**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 25th January 2017 starting at 19.30 held at**

**Paul and Val Mollison’s house – Tekoa Lodge, Mayes Lane, Sandon, Essex, CM2 7RW**

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

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence**. Paul Mollison welcomed those present. He accepted apologies from Margaret Curtis, Keith Thompson and Theo Todman.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday, 2nd November 2016.** 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**. All matters arising are covered by other items in the agenda.
4. **Reports from Hon Officers**
5. **Hon General Secretary**. (Sue Thorburn)

 Sue had nothing to report.

1. **Hon Treasurer.** (Linda Fleet)

 **Bank Balances on 21.01.17**

 £11,184 - Barclays (Compared to £10,364 at 27/01/16)

 £15,188 - Skipton

 The interest rate on the Skipton account reduced to 0.855% on 03/01/2017

 **Competitions**

 The Autumn Seniors at Thornwood had an increase on attendance last year (25/19) but still made a loss due to hall costs and catering. The Fletcher & Cup for Clubs were well attended and broke even again due to hall & high catering costs. Estimated expenses for hall and catering at Barleylands are shown in italics. The Sue Taylor Mixed Teams and Swiss Pairs all had a substantial increase in income. To date there is an excess of income over expenses of £1,305. Most competition entries are up so it is proposed that entry fees remain unchanged. There has been a request from Hitchin Bridge Club to advertise their Rising Stars competition on 1st April but it may be too close to our Play with an Expert on 4th February? It was agreed we would publicise other counties’ individual club events providing they did not clash with our events or EBU events such as the Really Easy competition. The competition breakdown is attached.

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 **P2P**

P2P receipts to date are £2,120 in P2P (2016 - for same period £2.354) and again thanks go to Tony Philpott who maintains the listing. The slight reduction in income is due in part to St Edith’s disaffiliating and partly to a drop in membership from 2159 (31/03/2015) to 2061 (31/03/2016). An up to date list of county P2P rates for 2017/2018 was not available but EBU membership has increased to 37p from 36p. Direct membership has increased to £29 from £28. At present we pay this for our life members who have unfortunately over the last couple of years dwindled to only three now (Jill Hair, Tony Philpott & Margaret Curtis). The P2P listing is attached.

 **Prizes**

 The total this year is £1,158 (2016 - £1,158) As discussed and agreed at the meeting on 29th June a list of the cash necessary to fill the envelopes as last year for AGM has been prepared. Dennis Valtisiaris agreed to assist filling the envelopes. Linda asked for a list of the winners so their names as well as the competition can be put on the envelopes. She will also send this information to Pat Johnson for the newsletter.

 **BACS Payments**

 Linda would like to propose paying some of our expenses by BACS. As the mandate requires two signatories on a cheque the bank will not allow two authorisations on a BACS payment.

 It is proposed that permission to pay expenses directly from the bank is requested from the Hon Secretary with a copy forwarded to her and retained with the bank statements for the Independent Examiner.

 **Independent Examiner**

 Michael Vandome, who is our Independent Examiner of our accounts, was unable to sign off the accounts before the AGM last year. He is confident that he will be able to complete his examination of 31/03/2016 accounts by the AGM in May but we may have to give out unsigned accounts for the current year. He is willing to continue as the examiner for another year but has asked us to find someone else for year ending 31/03/18.

 **AOB**

 Tony French whose club Hutton won the Club Pairs last year requested that instead of being given two dozen packs of cards he could have their monetary value to buy other bridge stationary. It was felt the prize should remain unchanged but Val suggested that if ECBA need any playing cards we could present the cards at the AGM and then offer to buy them back.

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

 **Hand over of equipment from Nicole**

 Partly because one server needed repairing, the handover of equipment from Nicole took

 several weeks and only completed on 22nd January.

  **Computer Scoring for County events**

 The plan is for Val to hold one set of Bridgemates and server and for Alan Rodger to look after the other so both can gain experience with the kit and can prepare events, movements and submit results. Val has spent time getting to know the scoring and Bridgemate setup and will provide help for Alan if needed. For the events so far Val has concentrated on the computer side and Alan on directing. She felt we should aim to have at least 2 people who are confident running the computer side so back up is always available.

 We have acquired a laptop which we will use as the County events computer and thus avoid the need to temporarily use Bernie’s kit. It was agreed ECBA would fund the cost of the laptop if Val can provide proof of purchase.

 Val is writing a guide for use with Essex events which will be a simplified version of the EBUScore and Bridgemate manuals with the addition of information relevant to Essex events.

