



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORTS & ACCOUNTS 2021/22

Minutes of the 74th Annual General meeting of the ECBA
held on Sunday 9 July 2023 at Barleylands

Present John McCoy (*Chairman*), Sue Thorburn (*Secretary*),
Linda Fleet (*Treasurer*), Val Mollison (*Tournament Secretary*) and 18 others (a
list is available if required)

1. Chairman's opening remarks

John welcomed those present and said he was pleased to see that a quorum had been reached. He outlined the issues which make life tough for many bridge clubs and said the members needed to work hard to promote bridge in Essex.

2. Apologies for absence

There are a number of apologies (see Appendix D).

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes had been previously circulated and are available on the website. They were agreed as a true record.

Proposed Pat Johnson; seconded Marcia Levan-Harris. A copy was signed on behalf of the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Secretary's report

The role providing support to the committee is unchanged.

See Appendix A for full report.

6. Treasurer's report

As shown in the accounts there is a deficit of £900 mainly due to the absence in revenue from the Essex and Herts Green Point events by the year end.

See Appendix B for the report and accounts.

7. Appointment of Examiner for 2023/24

Petra Bromfield was thanked for her work and unanimously appointed as Examiner for 2023/24.

Proposed Linda Fleet; seconded Marcia Levan-Harris..

8. Tournament Secretary's report

Entries for competitions have continued to be low and changes have been made as a result of this.

It was suggested the entry criteria could be changed to encourage participation particularly from lower NGS players. The committee will continue to review the format of competitions.

See Appendix C for the full report.

9. Election of officers

With the exception of Cath Fox and Ashley Sawyer the existing committee members are standing for re-election.

Position	Nominee
Chairman	John McCoy
Secretary	Sue Thorburn
Treasurer	Linda Fleet
Tournament Secretary	Val Mollison
Programme Secretary	Pat Johnson
Committee members	Marcia Levan-Harris, Paul Mollison

Proposed Audrey Hartley; seconded Angela Fenton

There are two committee vacancies

Nominee Theo Todman Proposed David Piper; Seconded Robert Elliott

All elected unopposed. Subsequently, Theo Todman stepped down from the committee.

John asked for a volunteer to take on the Education Officer role. This can be a co-opted role.

10. Any Other Business

Ian Moss, Chairman of Selection committee, outlined the current selection procedures for the ECL teams and the initiatives to improve experience by playing in international events. There was a suggestion that there should be more publicity on the website to encourage players to apply for the squads.

Marcia Levan-Harris outlined the plans for the leagues in 2023/24 and reminded members about the charity event on 19 November.

Audrey Hartley asked that the website celebrates the success of Essex members in national and international competitions.

Tony French asked for confirmation that Upminster has won the 2022 Club Pairs. John confirmed this correction had been made some time ago.

Several initiatives to improve participation in Essex bridge both at club, competition and squad level were discussed. It is particularly important to attract younger players as the current demographic is that 90% are over 60. The committee will look at possible initiatives including involving clubs geographically in Essex but currently part of other county associations.

11. Presentation of trophies

Certificates were presented to competition winners.

John then declared the meeting closed.

Appendix A Secretary's report

Secretary's report 2023

- Continued support for chairman and committee. Taken on routine website updating.
- In process of reviewing the constitution. Largely cosmetic eg to update titles and ensure it is gender neutral. A reduction in quorum will be proposed.
- Kept an eye on F2F activity at affiliated clubs post pandemic. Now have 16 clubs in Essex and there have been no further closures this year. Chelmsford have not resumed their regular weekly F2F session but do run a monthly charity event. They are however very successful with their online offer.
- For single evening session clubs, the number of tables is still well down compared to pre-pandemic. It is generally agreed that 6 tables are the minimum required for a viable duplicate session. Several clubs are struggling to regularly exceed this level. The one exception is Brevion, regularly achieving 12-15
- The three bigger clubs Barleylands, Southend/Leigh and Thorpe Bay have a wide range of attendance.

Typical number of tables Jan- May 2023

Apple	6
Brevion	12+
Chelmsford(monthly)	8
Felsted	6
Fyfield	6
Hamlet Court	not known, no Bridgewebs site. May have unaffiliated.
Loughton	4
Mayflower	7
Mid-Essex	Several training, supervised and improvers sessions. Afternoon sessions more popular. Run hybrid online and F2F
Mountnessing	4
Southend & Leigh	Run sessions for different levels. Afternoon sessions more popular
St Annes	6
Thorpe Bay	Evening sessions rarely above 5. Afternoon sessions more popular
Upminster	7
Waltham Forest	4
Westbury	8

Appendix B Treasurer's report and financial statements

11.06.2023 C/F to 06/07/2023

Bank Balance at 11.06.2023

£8,345.00 - £10,000 (2022) - Barclays

£16,554 - £16,283 (2022) – Skipton

There is a deficit of £900.00 in the accounts for the year ending 31/03/2023 mainly due to having no income from Essex and Herts Green Pointed events. Both events evidently ran at a loss and I am still waiting to hear the final result from Herts

Received in June 2023 from Essex and Herts bank account £1,176 – to be included in next years accounts

Competitions

F2F events that were run in the year resulted in an overall deficit of approx. £50

Essex very successfully ran an online event for EBU National Pairs which resulted in an overall surplus of over £250.00

UM

We again agreed not to take our portion during the pandemic until after March 2024 when it will be reviewed .

Appendix C Tournament Secretary's Report

We have restarted face to face events but turnout is disappointing. Even the Championship pairs was only 7 tables

Given that most events are less than 12 tables, we will now stop booking the additional room at Barleylands for most event and hold events in the Club room. The main exceptions will be the Fletcher, Cornell and the Green pointed Swiss pairs.

We've added a new Handicapped pairs event in the hopes of attracting more players, but even the EBU handicap pairs Eastern region heat (held at Barleylands) only had 10 tables with about 6 tables of Essex players, the rest from out of county.

Some events will be shorter (eg Mixed pairs will be reduced to about 36 boards instead of the old 48 boards).

The EBU has imposed a rule stopping counties holding their 1-day Green point events online. The EBU now run a series of 1 day online GP events. As a consequence, Essex and Herts will no longer hold joint GP events. Herts have decided to run a GP Swiss pairs in July and we will hold one in September.

In addition, the EBU will only allow counties to hold a Blue point event online if the county holds another Blue Point event face to face. I am currently sorting out licences for these events.

Appendix D Apologies for absence

June Brown

Cath Fox

Simon Moorman

Anne Owen