



## Essex Contract Bridge Association

A constituent member of the English Bridge Union

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 19.30 on Wednesday 18 April 2018 at Paul and Val Mollison's house – Tekoa Lodge, Mayes Lane, Sandon, Essex, CM2 7RW

**Present:** Petra Bromfield, Linda Fleet, Bernie Hunt, Pat Johnson, Paul Mollison, Val Mollison, Chris Taylor, Sue Thorburn and Dennis Valtisiaris

1. **Welcome** Paul Mollison welcomed those present.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 17 January 2018** 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 chairman.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes not already included in the agenda** There were no separate matters arising.
4. **Reports from Officers**

**a. General Secretary** (Sue Thorburn)

**EBU strategic plan** The plan had been circulated to the committee. Dennis had commented that participation would be improved if there were fewer restrictions booking accommodation at events and his comment was passed on to EBU.

**County discussion forum** The EBU has created an on-line forum for officers to discuss issues with their equivalent in other counties.

**Local initiatives** Ted Cockle has set up new bridge club as part of Falcon Bowls club. It is aimed at new players with experienced players as partners. Petra will contact Ted about publicity on the ECBA website.

**General Data Protection Regulations** Sue summarized her thinking after reading the various documents about the new regulations which come into force on 25 May. The documents from the EBU had been circulated to the committee. She felt there was a danger of over complication and that the essence was to ensure individuals knew how their personal data would be used and gave permission for that to happen. Data should then be kept on password protected websites or secure personal devices and contact should be via mailshot or blind copy. Passwords should be changed when personnel changes.

The prime responsibility for collecting data is at club level. Most of the personal data used by ECBA is from clubs via the EBU and thus complies with the regulations. The majority of communication is by mailshot. There are some instances where the Treasurer or Tournament Secretary mails individuals. This will be via blind copy and a phrase should appear on entry forms and the website that no personal data is routinely held and that all communication will be by mailshot or blind copy. It was suggested a membership form, now in use at Lingwood, should be circulated to Essex clubs. Communications to club secretaries will be via a mailshot or blind copy but they will be reminded their details are shown on the website.

**b. Treasurer** (Linda Fleet)

Bank Balance on 31/03/2018

£10,516 Barclays (£9,411 at 31/03/2017)

£15,826.85- Skipton. Interest received £140.94 (2017 - £167)

The provisional accounts are with Petra. They show a surplus of approx. £1,870 compared to a surplus of £29 in 2017. This is mainly due to the surplus on the Essex and Herts events.

It was agreed that a donation should be made to support the England Junior Squad. This is instead of the local SIMs previously discussed.

**Competitions** The Spring Seniors, Gwen Herga and Mixed Pairs have made a surplus (the expenses have been estimated). The Cornell & Swiss Pairs made a loss although the latter would probably have broken even except for the refunds. Overall for the year the competitions showed a surplus of £860 (2017 deficit £27) and the GP Events brought in £2,000 compared with £750 in 2017.

**P2P** This year we have received £2,574 in P2P slightly down on (2017 - £2,665).

Thanks go to Tony Philpott who very kindly keeps this list up to date. The spreadsheet has been amended to show individual totals per club.

**Prizes** The total this year is £1,086 (2017 - £1,122) Cash has been ordered and envelopes will be prepared for the AGM.

**c. Tournament Secretary (Val Mollison)**

**Events** There have been no major problems at events since the last meeting. The issues at the Cornell were quickly resolved. The mixed pairs had a delayed start as 3 pairs did not show up. This may have been because the event was rescheduled and, if that situation re-occurs, we need to email entrants to confirm who is still planning to play.

Knockout events are almost complete. The Switch Final and Teams of 4 plate final are both scheduled for week commencing 23 April. The Teams of 4 final has already taken place. The new team who took the option for direct entry to the plate have done well and are now in the final. They will be encouraged to enter again and their success will be publicized when inviting entries for next season.

With ten days to go, planning for the Championship pairs needs to be finalized. Entries for the B flight are insufficient at present and the event may be cancelled. Paul will put out a mailshot to encourage entries with a closing date of 27 April.

Dennis suggested that entries to the mixed and switch teams might be encouraged if we ran a repechage where first round losers compete to be reinstated in the main competition.