 **Events so far**

 The events we have run so far are the Sue Taylor Teams, the Mixed Pairs and the Swiss Pairs. The first two of these went fine with the scoring side; the main problem for both those events was the late arrival of players which delayed the start.

 The last one, the Swiss Pairs didn't go quite so smoothly. The problem here was that only 15 of the county Bridgemates were available and it was planned to use some of Bernie’s kit. Unfortunately it was discovered after the event started that the county Bridgemates and Bernie’s did not have the same level of firmware. A decision was made to score 4 tables manually rather than cause a delay whilst the county Bridgemates were upgraded.

 Both sets have now been upgraded to the latest version (March 2016) .Val will try to ascertain when new upgrades are available and make sure all our Bridgemates have the correct firmware. She will coordinate with Bernie to make sure we keep in sync.

 A knock on effect was that we made a mistake with who played which boards in the 3-way in the 1st round and a problem with the assignments for round 2. Ian at the EBU was contacted about the assignments but could offer no explanation. Adjustments were made after the event to compensate for this problem.

 With one exception players were very understanding and even complimentary about how we had coped with the problems. The committee did not feel an explanation of the incident should be posted on the website. There were some comments on slow play which have been noted for future reference.

 There was a suggestion that if we have a 3-way in future then perhaps we should play 8 6-board matches rather than 6 8-board matches to reduce the sit out time. This is allowable for blue-point events although we will need more sets of boards. An alternative is to have a stand by pair. Bernie felt if this approach was taken the pair should be well paid.

 **TDs for future events**

 Gary Conrad has agreed to direct the Cornell with Alan Rodger assisting. Val has supplied Gary with details of movements used in previous events and will continue to liaise with him if he needs more information.

 Alan will direct the Seniors and Bernie the Gwen Herga.

 We have not been able to find an outside director for the Championship pairs. Alan Rodger has agreed to be the main director and Val will find a competent club director to run the B flight. She is happy to do the computer side of it and if necessary will run the B flight but would much rather be able to play.

 Pat Johnson asked that TDs pay particular attention to time keeping.

**. Knockout Competitions.**

 The knockout competitions are progressing and matches have been played by the appropriate deadlines. All teams appear OK with entering the results on the new EBU Knockout system.

 **Directors "on call" to handle rulings for matches played at home**

 Audrey, Alan and Val are the only directors who indicated they are willing to be contacted. There was no response from other County directors. This information has been sent to teams still in one of the knockout competitions and to Bernie to send to league team captains.

1. **Hon League Secretary. (**Bernie Hunt**)**

 Bernie reported that all is running smoothly with just the occasional need to chase up some teams.

1. **Hon Teachers’ Liaison Officer. (**Keith Thompson**)**

 Nothing to report

1. **Hon Webmaster. (**Theo Todman)

 Theo was not present at the meeting but reported the following by email.

 At Paul’s request a prototype of a “Master Point Promotions” system has been developed. Tony French of Hutton thinks it will be useful to clubs.

 Theo will maintain the entries spreadsheet while Linda is in Australia.

 Theo does not wish to retain responsibility for updating the EBU website with ECL results although will continue to maintain the ECBA site. He will also upload the reports on home matches when Val’s prototype is complete.

 St Edith’s has closed and merged with Hutton. Theo will put an announcement on the website when he has text from the former committee.

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

 A proposal for a rolling Warboys competition to replace the Saxons is covered by a separate agenda item.

 The 2017/18 squad has been finalised and once the dates for ECL matches have been finalised they will be contacted to ascertain availability, Chris would like contact details for new squad members.

 It was suggested that team captains should forward match reports to Robert Elliott, captain of the A squad.

 Funding for the Tollemache, Corwen and Pachabo have been confirmed.

 Chris passed on thanks from Lionel Thacker for the help given by Paul and Bernie in reorganising the venue for the Woodham Congress.

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

 There was no news for the April issue. Bernie suggested an update on the county squad.

 Pat is trying to contact local papers to widen awareness of bridge but has had limited response.

