



# Essex Contract Bridge Association

A constituent member of the English Bridge Union

14<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Dear Secretary,

Please find attached a copy of:

1. The programme of Essex events for September 2017 to May 2018.
2. The County News Letter for 2016-2017
4. Flyers for your notice board
  - a) main competition programme
  - c) League promotional flyer

One new development in this year's programme is the option for direct entry into the Teams of 4 Plate competition. This is ideal for players who would like to try out one of the knockout competitions without the prospect of being knocked out in the first round by one of the strongest teams. The entry fee is lower at £10 to reflect the fact that the plate competition is black pointed.

**Inter-club Competitions** *(If any of your team members have any special dietary requirements please let the ECBA Tournament Secretary know a week before the event.)*

The Fletcher Trophy for teams of eight will be held at the Anglo European School on Sunday, October 29th 2017 starting at 14.00 hours. The entry fee is £120 per team of eight which includes provision of a plated tea at the break between sessions.

Entry is by invitation only. The following clubs are invited to enter teams: Alpha, Chelmsford, Collier Row, Hutton, Lingwood, Loughton, Mayflower, Mid-Essex, Mountnessing, Southend & Leigh, Thorpe Bay and Waltham Forest. If any other club would like to be invited to take part in the Fletcher Trophy please contact the Tournament Secretary to discuss this.

The Club Teams of Four Trophy: will be at the Anglo European School alongside the Fletcher Trophy on Sunday, October 29th 2016 starting at 14.00 hours. The entry fee is £60 per team of four which includes provision of a plated tea at the break between sessions.

All clubs are invited to enter one or more teams of four for this competition. It is an ideal event to give up and coming players and middle ranking club players experience in a teams event as many of Essex's strongest players will be playing in the Fletcher Trophy. Please consider supporting this event by entering a team whether or not you are entering a team in the Fletcher. If you have players who would like to enter but you cannot raise a complete team then please contact me and we will try to find some extra players.

The Ray Cornell Trophy: will take place at Anglo European School on Sunday, February 18th 2018 starting at 14.00 hours. The entry fee £60 per team of four which includes provision of a plated tea at the break between sessions. Clubs may enter one or more teams.

This event is two competitions in one. First, the competition is a simple multi-teams of four format of four with the trophy going to the winners. Second, clubs entering at least 2 teams compete for

the right to represent Essex in the Garden Cities Competition. To be eligible a club must enter two teams designated A and B. If a club enters more than two teams the A and B teams must be named before the start of the competition. The winning club is the club whose A and B teams' positions when added together has the lowest value; and the club will receive sponsorship of £200, generously provided by Barbara Cornell, to help defray the costs of representing Essex in the Garden Cities Competition.

## **Leagues**

The number of teams in the Leagues has been dwindling for several years now. We would like your help in trying to reverse this trend. First of all, could you encourage your players to consider entering a team. There are several divisions in the league which means that the leagues suit all standards of players.

With this in mind we want to draw your attention to the **Friendly Fours League**, specifically designed to suit teams with little or no experience of teams. Details are included on the enclosed programme. To make it as easy as possible for teams to get involved we would like to ask if your club would allow teams to play their home matches at your club, with the teams paying the normal table money to do so. We feel this would help those teams who might find the prospect of supplying refreshments and sorting out the mechanics of the match a little daunting at first. It would also give these new teams access to a director on the night to solve any procedural problems. (N.B. Teams will have the option of playing 22 or 24 boards so that can be sure of not overrunning the club session)

We would also like to point out that if there are any players who would like to play but can't find team mates (for the Friendly Fours or the main leagues) we are willing to try and match players up with team mates of a similar standard.

I have included a flyer to promote both leagues and I hope you will draw this to the attention of your members.

Yours sincerely

Val Mollison. ECBA Tournament Secretary