



Essex Contract Bridge Association

A constituent member of the English Bridge Union

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 27th April 2016 starting at 19.30 held at Paul and Val Mollison's house – Tekoa Lodge, Mayes Lane, Sandon, Essex, CM2 7RW

Present: Paul Mollison, Val Mollison, Linda Fleet, Pat Johnson, Dennis Valtisiaris, Chris Taylor, Keith Thompson, Theo Todman and Audrey Hartley

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence.** Paul Mollison welcomed those present. He accepted apologies from Nigel Bardsley, Margaret Curtis, Nicole Cook, and Bernie Hunt.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday, 27th Jan 2016.** These had been circulated prior to the meeting. After Val noted a small correction to item 4 d to change from "League Cup draw" to "request for league cup entries" it was agreed that the minutes were a correct record. (Paul signed a copy of the agreed minutes after the meeting).
3. **Matters arising from the minutes not already included in the agenda.**
 - a **item 3. c** **Changes to trophy required to change the name from "Tony Kelvin Memorial" to "Sue Taylor Memorial"**

This was done by attaching a black disc over the old engraving with the new title engraved in white for a cost of approx. £25. Val mentioned in her report that something similar could be done for the Helliard trophy (to rename it Cornell Trophy) and it was decided to do this.
 - b **item 4. e** **Criteria for non-expert status**

Val suggested that the discretion allowed for players with between 5000 and 10000 Masterpoints to enter as non-experts resulted in one or two non-experts with too much experience. Keith said that not all entries had been done via him and so the status of some players was not checked. This will be covered further under Keith's report.
 - c. **item 4. f b** **Help from Marc Chawner with membership spreadsheet mergers**

Paul reported that Marc had been consulted and had produced a very useful program/procedure to allow him to merge membership lists, highlight changes and also to generate email lists to target emails at specific groups of players.
 - d. **item 10.d** **Suggestion that more be done to encourage new teams in the Leagues**

Val said that she was thinking of drawing up a letter to send out to club secretaries and players (via Paul's email facility) to present to the committee in June. She would like to draw attention to the idea of a lower league designed to attract players new to league competitions. She suggested that a team who wins this "division" would not be forced to accept promotion if they did not want to join the main league. This is currently called "Novice League" in the description on the website but it was agreed that this title might put off players who such a league might be aimed at. Other titles such as "Really Easy League", "Improvers League" or "Starter League" were

suggested. It was agreed that we would discuss this further at the next meeting giving everyone time to mull over an appropriate name.

e. item 3. c Discussion of which clubs should be invited to next year's Fletcher Trophy

It was agreed to postpone this until the next meeting as Val won't be sending out the invitation until after that meeting as there is a lot on the agenda for this meeting.

4. Reports from Hon. Officers:

a. Hon General Secretary. (Val Mollison)

See Appendix A for the text of Val's report.

It was agreed to the name on the Helliard trophy changed (See item 3 a) above)

Val will check that the Masterpoint allocations submitted by spreadsheet do get allocated but it may take a while.

b. Hon Treasurer. (Linda Fleet)

See Appendix B for the treasurer's reports.

It was decided that, given that M&S no longer do paper vouchers and that the gift cards are very bulky and awkward to allocate as the cards have no written value on them, in future we will give prize winners credits towards future events with the option of requesting a cheque instead. It was felt we could design our own "voucher" to be given to players and they could use that to request a cheque if they prefer. Theo will liaise with Linda on how best to handle records of credits.

The accounts show £200 accrual for the Corwen entries, but in actual fact £400 will be spent as 4 pairs are entering this year. This will be offset by the fact there is an accrual of £240 for the Pachabo, but there will be no Essex team for this event.

c. Chief Tournament Director. (Nicole Cook)

Nicole did not send a report and did not attend the meeting.

Paul raised the question of whether there should be two directors at events like the Championship Pairs and B Flight when there are two separate events split across two rooms. Although Nicole has brought in a second director or scorer on previous occasions (e.g. for the Fletcher and Cup or Clubs events) she didn't do so this time.

Val mentioned that Alan Roger has said that he would be interested in training as a County Director if we thought that would be useful. If trained he could then act as assistant in larger events like those mentioned above, and direct some events when Nicole is not available.

Assuming that he has already completed the Club Directing courses (we think he has but Val will check) it was agreed that the ECBA would pay the course fees (as has been done for other directors in the past).

Linda also mentioned that Nicole had not confirmed whether she would be directing all the events in the Summer Program. Linda has put Nicole's name against all events for the time being. Val agreed to chase Nicole up to confirm the arrangements. *[Nicole has since supplied the information]*

d. Hon League Secretary. (Bernie Hunt)

See Appendix C for the League Secretaries Report.