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1. **Herts/Essex joint venture** (Linda Fleet**)** We received £750 (2015 - £1,100) from the profit this year. Ware is now booked for July and September 2017 and deposits for July and September 2018 are payable by 31/03/17. Sufficient funds have been retained awaiting approval. HBA Committee has not yet appointed a successor to Mike Minting. Possible ways of reducing costs are stopping providing free tea/coffee, stopping orders for plated meals and sourcing cheaper chairs. Another approach would be to try to increase the number of entries. The committee suggested a “really easy” section or a different location, possibly the Anglo-European. Linda will discuss these with Herts. Details need to be finalised by end of February when the entry forms will be drafted and printed for Margaret to distribute at the Portland Pairs on 19th March.
2. **Share Holder’s report** (Audrey Hartley)Audrey, Keithand Margaret attended the last meeting. The Standing committees will be unchanged and the Tournament committee will become a sub-committee.
3. **Competition programme (**Val Mollison)Val circulatedthe proposed programme and highlighted some of the potential clashes. She would welcome comments on proposed dates for events after October 2017. It was suggested that Marc Chawner’s seminars should be added to the programme.
4. **Trial of Bridgemates for home county matches** (Val Mollison**)** Val has worked out how to score County matches using Bridgemates. It needs careful setup to avoid making a mistake with the seating, but it is possible to store a "template" so that most of the setup does not have to be redone. She has written a guide. Paul is keen to use Bridgemates as they provide accurate results, save time following up manuscript errors and present a professional impression.

 A trial was run at our last home match and it worked very well. Butler (or XImp) results can be produced for each pair direct from the scoring program and exported to a CSV file can then be put on the website. CSV files with Butler results were sent to the opposition team and they imported the results into their own spreadsheet. The opposition team requested a copy of the guide and plan to run a trial at their next home match later this year.

 The other ECL counties were contacted to ask if any others were interested in or planning to do

 Bridgemate scoring and offering the guide. Two further counties have shown an interest:-

 Cambs and Hunts have already started computer scoring, but using the pairs

 scoring program and then extracting the results to create the team scores after the event. The drawback of that system seems to be that IMPs scores and or VP scores are not available for checking or using on the day.

 Beds are very interested and I believe they are planning to use it for the next home match in March vs Cambs and Hunts, which will give them a chance to compare.

 Derek Marsh from Bedfordshire has proposed a procedure for all counties to send results CSV files to the away teams after a match to facilitate Butler analyses without manual input. If all counties adopted the same approach this might be done using Excel templates to automate the procedure but this may take at least another season until all counties have seen the setup in action.

The problem team might be Cambridge University as they may not have Bridgemates available, but it might be possible to take our own equipment to those matches if they are agreeable.

 It was agreed a non-playing TD would be a valuable feature. Bernie suggested it would be good

 experience for a newly qualified director.

1. **Proposal for a rolling Warboys competition** (Paul Mollison) In the light of the demise of the Saxons, Paul suggested the Warboys should be revived. Initially participation would probably be by invitation and could lead into squad selection. The first Wednesday in the month was suggested as a possible date. Existing squad members should be encouraged to participate but it would not be necessary to play with a regular partner as personal scores could be maintained. Bernie will check room availability and costs so that charges could be calculated.
2. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th April 2017.

Paul then closed the meeting. The committee would like to thank Val and Paul for their hospitality.

