. Moss, B. and A. West, C. Lovett, B. Cowley A. Kitchin, R. Cornell, L. Williams, Mrs L. Wells, Lady Telford, Mrs

Hon Chairman's Opening Remarks

a Committee member, Tournament Secretary, Chief TD and Eastern shareholder who attended EBU meetings, and who had previously been from the Committee, due to illness, of Mr Sid Prince, recently a them for coming on such a fine day. He drew attention to the resignation missing his valuable contributions. most of the county competitions. He stated that the Committee were Counties League captain. Sid is also a distinguished player, having won Mr. Richard Green welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked

12 Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

seconded by Mr Valtisiaris and signed by the Chairman be a correct record. Their adoption was proposed by Mr O'Gara, These had been circulated and were taken as read. They were agreed to

w **Matters arising**

made to several clauses the new Membership Proposals go through, changes will have to be a) Essex Constitution - These had still not been reprinted due to two factors - the suggested conduct paragraph had not been received, and if

Hon-General Secretary's Report

This is attached in full.

A comment was made that BfA had not generated many more members, and had cost a lot of money. Mrs Curtis agreed that the projection of membership growth had fallen very short, as most newcomers these days do not want to play competitive bridge.

The adoption of the report was proposed by Mrs Tattersfield, seconded by Mr Field and agreed unanimously.

Competition Report

S

Unfortunately Mrs Curtis found this to be missing from her papers This is now attached in full.

She gave brief comments on the competitions

Hon Treasurer's Report

0

Mr Philpott presented the balance sheet and profit and loss account, all attached in full. He went through the figures and drew attention to the fact that the duplimating costs had been separated. There were no questions. The adoption of accounts was proposed by Mr Valtisiaris, seconded by Mr Field and agreed unanimously.

Report by the Hon League Secretary

7

This is attached in full. Its adoption was proposed by Mr Valtisiaris seconded by Mrs Homer and agreed unanimously.

Subscriptions 2009/10

8

This item was taken by the Hon Treasurer.

Mr Philpott reminded the meeting that this applies to the Essex portion from April 2009, possibly the last individual subscription. He stated that a misprint had put the Essex subscription at £6.00 for 2008/9, instead of £5.00 and it would be impracticable to send everyone £1.00. An increase would have been suggested for 2009/10 and the Committee thought that the best way forward would be to hold the total amount for 2009/10 at £23.00 absorbing any increase the EBU might make. This was proposed by Mrs Hair, seconded by Mrs Mollison and agreed by the meeting.

Election of Officers and Committee for the year 2008/9

9.

The Chairman stated that Mr Ted Cockle had been proposed and seconded for the vacant position of Hon Tournament Secretary. Mr Cockle had served on the Committee previously as League Secretary. He will be dealing with the administrative side, and Mrs Nicole Cook with the bridge content and directing. All members were in favour. Mr Green said that there is now a further vacancy, the School and Youth Officer, as Mr P S. Lee has just resigned. Mr Green then thanked all the

Committee members whom he had not thanked previously, and who he said had done such a lot over the year for the Association - Mrs Jill Tattersfield, Mrs Nicole Cook, Mr Dennis Valtisiaris, Mr Alaric Cundy, Mr Sid Prince, Mr Ian Moss, Mrs Jill Hair, and Mr P S. Lee.

10. Any Other Business

- a) County Matches Mrs Taylor queried why names were not displayed for the Butler scoring. Mrs Curtis stated that several players had said that they did not agree with this policy, so names are not given. County matches are not the same as competitions.
- b) Scoring of competitions on the day The question of bridge-mates was raised, and they be used in the future. Apparently, there is a new version, bridge-pads, which are smaller, and the Committee would consider purchase or borrowing.

There was no further business.

Mr Green then closed the meeting. Mrs Margaret Green presented the trophies and prizes and she was presented with flowers.

After the discussion and vote on the Final EBU Membership Proposals, the meeting closed with a Wine and Cheese Party and Bridge.