Audrey confirmed that the IMPs on the head to head match is the correct procedure to split the tie for the winner of the trophy in the South East Essex Division 2. Theo asked about how the points should be allocated for the Eve Goblets. Audrey says that the norm is to only split the tie for purposes of a) trophy winners and b) qualification for a subsequent event (e.g. in this case promotion to Division 1) Therefore for the Eve Goblets points available for 1st and 2nd place in Division two should be split evenly between the two tied teams.

It was decided to delay the discussion on how many teams per division in the event of there being only 16 teams in SE Essex until the next meeting.

Linda raised the problem of payment for league entries as many teams need to be chased for payment well into the season. [*Last year not all teams were listed on the entries spreadsheet because entries had not been notified to Linda so lack of payment wasn't immediately noticed. - see minutes of earlier meeting*]. Val agreed to make the cost of entry and enter by date clearer on the programme. It was also pointed out that it used to be that payment had to be made when the entry was submitted which has not been happening in recent years. Teams can enter online. It was agreed to ask Bernie to ensure that team entries are recorded either online or via email to Linda so that the spreadsheet can be used to track payments. [Val will also try to make it clearer on the programme that this needs to be done]

e. Hon Education Officer. (Keith Thompson)

See Appendix D for the Education Officer's report.

It was agreed that for future Play with an Expert competitions we would give the non-experts the choice of either entering with their own expert or being matched by Keith.

We also discussed that whilst we hope that these events will eventually encourage players to move on to some of our other competitions, we have to recognise that it is likely to take a while for players to build sufficient confidence and experience.

Keith's point about targeting those who have attended the new seminars with invites to competitions such as the Club Pairs was noted. Paul said he had already done that for the B Flight pairs (which did initially get a few more pairs than last year although a few did drop out at the last minute due to illness).

The committee agreed that a mentored switch Teams as another competition for relatively inexperienced players was a good idea. Val agreed to look at the programme and suggest possible ways of fitting in such an event at the next meeting.

f. Hon Webmaster. (Theo Todman)

See Appendix E for the Webmaster's report.

Theo's point that other members of the committee should be helping with checking the contents of the web pages, especially when new information is added, such as calendars and results has been noted.

It was agreed that should Hanley achieve a position in the league that accrues points for the Eve Goblets these are not cascaded down to a lower team.

The issue of whether Theo continues to produce his Butler results was not fully discussed. This will be discussed further at another meeting.

The point about Membership Secretary is covered under a separate agenda item.

g. ECL Team Selection Committee (Chris Taylor)

Chris circulated a brief email reporting the following points

a) Selection of Essex Teams for the ECL season is complete.

b) The 1st ECL match has been played. The results were mixed: A team lost 1-19, B Team won 14-6 and C team won 14-6.

c) Unfortunately Cambridge University have decided they are only able to field one A team for this season.

d) New captain for the A team was discussed

It was decided that Chris will approach a number of possible candidates to fill the position to determine if there is anyone willing to take over from Peter Oake.

e) Warboys has yet to be discussed by the selection committee. It is unlikely that it will be held this summer in the old format. One possibility is to run a series of events which would give a fairer set of results and give county team members more experience of playing in a stronger field.

f) Metropolitan Cup will not be held this year

g) The Tollemache team has yet to be discussed.

5. Herts/Essex joint venture. (LF)

Linda reported that at the Tournament committee meeting it was decided to keep the entry fee at £23 for September 2016, but it will increase to £25 for July and September 2017.

Ware has already been booked for next year to ensure continuity of venue.

Because of the difficulty in getting stand-by pairs for the Swiss pairs it has been decided to offer any standby pair free entry to the next event if they are not required to play, as well as the offer of playing for free on the day if they are required plus travel expenses.

6. Share Holder's report (MC, KT & AH)

Audrey circulated a report covering points of interest from the Shareholder's and Standing Committee meeting minutes. See Appendix F for her report.

Audrey reported that the change to the Bylaw regarding disciplinary matters is intended to slightly ease the degree of proof of wrongdoing required.

With regards to the changes to the standing committee which were not passed last time due to insufficient majority was due to be re-presented to the Shareholder's meeting in May. This will not

now happen in May to give Jeremy Dhondy chance to prepare a more detailed guide to the proposal and expand on the main areas of concern, in particular with regards to the method of appointment of the committee members and their terms of office. (see report in Appendix F).

