



## Essex Contract Bridge Association

A constituent member of the English Bridge Union

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 28 June 2017 starting at 19.30  
held at**

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

**Present:**, Linda Fleet, Bernie Hunt, Pat Johnson, Paul Mollison, Val Mollison, Sue Thorburn and Theo Todman

- 1. Welcome and apologies for absence** Paul Mollison welcomed those present. He accepted apologies from Petra Bromfield, Margaret Curtis, Chris Taylor and Dennis Valtisiaris.
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 18 April 2017** 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**

**Proposal for Eve Goblets rule change** Theo's main concern was the lack of clarity in the rules. After a full discussion it was agreed he would use his judgement to determine a clearer set. He would also model a potential set of rules for a B flight competition based on 2016/17 results with the aim of giving B flight players a chance of successfully competing in a Victor Ludorum competition, given they have little chance of success in the main competition.

Theo felt that by publishing the Eve Goblets standings regularly and prominently, players may be encouraged to enter more qualifying competitions to enhance their standings.

**Metropolitan Cup** A team would be entered in each section. Theo would put details on the website.

**League numbers** Entries are not yet complete. When Bernie has finalised the league structure, details will be posted on the website.

**Warboys update** All seems to be going well with contention for places. It was agreed that table money should be £5 for both sections.

Val felt it was not practical to have a single playing director as it affected their play. Either a dedicated TD will be used or two playing directors.

#### **4. Reports from Officers**

- a. **General Secretary** (Sue Thorburn) Nothing to report in addition to items covered in agenda.
- b. **Treasurer** (Linda Fleet)

### **Bank Balances on 27.06.2017**

£8231- Barclays (Compared to £8,111 at 27/06/16)

£15,518- Skipton

**Competitions** The attendance at the Spring Competitions has been steady. The Championship Pairs was well attended but after paying the £208 entry for the Corwen Trophy and the prizes we still made a loss.

The Mixed Teams & Club Pairs had an overall excess of income over expenditure but the George Curtis made a loss due to low attendance (this year the winners of the Teams of four attended the Pachabo on the same day.

**P2P** The amount of P2P from each club for the three months April/June received by ECBA is £732.56 (£752- 2016). Linda thanked Tony Philpott who very kindly keeps this list up to date.

**Electronic Banking** Unfortunately, it has proved impossible to set up electronic banking at Barclays but a Treasurer's account with Lloyds will give all the functionality required.. It is proposed to switch the number 1 account from Barclays with direct debits to and from EBU to Lloyds and retain the number 2 account for receipt of entry fees. The deposit account with Barclays would also be transferred. This will mean that there is unlikely to be more than an annual transfer (probably by cheque) from Barclays to Lloyds.

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

**Essex events** There have been 3 events since last committee meeting. Numbers are down on last year.

Club pairs - down 1 table.

Mixed teams - level

George Curtis - down 5 tables partly due to clash with the Pachabo.

This clash will be avoided next year.

**Knockout cups** There are the same number of entries as last year with a few players changing within the teams. The draws are done and on the website.

**Software issues** Changes to Bridgewebs, EBUScore and the EBU website have caused a number of problems. Most have been partially or fully resolved; one is outstanding, one awaiting a trial of the new procedure. There does not seem to be a procedure for the EBU to notify software changes.

Changes to the scoring program means that the scoring of County Matches does not work in quite the way originally set it up. It is now possible for players to re-enter pair numbers for the moving team at the start of each set. This will be trialled at the next home match in July.

The master points for last year's ECL matches were given on the old scale. Jill Tattersfield is still trying to get this resolved. The EBU agree it should have been the new rate but it appears they didn't update the rates in the EBULeague set up.

The masterpoints for the Teams of 4 initially went on as blue points even though green points were specified on the round set up. This turned out to be a problem at the EBU end and has now been corrected but will be need to be watched next year.

Bridgewebs has changed the way multi session events are handled and there was a problem with the hand records for the first session being duplicated for the 2nd session. This affected the George Curtis. Bridgewebs fixed it for us, also told us of a workaround until they release the next version with the problem fixed. This should be fixed before we have another multi session event.

There is a problem with the NGS updates for the George Curtis. The EBU are aware of this but their first attempt to fix it didn't work. They are looking into the cause. Ian Mitchell thinks it is down to the processing by the submission in My EBU, but it may be down to the new level of EBUScore software having a bug in it. Ian Mitchell is currently investigating as well as trying to manually fix the problem with the existing event.