Final EBU Membership Proposals

Several questions were raised and clarified by the Chairman, with reference to the printed proposals.

Mr Philpott gave the meeting the county's costs (to replace the subscription) which would have to be added to the EBU portion. If the numbers are as given at present, the Essex part would be 7.2p and with the worst scenario (more clubs not affiliating) it would be 9.6p. There would also be an Essex subscription for clubs, which it seems Essex would have to bill separately.

Attention was drawn to the cost implications of running the new system, and there is a lot of pressure for the EBU to get it right.

Competitions will not attract any payg. but leagues will. It is known that some players only play in leagues.

Mr Cockle suggested that there could be a danger of large number of clubs not affiliating and forming a new association, as had happened in other sports.

It was felt that the EBU does not do much for members apart from Master Points and English Bridge, and to attract new members more is needed.

A vote was taken from those present and all 15 clubs represented voted in favour.

A vote was taken from those present and all 15 clubs represented votes in rayour. The Committee hold copies of the EBU questionnaire, but would be contacting all other clubs to see if they were still of the same opinion. It is very important to get the most up-to-date information from clubs, before the Essex shareholders vote at the EGM in June.

2007/8 has unfortunately shown no change in our membership dwindling slowly, with fewer active members. BfA membership stands at 97 out of our total of 961 members, but most of these newcomers are social bridge players and may not even join a club and most are retired. These 97 players do not translate into continual members of the association. Younger people do not have time to go to evening classes, which again are few and far between, and the computer takes over. Daytime bridge flourishes. These trends are reflected in our competition programme. Unfortunately, also, the number of affiliated clubs has also fallen, down to 55, with 2 clubs having to close through lack of members.

On the county side, our teams in the Tollemache and Metropolitan Cup did not do so well, partly due to availability and partly due to illness. The Eastern County League teams did much better last season, results in all divisions showing improvement, though once again availability of players is an issue. The Captains feel that the policy of picking the strongest players available and reducing the size of the pool was beneficial. Thanks are due to Wendy Coldham who does all the donkey work of collecting results and collating the availabilities etc, as well as captaining the B team, and to Maureen Vede, who makes sure she has the strongest C team available. Further thanks must go to Jill Tattersfield, who organises the teas and also does most of the work at the home matches.

On the individual side, again many players did well in a variety of competitions and congresses, home and overseas. However, our main congratulations go to Audrey Hartley, 2nd in the ladies' trials and in the winning Lady Milne team. Also, congratulations to Laurie and Stephanie Burtt - 3rd in the Portland Pairs: to Dominic Maloney, a member of the Durham University team which won the Portland Bowl.

The results of the league and its related competitions will once again be given by Roger Tattersfield, our league secretary. Roger and Jill make every effort to encourage teams to continue in the league, and try to get new teams to take part. However, numbers have continued to fall. Travel is one reason - Essex roads get busier by the day and fixing matches is another - so many players now take several holidays a year, and think nothing of being away for a month at a time!

I will report separately on the county competitions, but will draw attention to the Green pointed weekend with Hertfordshire, which was yet again very successful. Despite the new arrangements with the licence fee for each table per session, our profit did not drop and added a goodly sum to our accounts.

Alaric Cundy has once again worked extremely hard in his role of Teachers' Liaison Officer, e-mailing teachers and all possible entrants several times over. Despite this, and a big mailing to over 250 BfA and newcomers, all the novice, non-expert and newcomers competitions have been extremely poorly supported. Already we have cancelled and withdrawn the non-expert pairs and teams and at the moment are planning one only event for novices in the coming season. This will be a Play with a Master, so all newcomers and intermediate players are asked to express their interest when Alaric gets in touch. The National Newcomers only attracted 9

pairs and 2 were from Kent and one from Suffolk. This is being looked at by the EBU Tournament Committee and is unlikely to continue in the same format. Many thanks are due to Alaric for his continued efforts.