Keith reported an additional point from the documents that had been circulated to the shareholder's with regards to the financial forecast. The EBU is forecasting an expected loss of £230,000 mainly because of an accrual of £180,000 of legal costs resulting from the legal attempt to get bridge recognised as a sport. The bulk of this is because of the potential liability to pay the legal costs of the other side as the EBU's legal team is not charging very much at all.

7. Monthly teaching seminars trial report (Paul Mollison)

Paul reported that the two seminars held so far had been well received. Another is planned for June.

The committee discussed what to do next. It was agreed that making a small charge for the seminars would be a good idea so that we can afford to continue with more seminars. Paul agreed to talk to Marc Chawner and Paul Spencer to establish what other topics they could cover with their seminars and look to arranging another series in the Autumn.

8. Proposal to Investigate Options for online banking (Linda Fleet)

Linda proposed that we should investigate the possibility of being able to make payments via online transfer as she has seen done elsewhere. This would involve a system whereby the treasurer sets up a series on payments which are then authorised by a second signatory by signing in separately online. This may require a change of bank as previously Barclays have said they don't offer the facility. Linda has not yet had a chance to check whether this is still the case. This will be discussed further at the next meeting when Linda has had a chance to determine which banks might offer this facility.

9. Actions to be taken on two recent complaints regarding player behaviour

Case A:

The player concerned had already voluntarily apologised to the director. It was proposed that a letter should be sent to the player concerned asking for written assurance that the behaviour would not be repeated in future.

Case B:

In the second case it was proposed that a meeting be set up with the player concerned with the aim of making sure the player understands what is considered acceptable behaviour. This will be documented. Further action will be taken if the outcome of this meeting is not considered satisfactory by the committee.

10. Agenda for the AGM (Val Mollison)

The only proposal received to add to the Agenda was to suggest that the quorum for an AGM should be reduced to 20.

An item was also added to cover the constitution changes required to cover items 13 and 14 below.

11. Review of possible changes to content of EBU News (Pat Johnson)

Pat reported that she had looked at the guidelines for the County News in the English Bridge magazine which suggests focusing on new initiatives, notable results from outside the County and diary dates. Pat is now trying to follow those guidelines more closely, which she feels will be more interesting than a list of names and results. Pat also feels that notable results in competitions aimed at players new to competitions should be prominent.

12. Brief review of possible changes for next season's calendar (Val Mollison)

Following on from ideas suggested previously, Val proposed that we try a couple of changes to next year's calendar

a) hold the Gwen Herga competitions on a Saturday afternoon.

b) hold the Mixed Teams in the afternoon on the same day as the AGM. The Mixed Teams is usually the first event of the new season, so the event held on the day of the AGM would belong to the following year's programme and the trophy would be presented at the following year's AGM.

It was agreed that these changes would be made.

13. Proposal to make change of Nicole's role/title official (Val Mollison)

It was agreed that the constitution should be changed to reflect the fact that the role Nicole fills is that of Chief Tournament Director. This was discussed at the meeting in January where it was decided it made sense for some of the jobs that Ted used to do to be dispersed amongst other committee members especially now that most entries and payments are done online, and Paul is doing the event promotion emails to players using the spreadsheet/database he is maintaining with Marc's help.

14. Clarification of Membership Secretary role/Requirement for Vice-President (Theo Todman)

Val confirmed that we do not necessarily have to appoint a new Vice-President to replace Dick Green. The constitution states

"The Committee of the Association may honour long standing members for their services to the Association by electing them as the President, the Vice-President or as a Life Member of the Association"

The committee also decided that the role of the Membership Secretary was much reduced since the introduction of P2P obviated the need to collect subscriptions from members. Also, the player database was now being handled by Paul. The other job that the Membership Secretary has been doing is related to compilation of information for the Selection Committee. This job could be done by someone not on the committee. It was therefore decided that we should propose at the AGM that we remove the position of Membership Secretary from the Committee and Chris Taylor will ask Nigel if he

is willing to continue with the work he does for the Selection Committee and look for a replacement if he is not.

[It was agreed by email after the meeting that while we are proposing changes to the constitution regarding the composition of the Committee, we would also propose an extra change to create an official post of "Publicity Officer" which is the role that Pat Johnson was seconded onto the committee to do]

15. The problem of the lack of younger players (TT)

This is a topic that has been discussed several times before. Dennis suggested we reintroduce a position on the committee for someone to be involved with schools. The consensus amongst the committee was that, whilst we would welcome anyone who came forward to take on this responsibility, unless there is a person already involved with a school or schools it is very difficult to do anything in schools. Our best prospect for finding new players is to concentrate on older adults looking to take up/return to bridge.

