



Essex Contract Bridge Association

A constituent member of the English Bridge Union

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 19.30 on Wednesday 20 June 2018 at Paul and Val Mollison's house – Tekoa Lodge, Mayes Lane, Sandon, Essex, CM2 7RW

Present: Petra Bromfield, Linda Fleet, Bernie Hunt, Paul Mollison, Val Mollison, Chris Taylor, Sue Thorburn

1. **Welcome** Paul Mollison welcomed those present. Apologies received from Pat Johnson and Dennis Valtisiaris
2. **Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 18 April 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)

County working group The EBU are keen to extend their working groups to the east and south-east. This falls in Dennis' area and will be picked up when he returns.

General Data Protection Regulations Shortly before the new ruling became active the EBU contacted clubs with a contract which they feel needs to be exchanged between the EBU and clubs. The general feeling seems to be that it is unnecessarily complicated and a number of local clubs have contacted the EBU asking for the agreement to be simplified. The ball is in the EBU's court.

Bridge in Schools The first session at Halstead was a success and the team, led by Val Poter, have been asked back on 10 July and when term starts in September. Val has also arranged for him and Ted Cockle to speak to 53 teachers from local schools on 9 July. It was agreed he could use the ECBA heading on any handouts.

The main issue now is funding. Val has been in touch with EBED who originally said they would fund the equipment needed. They have now retracted this and will only fund 50%. Val would like support from Essex. The current estimate for bidding boxes, cloths and card holders is £450 so the Essex subsidy would be £225. It was agreed to make this payment. EBED will supply cards and certificates free of charge.

b. **Treasurer** (Linda Fleet)

Bank Balance on 19/06/2018

£9565- Barclays (£8231 at 27/06/2017)
£15,826 - Skipton.

Competitions Championship Pairs entries were down and, as the top four pairs all decided to enter the Corwen, the deficit (not including the £400 subsidy), after paying the £432 entry, was £398. The Mixed Teams and Club Pairs made a profit but the George Curtis was in deficit.

The Warboys is holding its own financially. It was agreed monthly winners would continue to have their table money refunded but there would not be an annual prize for the overall winner. A payment will be made to Ian Moss for the analysis. Chris will ensure the analysis is passed to Rob Elliott and Jon Ward for circulation to the squads.

P2P Payment for April- June 2018 is £690 (2017 - £732).
Thanks go to Tony Philpott who very kindly keeps this list up to date.

Electronic Banking After an initial glitch Linda has reapplied for accounts at Lloyds. She and Val will have authority for on line payments. The competition entry account will stay at Barclays.

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

Events The numbers at the Championship Pairs was down and the B flight had to be cancelled. The poor attendance may have been due to a clash with the Jersey festival. This should not be a problem next year. Val will continue to promote the event, particularly the B flight, but if the support for the B flight is low next year inclusion in the programme will have to be reconsidered.

The Club Pairs had 10.5 tables which is better than last year. Val had tried to get clubs to encourage entries. She will suggest they take the same approach as for the Cornell and Fletcher and select pairs to represent the club. There is also the added incentive that the winners can represent Essex in the Metropolitan Cup.

The future of the George Curtis is to be discussed later (see minute 8). Depending on the outcome we may want to turn the Sue Taylor into a blue pointed event although a licence may not be granted because of clashes with other events. It was agreed no change would be made in the current year but should be considered for 2019/20.

Entries A high proportion of entries are not received until shortly before the event. This makes preparation difficult. Entrants need to be encouraged to complete their entry in good time.

Directing Marcia Levan-Harris and Graham Beeton are due to attend training in September. Linda wanted confirmation as soon as possible that Graham was attending so she could make the booking.

It was agreed Val should try to get an outside director for the Mixed Pairs

Catering Following discussion at the AGM Val would contact clubs to let them know there would be no catering at the Cornell and Fletcher/Cup for Clubs. The entry fee would be reduced to £35 per team of four.

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

Entries are starting for the next season. The entry fee will be unchanged. Val suggested that teams are reminded that blue points are available for the top division.

e. **Webmaster** (Petra Bromfield)

Petra continues to work on updating the content and design of the website. She thanked the committee for their support and appreciated the feedback she had received. She was pleased the issue with the entries spreadsheet had been resolved.

She is still working on the ECBA history and has reached 1985 in the mass of documents handed over to her.

f. **Shareholders** (Dennis Valtisiaris)

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report

5. **Herts/Essex joint venture.** Entries are down on last year. Herts are highlighting the event on their website and Petra will do so for Essex. Two directors are booked and a third available if necessary. The September event is now classified as a congress to avoid conflict with Surrey.
6. **Eligibility for entry to competitions** Following an instance where a non-Essex team wanted to enter the Teams of 4 Val has confirmed that, for any competition where the winners then represent the county, primary allegiance must be to Essex. The EBU will only allow the winner or runner up to represent the county in the qualification event eg the Pachabo. Blue pointed events have to be open.
7. **Reorganisation of Essex Leagues** Bernie has revised the plan to have a 5-team premier league with home and away matches as two teams could not commit to playing so many matches county wide. They are happy to play in a 6-team league with 5 matches. The end result is, subject to confirmed team entries in the lower divisions, a Premier league of 6 teams, Division 1 (West) of 6/7 teams and Divisions 1 and 2 (South East) each 6/7 teams.