**Directing** Alan Rodger is not able to direct the next Seniors event. If Ted Cockle is not available Val will do it as a playing director.

**Competition Programme** The draft winter programme was circulated. The proposed date for the Gwen Herga has been changed to avoid a clash with the Ranked Masters weekend. There are no completely clear weekends at that time of year, but it looks like the best option is the weekend of the National Point-a-board teams as this is not well attended by Essex players. The only other option is to change the time of year completely. The programme was agreed (see minute 11 for later changes)

- d. **League Secretary** (Bernie Hunt) Nothing to report in addition to items covered in agenda.
- e. **Teachers' Liaison Officer** Position vacant
- f. **Webmaster** (Theo Todman) Theo reported it was largely business as usual. The issue with the EBU membership download seems to be fixed.
- g. **ECL Team Selection Committee** (Chris Taylor) Nothing to report in addition to items covered in agenda. Theo asked how the selection procedure works.

Bernie explained that a group meets in February and confirmed there are movements between squads.

- h. Publicity Officer** (Pat Johnson) The county news section will no longer appear in the printed magazine but Pat will continue to submit copy for the EBU on line magazine. Pat will provide Theo with those issues of the EBU submissions that would have been consolidated into the County News for archive and loading on the website. This applies to the year just gone, and on-going.

- 5. Herts/Essex joint venture:** Ware is now booked for September 2017 and July 2018 and there will be an increase in fees to £25 from July 2017. There are 65 Pairs and 32 Teams compared to 52 Pairs and 26 Teams at the same time last year. Gary Conrad has two directors booked and a third on standby if the numbers shoot up. Paul will email a reminder to his list of players who enter county competitions. Herts have emailed 2,500 previous entries and put the event in a very prominent position on the Herts website. Theo was asked to put the information in the main body of the Home Page. **LATER** This has been done.

The September 2016 GP event was so poorly attended that Herts contacted Essex to discuss the viability of continuing. Justifiably, Herts feel that they do most of the work in organising this event and also feel there are a low number of entries from Essex players. Linda did not know the number of entries from Herts players.

Representatives from the Essex and Herts committees met to discuss the future of the September GP events. Val offered to take on more work for events but most of the preparation for September 2017 has been done so there needs to be a meeting after September to establish what more Essex can do.

Several scenarios were discussed including moving the event to Barleylands and/or converting the event to a "Congress" which means that we can apply to run the September 2018 event on a different weekend to the Surrey GP event. At the Herts committee meeting last week it was decided to send a letter to the EBU (Copy attached) requesting a reply before 14<sup>th</sup> August. The EBU have agreed to respond by that date.

If the request is not granted and Ware is unavailable then the fall-back will be Barleylands. Gary feels that Herts members would not support the move to Essex and has requested some time to search for other venues.

## **6. AGM Follow up**

**Changes to Seniors events** Val will arrange the simpler and shorter lunch break. She will aim for a 30 board session. The start time will be 10.30 for 10.45. Theo will put the information on the website.

**Training for C team** A C squad section will be run alongside the A & B Warboys event and Bernie will approach John Ward to ask him to organise it. An August start date will be aimed for. It was agreed the analysis of Warboys

hands would be circulated to all squads and all would attend Marc Chawner's seminars. A suggestion to produce "SIM type" booklets in advance of play would be kept under review.

**Engraving of cups** It was agreed to discontinue engraving. When the cups are returned Val will make sure the history on the website is complete. Certificates may be presented to the winners and the history could be printed on the reverse.

- 7. Appointment of shareholders** As Audrey Hartley and Keith Thompson had resigned two more shareholders are needed. Linda agreed to do this and it was agreed Sue would approach Dennis about the other position.
- 8. Support for training in new laws** Val had received a good response to her email about training in new laws and EBUscore. Gary Conrad had agreed to run a half-day course on each topic on 17 September. There would be a limit of 20 for the TD training and 12 for EBUscore. Clubs would be offered a free place on each session. If there are any vacancies clubs can send a second person at a cost of £10 per head.
- 9. Use of county Bridgemates for Chelmsford Swiss pairs** This was agreed and, as it is a charity event, no charge would be made.
- 10. Direct entry to teams of 4 for a lower fee** It was agreed there could be direct entry for a fee of £10. There would be no change in prizes. The change would be flagged in the programme.
- 11. Play with an expert** Paul felt Play with an Expert and the Mentored Switch Teams had little benefit and should be removed from the programme. This was agreed and it was also felt the inclusion of the Really Easy events should be kept under review. These changes mean the impact on the NGS is no longer an issue.
- 12. Need for a newsletter with annual results** Pat said this was time consuming to produce and circulate. All results are on the website. It was agreed the newsletter should be discontinued.
- 13. Prize money for competitions with few entries** It was agreed there would be no change in prize money. Theo will check information on the website is correct.
- 14. Dispensing with "Honorary" titles for ECBA officers** This was agreed.
- 15. Date of next meeting** The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1 November 2017