Sue said a member had asked her to suggest that the old bidding boxes with vertical cards should be replaced. It was felt this was an unnecessary expense as they were only used in the larger competitions not held at Barleylands.

**Venues** The numbers in the Cornell are below the number of tables agreed to be run at Barleylands. It always run as two roughly even sections, so is easily split between the two rooms and there would be room for food tables in the larger room. Thus, Barleylands has been booked for next year.

As they now have a regular booking, Little Baddow is unavailable for the spring seniors next year. Several alternative venues in a similar area are also unavailable so the larger room at Barleylands has been booked. Again, this is more feasible if we go for self-service drinks as the catering is less of an issue.

**Directing** EBU Panel directors have been booked for the four main competitions for the next Season (Championship pairs, Fletcher, Cornell and Swiss Pairs), so this will take a lot of pressure off Val and Alan. Although these events have not gone as smoothly as Val would like, a lot of lessons have been learned and we can now cope if the booked director has to cancel at short notice.

Marcia Levan-Harris and Graham Beeton are doing the County Director training (now called advanced training) preparation day and, hopefully, going on to do the weekend later in the year. Rob Elliott is still interested but cannot make the date this year. They play in events so qualified directors will be available to help with rulings in smaller events should we not be able to get a non-playing director. We need to have a strategy for using the qualified directors we have.

The training doesn't cover movements and computer scoring but Graham Beeton is familiarizing himself with EBUScore and Marcia is familiar with Bridgemates. The committee thanked Cath Fox for her help scoring the Warboys and understands she is interested in regularly helping with the computer side. Val plans to complete the guide to movements and computer scoring this summer and distribute it to anyone who is interested in helping.

**Catering** There have been concerns about the cost and quality of the catering particularly at the Cornell and Fletcher. It was agreed there would be no change for the remainder of this year but the topic would be kept under review and would be mentioned at the AGM. The regular caterer is not available in October so Val will have to find an alternative.

d. **League Secretary** (Bernie Hunt)

The current leagues are running well. The west division is particularly close.

Bernie outlined the proposal for a change in league structure which will be discussed at the AGM. The current 23 (8 in west, 15 in south east) teams would be split into a Premier division of 5 teams with 2 from the west and 3 from the south east. There would then be 3 leagues of 6 teams, one in the west and two in the south east. There is the option for division 1 and 2 in the south east. The proposal for promotion and relegation still needed some work.

There were some concerns about travel problems for Premier league teams but it was suggested that a central venue like Barleylands could be used. If teams still felt it would be problematic they could opt not to join the Premier league.

Bernie will circulate his final proposals to the committee before the AGM. It was suggested he could get responses from teams in advance of the AGM as they may not be represented at the meeting.

e. **Webmaster** (Petra Bromfield)

Petra has been working to update the website. The committee felt that it has a much clearer layout and is very promptly updated. She thanked the committee and Theo Todman for the help she had been given. John McCoy has agreed to be back up.

She does not cover league results as they are available on the EBU website.

There had been a good response to her request for information on the history of bridge in Essex. Sue handed over a selection of documents including committee meeting minutes from the inception of the ECBA in 1947.

f. **Shareholders** (Dennis Valtisiaris)

There had not been a shareholders meeting since the last committee so there is nothing to report.

g. **ECL Team Selection Committee** (Chris Taylor)

2018/19 selections have been made. Details are on the website. Nothing further to report.

**h. Publicity Officer (Pat Johnson)**

Pat has taken over compilation of the Eve Goblets results from Theo.

5. **Herts/Essex joint venture** Everything is in place for July and September 2018 and there is little to add to previous reports. The entry fee has been raised to £25. The £2,000 received was a significant contribution to the annual results.
6. **Certificates replacing engraving** Work on production of the certificates to replace engraving on the cups is almost complete. Samples of the certificates were circulated. Certificates are also required for the leagues. Bernie will let Pat have the results. The introduction of the certificates will save approximately £300 annually.
7. **Bridge in Schools** Val Poter and Ted Cockle are working on an initiative to introduce bridge in schools. They have a school in Halstead ready to go. They have received a large amount of help from a club in Stamford who now have over 1000 primary school children learning bridge. The committee appreciated the work done by Val and Ted and agreed financial support to cover the expenses of the Stamford team.
8. **Any Other Business** Val said she would send a card, and possibly flowers at a later date, to Margaret Curtis who is in hospital.
9. **Date of next meeting** The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20 June 2018. Paul then closed the meeting. The committee would like to thank Val and Paul for their hospitality.