Another area that causes the Committee concern is the School/Junior side. Despite the best effort of Po Shing Lee, we had no volunteers to help with mini-bridge, or were able to introduce bridge into Essex schools. Consequently, although we have the funds, we are unable to take part in any national or regional events. Unfortunately, Po is unable to continue in his role, and has resigned, but anyone with time to spare and enthusiasm who could help would be most welcome. Thanks are due to Po Shing Lee for his energy and interest, and for his offer to help the person who takes over. The website is now a very important part of Essex bridge, with all the results, successes and other matters displayed for everyone. Thanks are given to Jill Tattersfield, who quite often is updating the site late at night for viewing the next day. Bridge players are no longer prepared to wait a week for the results!

Three very important EBU shareholders' meetings have been held over the year, attended by Ian Moss, Sid Prince for the first one, and me. Unfortunately, as our Chairman said, Sid has been unable to continue due to illness. The matter which has overshadowed the proceedings has been the membership strategy proposals, although the debates have been kept to the minimum. Each county put forward its findings in October and obviously is the main subject of the EGM in June.

I have been reappointed to the Tournament Committee for a further 3 years. We have looked very carefully at each competition and in view of falling numbers especially in matches played privately and there being too many competitions, decisions will have to be made about dropping certain events. This very full calendar, now including two popular overseas congresses has a big effect on our county calendar. We are very limited on the days free, and often changes have to be made.

As you are all aware, the matter that has caught the attention of the Committee and affiliated clubs is the new EBU proposals for membership. All clubs received full details at the preliminary stage and now have a final version. A meeting was held in October and 21 clubs were represented. The club questionnaires received a near 100% reply, the highest in the country, and this has given the EBU and Essex very full details of what might happen if the proposal goes through. I will not go into any further details as we will be discussing this after this part of the meeting.

As many more bridge clubs opened and membership of the Association grew during the 50s to 80s, no-one could have envisaged that there would not be a steady stream of new players, all keen to play competition bridge and many entering county competitions. Life has changed. Many more attractions, many more reasons to stay at home, less leisure time for younger people in the evenings and at weekends. We must all work together to ensure that the game we love grows again, and is enjoyable for everyone.

Competition Report 2007/8

Over the past 12 months the same range of competitions had been held, with the same varying results. We are pleased that numbers have held up in some competitions, such as the Swiss Pairs and Mixed Pairs, but unfortunately others seem to be in decline. Swiss teams, once so popular, now appear to be much less attractive and unfortunately cannot be run under a certain number of teams. The day time seniors have continued to be very popular, and the third one at Thorpe Bay Bridge Club was well attended. The Sunday seniors had to be cancelled - it now clashes with the EBU Overseas Congress and with a very overloaded calendar it is proving difficult to reschedule. Ideas put forward by the Committee are for a Saturday or evening - your comments would be appreciated, before plans are finalised.

The greatest fall has been in the novice and non-expert competitions, as I have already reported. It is a great pity that so few of those who are coming through BfA and other classes are interested in competition bridge, even at their own level. Players are in danger of losing all of their starter competitions, as we cannot book halls and cancel at the last minute, as well as coping with the administrative difficulties. Again the Committee would welcome any ideas from those involved. Finally, I should like to thank everyone who has assisted this season, and made the competitions enjoyable for all - Roger and Jill Tattersfield, Paul and Val Mollison, Nicole Cook, Pat O'Gara, and all those who have booked venues, brought tables and helped set halls.

Margaret Curtis

Juangares On

Once again Jill and I have enjoyed watching the results unfold during the season with Jill dealing with the South East and me with the West.

South East and West Essex League Report 2007/8

In many ways the Leagues have had a disappointing season with a further reduction in the number of competing teams. The West Essex League was reduced to two divisions although the lower division only had 4 teams, each playing the other teams twice. The Committee has had to consider what action to take if there is a further reduction in the West to 9 or 10 teams. We hope this won't be the situation. The South East was reduced from 4 to 3 divisions but these had a very full programme. Despite this there has been a lot of activity and in general, teams seem to enjoy the format offered by the league structure which usually gives a relaxed and friendly environment.