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



# Hertfordshire Bridge Association

**Gordon Rainsford  
General Manager  
English Bridge Union  
Broadfields, Bicester Road,  
Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 8AZ**

01923 241031  
teesdale@nildram.co.uk

**2, Richmond Drive  
WATFORD  
Hertfordshire  
WD17 3BG**

**20<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**Dear Gordon,**

I am writing on behalf of both Hertfordshire Bridge Association and Essex Contract Bridge Association to seek consent to convert one of our joint Green Point weekends to a Congress in order to be able to vary the date and return the event to profitability.

For a few years now, Hertfordshire and Essex have combined their GP event allowance to host two GP weekends a year, one in July on the main GP weekend date around the 22nd, and one in September on the main GP weekend date around the 23rd.

The problem we face is that, with declining numbers, the event we host in September has ceased to be economic. This has been exacerbated, in part, by the success of the event in Surrey on the same day, which is now within easy reach of our counties, and has become the main event in the South East.

Last year we held the event with 35 tables on Saturday and just 27 tables on Sunday, compared with Surrey's totals of 82 and 71.

The situation has now been reached where we are making zero profit on the event, and therefore we are considering whether we should continue the event at all; organizing such an event for no return seems pointless.

However, we believe that if we were able to rebrand this as a joint Congress and to avoid a clash with Surrey and any other neighbouring Counties, we could re-establish this as a profitable event. Like many other Counties we use the profits from these events to fund County teams' costs for events such as the Tollemache and Pachabo rather than doing this from general funds.

Looking at the EBU calendar, it would seem that, for example, in 2018, a move of date to either September 15/16 or September 29/30 would avoid any major clashes.

We understand that such an application would be considered if there was a history of either Hertfordshire or Essex hosting Congresses in the past.

We have established that Hertfordshire used to host a congress each year in the 1980s in St Albans, and that Essex used to host a congress each year in Clacton up until about the year 2000.

The EBU enjoys an income from this September event irrespective of our own profits, and this would be lost if the event were to be dropped from our calendar.

We therefore formally request the EBU to give approval for the September Green Point weekend to be replaced by a Congress to be held on one of the above mentioned dates in 2018.

If possible, I would appreciate a decision before our next committee meeting on August 14th to enable us to determine our way forward.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Robert Teesdale  
HBA Secretary**



Cornell Trophy	18/02/201	8	55.00						268.00	-268.00	***
Play with an Expert	03/02/201	8	5.00					<b>36.00</b>		-36.00	*
Spring Seniors	14/03/201	8	30.00					<b>52.00</b>		-52.00	
Seniors Cup										0.00	
										0.00	
<b>Sub Total</b>			<u>2102.00</u>								
Prepaid			-30.00							-30.00	
<b>Sub Total</b>			<u>2072.00</u>								
League S.E	2017/201	8						<b>120.00</b>		-120.00	
League West	2017/201	8						<b>40.00</b>		-40.00	
									1263.0		
			<u>2072.00</u>	540.00	93.00	340.00	135.00	0	695.00	78.58	-912.58
One Day Event*			<u>0.00</u>								*
<b>Total</b>			<u><u>2072.00</u></u>	540.00	93.00	340.00	135.00	0	695.00	78.58	-912.58
								AGM	AGM	<u>9.60</u>	
							135.00		Disc	<u>88.18</u>	
										-14.00	
										74.18	
											* Half share of net surplus.
											**Includes entry to Corwen
											*** includes entry to Pachabo
											**** includes entry to Garden Cities



 Thornwood  
 Barleylands  
 Anglo European  
 Thorpe Bay BC  
 Little Baddow VH



<b>Total to date</b> <b>2016/2017</b>	<b>311.28</b>	<b>454.9</b>	<b>752.00</b>
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<b>Cumulative</b> <b>Difference</b>	<b>-25.92</b>	<b>-2.24</b>	<b>-19.44</b>
AMOUNT RECD	285.36	167.28	279.92
DIFFERENCE			732.56