Competition	Date	Entry Fees	Entry Fee 2017/18	Room Hire	Competitions 2017/18				Prizes	Capitation	P2P	Profit/Loss	
					Refreshment	Tournament	Hands	Directors					
Champ Pairs & B Flight	23/04/2017	1010.00	30.00	260.00	45.60	180.00	60.00	186.00	208.00	25.26	45.14	**	
Teams of Four		330.00	30.00					96.00	219.00	20.16	-5.16	***	
Switch Cup		144.00	18.00					36.00		10.08	97.92		
Mixed Teams	14/05/2017	200.00	20.00	50.00	10.80	40.00	15.00	36.00		6.48	41.72		
Club Pairs	04/06/2017	170.00	10.00	50.00	11.40	40.00	15.00	30.00		6.12	17.48		
George Curtis(Blue Poir	11/06/2017	252.00	36.00	100.00	16.80	80.00	30.00	72.00		36.40	-83.20		
Warboys - Heat 1	14/06/2017	126.00	4.50	80.00	8.40		60.00			5.04	-27.44		
Warboys - Heat 2	12/07/2017	140.00	5.00	80.00	8.40		60.00			5.04	-13.44		
Warboys & B Flight	09/08/2017	280.00	5.00	80.00	16.80	40.00	75.00			10.08	58.12		
Warboys & B Flight	13/09/2017	280.00	5.00	80.00	16.80	40.00	75.00			10.08	58.12		
Warboys & B Flight	14/02/2018	240.00	5.00	80.00	16.80	40.00	30.00	20.00		8.64	44.56		
Warboys & B Flight	21/03/2018	280.00	5.00	80.00	16.80	40.00	30.00	20.00		10.08	83.12		
Summer Seniors	19/07/2017	750.00	30.00	25.00	315.00	40.00	15.00	52.00		9.00	294.00		
Really Easy Cancelled	09/07/2017		10.00			20.00					-20.00		
Autumn Seniors	12/11/2017	660.00	30.00	150.00	295.80	40.00	15.00	52.00		8.28	98.92		
Fletcher/ Club Trophy	29/10/2017	1920.00	120./60	407.00	854.40	221.95	90.00			22.32	324.33		
Sue Taylor Trophy	12/11/2017	432.00	36.00	100.00	28.40	120.00	30.00	72.00		18.00	63.60		
Mixed Pairs	08/04/2018	591.00	21.00	160.00	12.60		60.00	84.00		15.12	259.28		
Swiss Pairs(less refund)	14/01/2018	507.00	25.00	260.00	40.80	100.00	150.00	86.00		88.40	-218.20		
Gwen Herga	20/01/2018	325.00	13.00	50.00	15.00		30.00	72.00		9.00	149.00		
Cornell Sponsorship											0.00		
Cornell Trophy	18/02/2018	1080.00	55.00	407.00	524.20	100.00	90.00		276.00	25.92	-343.12	****	
Play with an Expert			5.00								0.00		
Spring Seniors	14/03/2018	570.00	30.00	78.60	299.40	50.00	15.00	52.00		6.48	68.52		
<b>Sub Total</b>		10287.00											
League S.E	2017/2018	120.00						120.00			0.00		
League West	2017/2018	300.00						40.00			260.00		
		10407.00		2577.60	2554.20	1191.95	945.00	1126.00	703.00	355.98	993.27		
One Day Event*		2000.00									2000.00	*	
<b>Total</b>		12407.00		2,577.60	2554.20	1191.95	945.00	1126.00	703.00	355.98	2993.27		
					Thornwood		945.00				355.98		
					Barleylands				Disc		-16.00		
					Anglo European						339.98		
					Thorpe Bay BC							* Half share of net surplus.	
					Little Baddow VH							**Includes entry to Corwen	
												*** includes entry to Pachabo	
												**** includes Garden Cities entry	