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|  | **P2P Submissions for Year to 31st March 2017** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **April** | **May** | **Jun** | **July** | **Aug** | **Sept** | **Oct** | **Nov** | **Dec** | **Jan**  | **Feb** | **March** |  |
| **Club** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Hamlet Court** | 8.64 |  | 8.56 |  | 7.60 |  | 9.04 |  | 8.16 |  |  |  |  |
| **Collier Row** | 9.92 |  | 8.80 |  | 9.20 |  | 9.76 |  | 8.08 |  |  |  |  |
| **Thorpe Bay** | 28.00 | 30.00 | 27.12 | 33.20 | 29.60 | 34.72 | 32.96 |  | 63.92 | 22.40 |  |  |  |
| **Woodham Ferrers** | 11.36 |  | 8.72 |  | 9.76 |  | 8.96 |  | 9.36 |  |  |  |  |
| **Felstead** | 14.40 |  | 12.16 |  | 11.20 |  | 13.92 |  | 12.72 |  |  |  |  |
| **Mountnessing** | 18.48 |  | 18.16 |  | 15.04 |  | 13.44 |  | 14.00 |  |  |  |  |
| **Lingwood** | 18.96 |  | 10.00 |  | 15.12 |  | 13.44 |  | 12.96 |  |  |  |  |
| **Alpha** | 13.16 |  | 12.88 |  | 10.40 |  | 14.32 |  | 10.88 |  |  |  |  |
| **Loughton** | 17.84 |  | 16.80 |  | 20.88 |  | 19.20 |  | 16.00 |  |  |  |  |
| **Hutton** | 4.40 | 4.72 | 3.36 | 5.04 | 3.28 | 4.24 | 4.08 |  | 11.28 | 1.84 |  |  |  |
| **Waltham Forest** | 2.96 | 4.32 | 2.48 | 4.88 | 4.24 | 2.08 | 3.28 |  | 23.44 | 1.92 |  |  |  |
| **Chelmsford** | 10.48 |  | 10.16 |  | 9.52 | 5.12 | 4.32 |  | 10.08 | 2.08 |  |  |  |
| **Billericay Mayflower** | 9.20 |  | 14.72 |  | 15.84 |  | 14.64 |  | 12.56 |  |  |  |  |
| **Monday** | 6.48 | 5.68 | 3.44 | 4.72 | 5.68 | 4.32 | 4.56 |  | 11.60 | 5.60 |  |  |  |
| **Witham** | 2.16 | 1.84 | 2.56 | 0.48 | 1.76 | 0.48 | 0.56 |  | 5.60 | 0.48 |  |  |  |
| **Southend & Leigh** | 34.64 | 36.32 | 43.92 | 38.96 | 41.36 | 38.40 | 36.80 |  | 73.52 | 30.32 |  |  |  |
| **Old House Friday** | 3.12 | 4.32 | 5.12 | 4.80 | 2.80 | 5.36 | 4.48 |  | 9.04 | 3.04 |  |  |  |
| **St. Annes** | 11.68 | 9.52 | 7.52 | 10.40 | 8.24 | 10.08 | 8.00 |  | 16.16 | 4.16 |  |  |  |
| **Rochford & Rayleigh** |  | 7.44 |  | 7.28 | 7.12 |  |  |  | 9.84 | 7.12 |  |  |  |
| **Brentwood & District** | 4.72 |  | 5.12 |  | 4.08 |  | 3.20 |  | 7.44 |  |  |  |  |
| **Westbury** | 15.44 |  | 16.56 |  | 16.96 |  | 16.00 |  | 15.36 |  |  |  |  |
| **Ilford** | 7.76 |  | 9.04 |  | 8.56 |  | 8.00 |  | 6.24 |  |  |  |  |
| **Ann Owen** | 2.64 | 8.56 |  | 11.68 | 4.08 | 1.44 |  |  | 21.44 | 1.60 |  |  |  |
| **Apple** | 11.76 | 6.08 | 8.24 | 6.40 | 8.32 | 11.28 | 6.32 |  | 17.60 | 6.08 |  |  |  |
| **Brevion** | 19.60 |  | 21.08 |  | 16.16 |  | 20.48 |  | 15.12 |  |  |  |  |
| **Mid Essex** | 23.48 | 24.80 | 20.60 | 28.24 | 24.40 | 22.56 | 21.84 |  | 47.20 | 24.24 |  |  |  |
|   | 311.28 | 143.60 | 297.12 | 156.08 | 311.20 | 140.08 | 291.60 |   | 469.60 | 110.88 | 0.00 | 0.00 |   |
| Adjustments by EBU |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 311.28 | 454.88 | 752.00 | 908.08 | 1219.28 | 1359.36 | 1650.96 |  | 2120.56 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Previous year*** | *349.76* | *156.68* | *312.92* | *136.88* | *348.04* | *149.72* | *325.72* | *151.00* | 307.60 | 115.60 | 274.48 | 159.52 | 1779.72 |
| ***Difference*** | *-38.48* | *-13.08* | *-15.80* | *19.20* | *-36.84* | *-9.64* | *-34.12* | *-151.00* | *162.00* | *-4.72* | *-122.48* |  |  |
| ***Total to date 2016.2017*** | *311.28* | *454.88* | *752.00* | *908.08* | *#######* | *1359.36* | *1651* | *1650.96* | 2120.56 | 2236.16 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Cumulative Difference** | -38.48 | -51.56 | -67.36 | -48.16 | -85.00 | -94.64 | -128.76 | -279.76 | -117.76 | -122.48 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| AMOUNT RECD | 311.28 | 141.92 | 298.08 | 156.08 | 314.72 | 140.08 | 291.60 |  | 469.6 |  |  |  | 2123.36 |
| DIFFERENCE | 0.00 | -1.68 | 0.96 | 0.00 | 3.52 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |  |  |  | 2.8 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2120.56 |