[After the meeting Theo circulated an email pointing out that his intention with this agenda item was to discuss the problem of the lack of younger adults not the lack of teaching in schools. He has indicated that he will write something longer about this issue in future]

16. AOB

No items were raised under AOB

17. Date of next meeting

The Next Meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th June at 7.30 at Val & Paul's house

Appendix A: Secretaries Report (Val Mollison)

Teams of 4, Teams of 4 plate and Switch Competitions

These competitions have all been completed and I have completed and submitted the spreadsheet of points to Ian Mitchell for both events.

There is now a facility to set up these competitions online, similar to the online League facility. I plan to set this up for next season (we could have done it last year but I didn't realise it was there). The system will do the draw, including byes. Team captains will have to update their own results and who played each match and then the Masterpoints will take care of themselves. This will make the running of this event a little bit easier. There are instructions available online which I can send to team captains.

If I am to continue to run this then I will need to have the password for the login to the EBU members area for Essex.

Neither of the winning and runner-up teams is able to enter the Pachabo this year.

Trophies

I have had all but the Warboys Trophy returned to me (excluding Leagues). As the Warboys did not run last year there is no rush to get this back in time for the AGM but I have asked Cecil to return it next time he is playing in an event so that we don't lose track of where it is.

12 trophies have already been given to the engraver's. I asked about adding another base to the Mixed pairs trophy but he suggested he could engrave names around the rim of the existing base which he reckons will last us about another 10 years so I agreed to that. I have asked if he can do a minor repair to another trophy with a loose base.

I intend to take the remaining trophies to the engraver this week, excluding the Eve Goblets as the winners of these won't be decided until the afternoon of the AGM. Theo has worked out what the result of that match means regarding the winner (see website) so I will take a print of that with me to the AGM so that we can announce the winner and get the engraving done afterwards. A small repair is need to the Senior's Cup which I will sort out with the engraver.

I notice that the Cornell Trophy is still called Helliard on the trophy. Do we want to get this changed? "HELLIARD TROPHY" is engraved on the base and I assume it will be possible to have a new black section attached on top of this to say "CORNELL TROPHY".

I also have all the prize envelopes, most are named and will be distributed at the AGM where possible.

Competition Programme

The summer programme has been sent out to clubs plus non-internet members (I have had 5 more names added to the list this year, and we lost one name (Dick Green)) along with the Draft Agenda for the AGM.

I have done a draft winter programme. I have put an item on the agenda to discuss a couple of things with regards to the programme although I won't finalise the programme until after the AGM.

Masterpoints for ECL 2013-4 Season

The Masterpoints for that season were not awarded because no-one entered the Essex Player names for the matches into the online system (that was the first year of the new system) and unfortunately no-one pointed this out to us so it was finalised without the Masterpoints being awarded.

Ian Mitchell supplied me with the relevant Masterpoint allocation table for that year (the table was altered in August last year so the one in the online handbook was not applicable to that season) and I have submitted the Masterpoints via spreadsheet (using the format sent to me by Ian Mitchell). They should appear in everyone's Masterpoint records sometime soon (although I notice it took over a month for the Portland Pairs results to appear so I am not quite sure how long it will take them to get around to it). Unfortunately I can't check because I didn't earn any points that year. I will ask Paul to check his records and if they haven't appeared by the middle of May I will chase it up.

Appendix B: Treasurer's Reports

1) Treasurers Report Committee Meeting 27.04.2016

Bank Balance on 24/04/16

£9018- Barclays (Compared to £8,385 at 29/04/15)

£15,518- Skipton

Skipton Building Society

I received the annual statement and realised I hadn't changed my address. I also noticed that tax had been deducted from the interest so I rang and hopefully Skipton will reclaim it from I/R. As the rules have changed this year interest will in future be paid gross.

Competitions

This quarter Except for the Gwen Herga and the Championship pairs the other competitions (Cornell, PWE. and Spring Seniors) made an overall loss. Hopefully the increase in entry fees for Seniors will help to reduce this. There are still some catering expenses for Champ Pairs (and Rent for big hall) held at Barleylands and P2P charges to come in. P2P has not been registered at EBU for Tony Kelvin (now Sue Taylor) from 15/11/15 but Mixed Pairs has from 06/12/15 (Bernie is checking)

But overall for the year the competitions made a profit of £763 and the GP Events brought in £1,100

P2P

This year we have received £2,787 in P2P (2015 - for same period £2,867) I'd like to record my thanks to Tony Philpott who very kindly keeps this list up to date for me. This seems to have evened out but will obviously be lower next year with the loss of Harlow and Clacton.