Nearly 200 members played in the league this year with 24 teams in the South East and 11 in the West. Relative to last year this is a reduction of 8 and has continued the decline of recent seasons. We were, however, pleased to welcome a team from Colchester (which counts as Suffolk for bridge purposes) and despite their heavy travelling commitments they had a successful and enjoyable season. There were 2 withdrawals during the year and 1 match was not played. Fortunately

this match did not have a direct impact on the main promotion and relegation issues. It is very difficult for the league organisers to ascertain responsibility for unplayed games and the general rule will continue to be that neither team shall get any points unless there is a very good case and the organisers have been kept informed as problems develop. As always a number of teams were late in finishing their programme and this puts unnecessary pressure on their opponents and on the organisers. The last result in the South East was received early this morning and has had a major impact on the Champions, relegation, Premier League qualification and the Eve Goblets.

All the league champions are now known and, as always, it is good to see some new names amongst the winners. Full details will be given at the prize presentation. The Premier League play-off was won by May and Baker (Jill Tattersfield) who beat Waltham Foresters (Tony Verran) in the final. We will continue this knockout format for the forthcoming season.

The League Cup has again proved to be a very successful event with 21 teams again taking part. It is a very tight schedule and unfortunately we cannot announce the winners yet. In the semi-finals Loughton Collier (Peter Scotting) will play Crowstone (Alan Cohen) and Phoenix (Angela Fenton) will play Hanley (Rick Hanley). In last year's final Waltham Foresters beat Chelmsford Black (Brian Berkley). This competition will continue with a regionalised draw for the first two rounds with a second draw for all subsequent rounds.

The winners and runners up were:

West	South East
1 2	Division 1 2 3
Waltham Foresters Loughton O'Gara	Winners Crowstone Hanley Dummy Run
Redbridge Loughton Thompson	Runners-up The Hoop Hopefuls Phoenix Hadleigh Castle

Roger and Bill Tatterfield

ESSEX CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31/03/2008		BALANCI
	31/3/08	BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31/03/2008

REPRESENTED BY Youth Development Fund (see notes) Capital account Excess of Income over Expenditure	LESS CREDITORS Hire of halls, fees in advance and prizes	CASH On current account and in hand On Business Bonus Account	DEBTORS Entry fees due and payments in advance	ASSETS Stock of ties, spoons local points and stamps Cups, typewriters and tables cost less depreciation	
802 13,115 202 14,119	<u>6,475</u> <u>14,119</u>	3,321 15,247 20,594	635	1,391 Nii	31/3/08 £
802 11,911 <u>1,204</u> 13,917	4,082 13,917	-20 16,333 17,999	417	1,269 Nil	31/3/07 £

HONORARY TREASURER: A. J. Philpott

I have examined the books and records of the Essex Contract Bridge Association and, in my opinion, these give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31/3/2008.

HONORARY AUDITOR: J. Cordingley

NOTES

It is the policy of the committee to write off expenditure on trophies, cards, boards and stationery in the year of purchase. The Youth Development Fund represents funds donated from the Thurrock Bridge Club on their closure with the express wish that they be used to develop youth bridge.

ESSEX CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Note A: No direct financial sponsorship was received in the 2006/2007 or 2007/2008 season. Lionel Wernick kindly provided posters for the clubs, advertising County competitions.

Note B: £810 was received from the Eastern Counties Simultaneous Pairs and this was donated to the St Luke's Hospice in memory of Bob Allen

COUNTY NEWS

METROPOLITAN CUP

Essex was represented by:

A Team: M Curtis and D Sherman, P Franklin and A Mayo, R Cornell and D Clark, A Green and I Green, G Chadha and P Oake, N Cook and A

Hartley

B Team: R Hair and A Drew, A Greenstein and J Hair, F Morrison and D Piper, S Moorman and R Clarke, L and S Burtt, M Wren and R

Perryman

C Team: B Robinson and P Murray, C and S Taylor, G and M Vede, W

Godber and J Stimson

The C Team won their section and qualified for the National League Winners?