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|  |  |  |  |  |  | **Competitions 2016/17** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Competition** | Date | **Entry** | ***Entry Fee*** | **Room Hire** | **Refreshnents** | **Tournament** | **Hands** | **Prizes** | **Capitation** | **P2P** | **Profit/** |  |
|  |  | **Fees** | ***2016/17*** |  |  | **Directors** | **Bridgemates** |  |  |  | **Loss** |  |
| Accruals |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **-25.36** |  |  |
| Championship Pairs Pairs 2015/16 | 10/04/2016 | 900.00 | *30.00* | 190.00 | 22.80 | 180.00 | 107.50 |  | 400.00 | 25.20 | -25.50 | \*\* |
| Teams of Four |  | 300.00 | *30.00* |  |  |  |  | 96.00 | 232.00 |  | -28.00 | \*\*\* |
| Switch Cup |  | 144.00 | *18.00* |  |  |  |  | 36.00 |  |  | 108.00 |  |
| Mixed Teams | 25/05/2016 | 180.00 | *20.00* | 51.50 | 10.80 |  | 15.00 | 36.00 |  | 6.48 | 60.22 |  |
| Warboys/Club Pairs\*\*\* | 05/06/2016 | 192.00 | *10.00* | 130.00 | 11.40 |  | 15.00 | 30.00 |  | 6.84 | -1.24 |  |
| George Curtis(Blue Point) | 26/06/2016 | 432.00 | *36.00* | 50.00 | 14.40 |  | 60.00 | 72.00 |  | 60.48 | 175.12 |  |
| Summer Seniors | 13/07/2016 | 990.00 | *30.00* | 25.00 | 639.55 | 60.00 | 15.00 | 52.00 |  | 11.88 | 186.57 |  |
| Really Easy | 31/07/2016 | 120.00 | *10.00* | 50.00 | 7.20 | 60.00 | 15.00 |  |  | 9.60 | -21.80 |  |
| Autumn Seniors | 26/10/2016 | 750.00 | *30.00* | 144.00 | 510.05 | 60.00 | 15.00 | 52.00 |  | 9.00 | -40.05 |  |
| Fletcher/ Club Trophy | 30/10/2016 | 1665.00 | *90,,45* | 375.00 | 862.50 | 293.00 | 60.00 |  |  | 53.28 | 21.22 |  |
| Sue Taylor Trophy | 13/11/2016 | 432.00 | *36.00* | *50.00* | *15.00* | 80.00 | *30.00* | 72.00 |  | *17.28* | 167.72 |  |
| Mixed Pairs | 04/12/2016 | 462.00 | *21.00* | *50.00* | *15.00* | 80.00 | *30.00* | 84.00 |  | 15.84 | 187.16 |  |
| Swiss Pairs | 08/01/2017 | 929.00 | *25.00* | *130.00* | *30.00* | 80.00 | 60.00 | 86.00 |  | *26.64* | 516.36 |  |
| Gwen Herga | 18/02/2017 | 117.00 | *13.00* |   |  |  |  | 72.00 |  |  | 45.00 |  |
| Cornell Sponsorship |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.00 |  |
| Cornell Trophy | 12/08/2016 | 1045.00 | *55.00* | *375.00* |  |  |  |  |  |  | 670.00 |  |
| Play with an Expert | 04/02/2017 |  |  |   |  |  |  | 36.00 |  |  | -36.00 |  |
| Spring Seniors  | 15/03/2017 | 60.00 | *30.00* | 76.80 |  |  |  | 52.00 |  |  | -68.80 |  |
| Seniors Cup |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.00 |  |
| Essex Pairs 2016/17 |  |  |  |   |  |  |  | 186.00 |  |  | -186.00 | \*\* |
| B Flight pairs |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.00 |  |
| League S.E |  |  |  |   |  |  |  | 40.00 |  | 30.24 |  |  |
| League West |  |  |  |   |  |  |  | 120.00 |  | 38.88 |  |  |
| Prepaid |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Sub Total** | 0.00 | 8718.00 | 394.00 | 1697.30 | 2138.70 | 893.00 | 422.50 | 1122.00 | 632.00 | 217.16 | 1729.98 |  |
| One Day Event\* |  |  |  | \_\_\_\_\_ |  | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ |  | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_\_ |  | \* |
| **Total** |  | 8718.00 | 394.00 | 1,697.30 | 2138.70 | 893.00 | 422.50 | 1122.00 | 632.00 | 217.16 | 1729.98 |  |
| Entry prior to 01/04 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | AGM | AGM | 9.60 |  |  |
| R Elliott Mix Teams |  |  |  |  |  |  | 422.50 |  |  | 226.76 |  |  |
| Accrual | 632 |  |  |   | *Barleylands* |  |  | Disc | -14.00 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |   | *Anglo European* |  |  |  | 212.76 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |   | *Stock* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |   | *Mountnessing* |  | \* Half share of net surplus. |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | *Thornwood VH* |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |   | *Thorpe Bay BC* |  | \*\*Includes entry to Corwen |  |
|  |  |  |  |   | *Little Baddow VH* |  | \*\*\* includes entry to Pachebo |  |