Prizes M&S NO LONGER DO PAPER VOUCHERS ORDERED CARDS FOR THIS YEAR

The total this year is £1,158 (2015 - £1,630) The cards from M&S are very bulky but I can order cards with the exact amount on them which I will do next year if you want to continue with M&S. I have prepared the envelopes as last year for AGM. Unfortunately I won't be able to attend AGM but I will prepare my report and accounts.

Essex & Herts GP

INCREASE IN FEES TO £25 FROM SEPTEMBER 2016

Ware is now booked for July and September 2016

I have advised Mike Minting that my address will be different for inclusion in the entry form for the July event. He has told me that the forms will be drafted next month and printed in time for the Portland Pairs on 20th March where he will give Margaret a box for distribution. I have now received them. Gary Conrad has asked permission to pick his own team this year which we have given him.

b) P2P Submissions

P2P Submissions for Year to 31st March 2016												
Club	April	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
Clacton	2.56		1.68		2.40		5.92					
Hamlet Court	9.04		8.08		7.76		7.76		7.12		6.32	
Collier Row	12.40		11.52		9.28		6.80		10.08		7.04	
Thorpe Bay	30.88	23.28	24.56	29.84	29.92	31.92	28.48	31.36	29.12	23.12	27.28	30.88
Woodham Ferrers	11.52		12.64		11.68		15.68		9.28		8.24	
Felstead	11.92		12.72		15.20		14.96		9.52		11.76	
Mountnessing	24.72		16.56		17.04		14.40		16.08		9.60	
Lingwood	14.32		14.00		13.84		14.00		14.64		9.04	
Alpha	12.96		12.16		12.12		12.32		10.24		9.12	
Loughton	21.60		19.92		25.28		20.80		17.60		15.76	
Hutton	6.08	3.20	2.48	5.20	3.92	4.96	4.48	4.08	4.88	4.24	5.04	4.16
Waltham Forest	3.92	3.92	2.80	5.20	1.20	2.64	4.64	8.96	2.16	2.88	4.88	6.00
Chelmsford	9.20		6.48		10.92		13.16		9.92		9.12	
Billericay Mayflower	14.96		13.44		16.80		17.44		14.56		15.68	6.08
Monday	7.04	4.96	2.48	6.48	4.08	5.60	4.56	4.80	5.76	4.64	5.44	5.76
Witham	2.48	3.12	2.64	2.16	2.56	1.12	1.68	3.28	2.40	1.36	1.60	1.52
Southend & Leigh	43.60	44.80	41.84	40.08	43.76	39.76	34.08	38.72	36.24	31.12	39.04	40.16
Old House Friday	4.48	4.56	4.00	5.44	3.60	3.04	5.20	2.96	5.04	3.44	3.04	4.80
St. Annes	11.28	12.08	7.92	9.20	9.28	11.60	7.84	10.48	4.32	9.68	7.92	7.76
Rochford & Rayleigh	5.84	4.48	6.80	6.32	4.16		8.00		8.88			7.28
Brentwood & District	5.12		4.80		5.84		6.48		7.36		3.60	
Harlow Non-Smokers		16.76			11.04	6.88		8.04	6.16			
Westbury	15.44		19.12		14.64		17.68		15.84		13.60	
Ilford	8.16		9.92		7.44		9.28		9.68		7.28	
Ann Owen	9.36	5.60	6.24		9.44	5.36	1.36	6.96		9.12	7.52	3.92
Apple	8.40	10.00	8.56	5.44	10.88	7.84	9.76	8.48	6.32	7.36	9.12	6.40
Brevion	13.12		19.12		20.88		19.60		18.72		11.68	
Mid Essex	29.36	19.92	20.44	21.52	23.08	29.00	19.36	22.88	25.68	18.64	25.76	34.80
	349.76	156.68	312.92	136.88	348.04	149.72	325.72	151.00	307.60	115.60	274.48	159.52
Adjustments by EBU											6.20	1.68
Previous year	415.7	130.04	373.2	147.28	345.4	151.08	315.44	149.6	284.48	113.68	315.84	125.36
Difference	-65.94	26.64	-60.28	-10.40	2.64	-1.36	10.28	1.40	23.12	1.92	-41.36	34.16
Total to date 2014- 15	415.7	545.74	918.94	1066.2	1411.6	1562.7	1878.1	2027.7	2312.22	2425.90	2741.7	2867.10

[illegible]