Cup

•

EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE 2007/8

				•		
14	Cambridge University	8	28	Cambridge University	∞	
56	Norfolk	7	30	Cambs and Hunts	7	
9	Cambs and Hunts	6	59	Norfolk	6	
/4	Bedfordshire	S	71	Essex	S	
	Essex	4	73	Northants	4	
86	Suffolk	ယ	84	Hertfordshire	w	
8 8	Hertfordshire	2	93	Suffolk	2	
100	Northants	_	124	Bedfordshire	_	
VPs	B Teams	В	VPs	Teams	A	

Teams

8	7	6	S	4	3	2	_
Cambridge University	Suffolk	Cambs and Hunts	Bedfordshire	Norfolk	Essex	Northants	Hertfordshire
15	58	60	2	72	85	92	112

v Suffolk - 2007/8

A Team Lost 49 - 156 IMPs, 0 - 20 VPs I Moss and M Graham, Y Dias and A Greenstein, P Oake and A Green, D Clark and R Cornell

B Team Won 82 - 65 IMPs, 13 - 7 VPs

W Coldham and P O'Gara, J Mansfield and P Watson, R Hair and S
Prince D Piner and F Morrison

Prince, D Piper and F Morrison C Team Won 100 - 69 IMPs, 15 - 5 VPs

G and M Vede, S Moorman and R Clarke, C and S Taylor, P and V Mollison

v Suffolk - 2008/9

A Team Won 87 - 71 IMPs, 13 - 7 VPs

M Curtis and R Cornell, D Clark and A Green, R and J

Tattersfield, A Graham and M Graham

B Team Won 90 - 63 IMPs, 14 - 6 VPs

A Kitchin and C Lovett, R Hair and A Cohen, R Elliott and S Riach, M Wren and C Chorley

C Team Won 130 - 82 IMPs, 17 - 3 VPs
G and M Vede, H McVeigh and G Allen, A Drew and L
Williams, B Robinson and P Murray

•

v Norfolk

A Team

Lost 69 - 130 IMPs, 2-18 VPs

A Cundy and M Smith, E Cockle and J Williams, A Green and F Morrison, J Mansfield and P Watson

B Team

Lost 94 - 120 IMPs, 6 - 14 VPs

R Elliott and S Riach, L Fleet and D Cooper, R Clarke and S Moorman, S Smith and J Sutcliffe

C Team

C and S Taylor, N Hunt and R Jones, P and V Mollison, B and

Congratulations to:

A West

Audrey Hartley playing for England in the Lady Milne Trophy which England won
Dominic Maloney, playing for Durham University, winners of the Portland Bowl

PORTLAND PAIRS

L and S Burtt - 3rd

EASTER FESTIVAL

Swiss Pairs A M Marks - 22nd G Chadha - 24th

Swiss Pairs B C and S Taylor - 3rd

LANZAROTE CONGRESS

M Curtis and A Kitchin - Swiss Pairs 6th, Mixed Pairs 4th. M and S Smith won the pre-Congress Pairs