<u>Competition</u>	Date	<u>Entry Fees</u>	<u>Prepaid 2014/15</u>	<u>Room Hire</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>	<u>Tournament Directors</u>	<u>Hands Bridgemates</u>	<u>Prizes</u>	<u>Capitation</u>	<u>P2P</u>	<u>Profit/ Loss</u>	
Essex Pairs 2014/15	27/04/2014	548.00			43.80		30.00			24.28	449.92	
Teams of Four		300.00						96.00	240.00		-36.00	****
Switch Cup		144.00						36.00			108.00	
Mixed Teams	21/05/2015	220.00	20.00	51.50	13.20	60.00	15.00	36.00		7.92	56.38	
Pro-Am	28/06/2015	50.00		50.00		60.00	15.00	36.00		5.04	-116.04	
Club Pairs***	21/06/2015	160.00		130.00			15.00	30.00		6.12	-21.12	
George Curtis	07/06/2015	288.00		50.00			30.00	72.00		38.32	97.68	
Summer Seniors	08/07/2015	494.00		25.00	369.00	60.00		52.00		4.84	-16.84	
Autumn Seniors	28/10/2015	524.00		126.00	381.00	60.00	15.00	52.00		7.20	-117.20	
Fletcher/ Club Trophy	25/10/2015	1260.00		375.00	635.20	280.00	72.00			40.32	-142.52	
Sue Taylor Trophy	15/11/2015	324.00		50.00	10.80		46.00	72.00		0.00	145.20	
Mixed Pairs	06/12/2015	525.00		50.00	15.00		30.00	84.00		25.00	321.00	
Swiss Pairs	10/01/2016	900.00		130.00	186.10	186.10	0.00	96.00		23.92	277.88	
Gwen Herga	11/03/2016	286.00		80.00	13.20	60.00	22.00	72.00		7.92	30.88	
Cornell Sponsorship											0.00	
Cornell Trophy	21/02/2016	1210.00		270.00	538.15	120.00	35.00		260.00	31.68	-44.83	***
Play with an Expert	13/02/2016	105.00		50.00	100.95	60.00		36.00		64.80	-206.75	
Spring Seniors	16/03/2016	442.00		87.00	397.75	60.00	7.00	52.00		6.12	-167.87	
EBU Adjustments										3.92	-3.92	
Essex Pairs 2015/16		810.00		50.00	21.60	180.00	122.50	166.00	200.00		69.90	**
B Flight pairs	10/04/2016	100.00						20.00			80.00	
Prepaid												
Sub Total		8690.00	20.00	1574.50	2725.75	1186.10	454.50	1008.00	700.00	297.40	763.75	
One Day Event*											<u>1100.00</u>	*
Total		8690.00	20.00	1,574.50	2725.75	1186.10	454.50	1008.00	700.00	297.40	1863.75	
Entry prior to 01/04							15.00	AGM				
R Elliott Mix Teams							469.50					
Accrual												
					Barleylands							
					Anglo European							
		8690.00			Stock							
					Mountnessing			* Half share of net surplus.				
					Thornwood VH							
					Thorpe Bay BC			**Includes entry to Corwen				
					Little Baddow VH			*** includes entry to Garden Cities				
								**** Includes entry to the Pachabo				

Appendix C : League Secretary's Report

Ladies and Gentlemen of the committee

I will deal with each division in turn

WEST ESSEX

Nine teams. All fixtures play except two: -

Loughton O’Gara have one fixture left against Hatfield Heath, a date is arranged

Unfulfilled fixture:

Redbridge have illness problems and have conceded the match to The Good Guys, this does not affect the top of the division with Waltham Foresters winning comfortably

DIVISION ONE SOUTH EAST

Six teams. All fixtures played except two. Both matches arranged.

The match to decide the top of the division will be played on the afternoon of the AGM

DIVISION TWO SOUTH EAST

Six teams. All fixtures played except one which is being played tomorrow

There is a tie for first place between Chelmsford Green and Crowstone

In the head to head match it was a 10-10 draw

Chelmsford Green actually won the match 39-38. With the committees approval I think that Chelmsford Green should be shown as winners.

DIVISION THREE SOUTH EAST

Originally five teams but one failed to play their fixtures

The division was won by Weakenders

2016-7

Assuming nothing drastic happens I assume the same nine teams in the West and the same sixteen in the South East

Should we consider two divisions of eight teams in the South East?