Swiss Teams 3rd

JERSEY CONGRESS

Swiss Teams A Mayo and P Franklin - winners

ONE DAY EVENTS

London Swiss Pairs

L Perryman and L Moran - 6th

D Cooper and J Williams - 15th

London Swiss Teams

A Mayo - 6th

R Elliott, S Riach, M Watson, J Lapszys - 18th

Bedford Swiss Teams

S Riach, R Elliot, M Watson, J Lapszys - 3rd

Kent Bracketed Teams

P and V Mollison - 5th

SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS

Charity Challenge

R and M Studwick - 1st

R Snow and K Konarek - 14th

BGB - 8th Apri

L Seymour and I Mamelok - 1st

B and J Berkley - 19th

S Moorman and P Mollison - 20th

D Embleton and N Smith - 21st

A Riddleston and S Danby - 5th

9th April

D Stones and B Leigh - 7th

10th April R and C Webb - 6th

D Pennington and P Shade - 4th

7th May

G Bland and K Williams - 21st

8th May D Hicks and A Sharp - 21st

LONDON TROPHY

C Leighton, A Wilkins, M Woolf, M Krimgoltz - winners

EVE GOBLETS 2007/8

5	u	s	2	1	Lad	1
5 Y Dias =	S Taylor	V Mollison	M Curtis	J Tattersfield	ies:	CITTO
= 21		3		36		200//0
R Cornell P Oake =	C Megahey	A Cundy	R Clarke	R Tattersfield	Men:	
27	29	32	34.5	36	Points	

ESSEX COUNTY TEAMS OF FOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

2nd Winners: M Smith, E Cockle, R and J Tattersfield, A Cundy, C Megahey D Valtisiaris, R Bright, S Moorman, R Clarke, A Drew

ESSEX SWITCH CUP

2nd: Winners: P Oake, R Cornell, D Clark, R Clarke R and J Tattersfield, A Cundy, C Megahey

ESSEX COUNTY PAIRS

4th: 5th: 3rd: 2nd: Winners: D Tennet and A Spittal R Cornell and D Clark M Homer and T Fox C Lovett and M Harbour M Curtis and D Sherman K Charlton and G Tibbo

CONSOLATION FINAL

4th: 5th: 3rd: 2nd: Winners: S Riach and R Elliott D Roth and M Marks B and A West B Harrison and D Duffy J Lapszys and M Watson A Cohen and R Hair

...

SPRING SENIORS

5th: 4th: 3rd: 2nd: S French and L Garcia M Graham and I Moss P Williamson and D Stewart M Curtis and S Prince A Green and F Morrison D Cooper and J Williams

GWEN HERGA TROPHY

2nd: Winners:

3rd:

A Clark and H McVeigh

Ladies: M Homer and L Fleet W Coldham and P Watson L Barker and A Segal

Men: 4th:

3rd: 2nd: Winners: J Birch and R Hudson T Cornett and S Ensor P Oake and G Chadha

C Taylor and S Cade-Bowyer A Cohen and G Wilcox

4th:

5th:

D Valtisiaris and I Moss

SPRING NOVICES

Keith Manley Trophy

D McCarthy and C Rastin

Hope Trophy C Cooper and J Pollitt

HELLIAR TROPHY

5th: 4th: 3rd: 2nd: Winners: Mountnessing B Lingwood A Thorpe Bay A Loughton A Ilford A Woodham Ferrers A C & S Taylor, S Cade-Bowyer, D Cooper B and A West, N Hunt, J Williams A Cundy, C Megahey, R & J Tattersfield R Hair, J Hair, S Prince, P Murray M Watson, P Scotting, L Raven, A Stanley C Leighton, J Lapszys, M Woolf, M Krimgoltz

Woodham Ferrers BC qualified to represent Essex in the Garden Cities' Read) Regional Finals 3rd and 7th (L Thacker, G Edmonds, C and P

MID-SUMMER SENIORS

2nd: 3rd: Winners: R Register and G Foster C McChlery and M Wren A Greenstein and W Dias

5th: M Rastin and A Morgan M Curtis and D Sherman

4th:

P Williamson and D Stewart

SOUTH EAST ESSEX LEAGUE CHAMPIONS AND RUNNERS UP 2007/2008

Division 1 Crowstone Champions

Runners-up

A Cohen A Greenstein

A Eames A Kitchin C Lovett The Hoop Hopefuls

R Register G Wilcox

B Hair

Y Dias

J Sutcliffe

R Hanley Hanley

Division 1

J Orton

E Newman M Sherer

C Fallon

D Patten

A Fenton Phoenix

J Cosgrove

B Tweddell

S Margutti **Dummy Run**

Division 3

S Millins J Nichol

C Comer

M Stares

J Sargeant G Webber

Hadleigh Castle

B Newman J Shade

000