Guidance from the committee please

Apologies for my absence this evening

Bernie

Appendix D: Education Officer's Report

1. Ongoing stuff. I've made amendments to Club and teacher info on the website as and when required (liaising with Theo - thanks - where necessary). I've continued to provide information re teaching and clubs, and make references, in response to enquiries from potential new students/players. Enquiries are regular but fairly infrequent.
2. Play with an Expert Comp, 13th Feb. This went well on the day, with 10.5 tables. I found organising it (getting entries, matching people, dealing with queries and problems, etc) quite onerous over a short period (though nothing like what some of you are doing week in week out!). Criteria for entry, allowing pairs who had played together before, range of standards, implications for experts' NGS, pairs not "gelling", all came up as issues. The priority for me, in the end, was to get enough for a viable competition. Was it worth it? The test is whether we start to see some of the "non-experts" in other competitions. Paul's facilities for targeted e-mails were a great help in getting entries (rather more effective, I think, than approaching clubs).
3. "Advertising". I've helped promote one or two Bridge holidays (e.g. run by Upminster Bridge school). Also, recently, Paul was able to send information about Ted Cockle's new Bridge class to players in Ted's area who might know someone interested in learning. The ability to send out these kind of targeted e-mails must, potentially, be very useful.
4. Schools Bridge. I have no interest in this personally though, of course, I'd be very pleased if any of it happened. I've had two approaches about it. One from Braintree (which seems to be in a kind of "black hole", nowhere near anywhere). I've offered help and advice as best I can. The other from Tanya Genthe who might, perhaps, be interested in doing something at some point. Again I've offered help and advice and also done some research (but there's very little happening anywhere as far as I can see).
5. Chawner/Spencer seminars. These are being very well-received (as too were Bernie's previous series of seminars). Can we follow them up and if so how? Some attendees are already playing regularly in Essex events but some aren't. Assuming they're attending because they are relatively keen we should maybe be targeting them with invites. The Club pairs on 5th June looks a good one - I know it's for clubs to put people forward, but will they actually do that?
6. Promotional competitions. I'm still struggling with how best to do this (and maybe there's no real answer). Play with an expert went OK and combining it with the Pro/Am approach in future (so enter as a Pro/Am pair or enter as an Am and we'll find you an Expert) is probably a reasonable way forward. The "really easy" competitions, in various forms, are excellent but we need to find a way of then moving people on to the more competitive stuff. I've looked across the country and, apart from "really easy" there isn't much. A couple of Counties have non-expert or intermediate competitions where qualification is below Regional Master (so just under 25 Green Points!). There's a Midlands Improvers Sims (similar qualification to "really easy" so 5 years experience, not more than 5,000 MP's) run by the EBU (so presumably we could do something similar). There's a "mentored pivot teams" (each team of four has an "expert" mentor plus three newer players). Hmm - I quite like this one ...

Appendix E: Webmaster's Report

1. Just business as usual on the **ECBA website**. No major complaints that I'm aware of. Nor any major developments needed. I'm still keen that someone or some people be assigned to check it from time to time.
2. The websites I maintain for **Bernie, and the "small clubs"** are also trundling on as usual. They all now seem to be "adopted" (ie. by Mayflower, Monday Club, Jubilee, Apple, Ann Owen, Hutton Union [Old House BC] and St Edith's).
3. Linda has been maintaining the **Competitions spreadsheet** and has set up a new one for the coming season. I looked after the old sheet while Linda was moving house. I've agreed to give the new sheet a "spring clean" and sort out a reconciliation discrepancy which will hopefully be complete by the meeting.
4. **Eve Goblets** positions have been maintained and displayed promptly on the website. I've put a note on the website about the run in and how the final results – for the Gentlemen and possibly the Ladies – will depend on the result of that last SE/1 league match (Barleylands vs Ultra Vires) being held (rather annoyingly) on the day of the AGM. I will know by then (following the results of other matches in this and other leagues) how many VPs Ultra Vires has to beat Barleylands by in order for Simon Moorman (rather than Robert Elliott) to win. Also, whether Sandy Smith has pipped Margaret Curtis. A point that has arisen is that it's theoretically possible (if unlikely) for Hanley to win SE/1. Their team members, being Suffolk, don't get Eve Goblets points. The meta-rule (as I understand it) is that their points are forfeit, and don't cascade down to Essex candidates in any way. The choice of the meta-rule might impact who wins the Eve Goblets.
5. **Butlers**: Bridgewebs have introduced a cracking facility that gives lots of detail on X-IMPs (not Butlers) for electronically-scored team events where players don't change orientation. I've advertised it on the ECBA and Bernie's websites. There was (Marc Chawner and I thought) a minor discrepancy between my calculations (and those repeated by Marc) and the Bridgewebs ones produced by John Goacher because he calculates fractional IMPs on individual boards. However if a comparison of the aggregate calculations for the Cornell is anything to go by, we now agree exactly, so maybe he's made a change. However, even so, it raises the question whether I should produce mine any more. Two issues arise – it would be possible for me to consolidate my results more easily – Nigel Bardsley used to do this sort of thing for Chris. The reason I don't is that I don't do the County Butlers (but nor does Bridgewebs). Also, mine are a little easier to access (rather than going via Scorecards, Play It Again, Results Analysis, All Pairs).
6. **Membership Secretary**: the EBU still have me down in this role. Has anyone volunteered?

Appendix F: Shareholder's Report from Audrey Hartley

Proposed Bye-Law Change

The WBF has amended its standards for conviction in the light of recent cases where cheating has been involved. They have recommended that NBO should alter theirs accordingly. Currently Bye-Law 8.9 of Appendix A – Disciplinary Matters reads:

8.9 The Laws and Ethics Committee shall bear the burden of proving the charge on the balance of probabilities, unless the Disciplinary Committee rules that the charge includes an allegation of dishonesty, in which case the Laws and Ethics Committee shall bear the burden of proving the charge beyond a reasonable doubt.

New bye law proposal

That 8.9 of Appendix A-Disciplinary Rules is amended to say

The Laws and Ethics Committee shall bear the burden of proving the charge on the balance of probabilities, unless the Disciplinary Committee rules that the charge includes an allegation of dishonesty, in which case the Disciplinary Committee must be comfortably satisfied (a standard of proof that is stated to be lower than the criminal standard of beyond reasonable doubt, but higher than the civil standard of balance of probabilities) on clear and convincing evidence that the accused person has engaged in such conduct. (*See also 6.3 of the Bye Laws*)

Standing Committees

At the AGM last November the motion that the Standing Committees be changed to Sub-Committees of the Board received 57.5% in favour and 42.5% against. This fell short of the majority required. There were many opinions voiced against the motion.

1. The presenter of the motion claimed that the Standing Committees were in favour but the Selection Committee made it clear that they were not.
2. The proposal was that all should change but it was felt that some would be better remaining as Standing Committees
3. A comparison of differences between Standing and Sub Committees would have been helpful
4. The proposals lacked clarity
5. There was no fixed term for members and chairmen
6. Shareholders felt their powers being whittled away
7. There was some support – some delegates said they didn't know those standing for election so felt they couldn't make an informed decision

In the Board Meeting Minutes of January 27th it was stated that Jeremy Dhondy would prepare a more “user friendly” document presenting amended proposals which would address the issue of choosing Chairmen and their terms of office and would state that all Committees would be treated the same; it would also be proposed that an extra Sub-Committee should be set up to advise on selection of members and vet them. This proposal was to have been presented to the May Shareholders meeting. In the minutes of the March Board meeting it was announced that this would be now presented at the AGM.

New Appointments

Lou Hobhouse has taken over from Elena Jerominides as editor of English Bridge.

Andrew Petre is the new Chairman [of EBED] and Mike Hill is the new EBU appointed Trustee [of EBED] who will also be the Treasurer.

Gillian Fawcett is the New Chairman of the Selection Committee.

EBU Office Matters

The new “Workbooks” software was in the process of being installed and should be “live” in May/June. They were also proposing to install a new telephone system which should provide financial savings. The arrangements with Bridge Overseas had been slightly modified and a term of 5 years agreed.

Gold Points

In the past Gold Points have been issued at SBU events but this will now cease. In future Gold Points will only be issued at events organised by the EBU.

NGS exemptions

There had been abuse of the rule for “Hosts” and their partner to be exempted from the NGS if they so wished. A reminder had been sent out to clubs and there had been a reduction of that abuse. It had been suggested that the exemption was unnecessary and should be dropped but that has not been acted on.

League Regulations

Frances Hindon on behalf of the Laws and Ethics Committee has prepared a new set of Model League Regulations which will be published on the EBU Website together with the model Constitutions.

EBU Convention cards

All reference to the EBU20A is to cease. There will be an additional standard lead included: 2nd from 5 small.

Alerting

There is going to be a change to the wording about alerting: Alerting players must make all reasonable effort to ensure that BOTH opponents are aware of the alert. Too many players were getting away with daydreaming at the time of the alert.

Selection Committee

It is interesting to note that Alan Shillitoe is still strongly involved with teams representing England and is currently NPC of the Junior Camrose Team and advises the Selection Committee about their selections. He has recently tried to revive the bridge club at KEGS but got no reply to his emails. It might be worth looking at as the head of Maths is an old boy who was a member of the Bridge club in Alan and my time.

Tournament Committee

Some venues were being changed because of underuse of the residential facilities. Gordon Rainsford had been making some changes to the competitions and he was looking at the possibilities of some being run by Regions, Counties or clubs.