The winners in both Division 1 will be promoted and the bottom two in the Premier league relegated. If the winner does not want to be promoted the runner up will take their place but no lower. It is possible this arrangement could result in unbalanced league sizes but, if so, the areas would be reviewed.

Promotion/ relegation in the South East divisions would be 2 up 2 down. The prize structure would be unchanged. Bernie will issue the fixtures shortly and ask for entry fees. Paul will publicise the new arrangements.

8. **The future of the George Curtis Event.** The numbers at the George Curtis continue to fall and the event loses money. It is felt the poor attendance is mainly due to the date in June but there is no other weekend in the year that would receive EBU approval for a blue pointed event.

The proposal is to run it as a restricted event with no A or B squad players. This means it could be run on the same weekend as the Tollemache. Publicity will be essential and clubs should be

encouraged to treat it like the Cornell and Fletcher and select teams. This would not exclude entries by “non-club” teams.

Bernie will pull the plans together and run it as a trial event this year. The best slot is sometime between late September and early December keeping well away from the Fletcher/Cup for Clubs weekend. It will not be named the George Curtis as the trophy has already been awarded this year. Next year the name may be changed to recognise Margaret Curtis.

9. **Tollemache Qualifier** The venue has been moved from Solihull to Daventry. It was agreed Linda should book 10 rooms at the new venue with insurance on unused rooms.
10. **Any other business** No matters raised.
11. **Date of next meeting** The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 17 October 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 | Refreshment | Competitions 2018/19 | | Prizes | Capitation | P2P | Profit/Loss | |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--------|------------|-------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | | | | Tournament Directors | Hands Briagemates | | | | | |
| Championship Pairs Pairs 2017/18 | | 670.00 | 30.00 | 296.00 | | | 200.00 | 140.00 | 432.00 | | -398.00 | ** |
| Teams of Four | | 240.00 | 30.00 | | | | | 96.00 | 226.00 | | -82.00 | *** |
| Switch Cup | | 90.00 | 18.00 | | | | | 36.00 | | | 54.00 | |
| Mixed Teams | 13/05/2018 | 180.00 | 20.00 | 50.00 | 12.00 | 40.00 | 15.00 | 36.00 | | 6.48 | 20.52 | |
| Club Pairs | 10/06/2018 | 210.00 | 10.00 | 50.00 | 12.60 | 40.00 | 15.00 | 30.00 | | 6.12 | 56.28 | |
| George Curtis(Blue Poi | 17/06/2018 | 216.00 | 36.00 | 100.00 | 16.80 | 80.00 | 30.00 | 72.00 | | 36.40 | -119.20 | |
| Warboys & B Flight | 11/04/2018 | 280.00 | 5.00 | 80.00 | 36.80 | 40.00 | 30.00 | 10.00 | | 10.64 | 72.56 | |
| Warboys & B Flight | 09/05/2018 | 280.00 | 5.00 | 80.00 | 36.80 | 40.00 | 30.00 | 10.00 | | 10.64 | 72.56 | |
| Warboys & B Flight | 13/06/2018 | 280.00 | 5.00 | 80.00 | 36.80 | 40.00 | 30.00 | 10.00 | | 10.64 | 72.56 | |
| Warboys & B Flight | 11/07/2018 | | 5.00 | | | | | 10.00 | | | -10.00 | |
| Warboys & B Flight | 08/08/2018 | | 5.00 | | | | | 10.00 | | | -10.00 | |
| Warboys & B Flight | 12/09/2018 | | 5.00 | | | | | 10.00 | | | -10.00 | |
| Summer Seniors | 18/07/2018 | | 30.00 | 25.00 | | | | 52.00 | | | -77.00 | |
| Autumn Seniors | 24/10/2018 | | 30.00 | 130.00 | | | | 52.00 | | | -182.00 | |
| Fletcher/ Club Trophy | 28/10/2018 | | 120/60 | | | | | | | | 0.00 | |
| Sue Taylor Trophy | 11/11/2018 | | 36.00 | | | | | 72.00 | | | -72.00 | |
| Mixed Pairs | 09/12/2018 | | 21.00 | | | | | 80.00 | | | -80.00 | |
| Swiss Pairs | 13/01/2019 | | 25.00 | | | | | 86.00 | | | -86.00 | |
| Gwen Herga | 19/01/2019 | | 13.00 | | | | | 72.00 | | | -72.00 | |
| Cornell Sponsorship | | | | | | | | | | | 0.00 | |
| Cornell Trophy | 17/02/2019 | | 55.00 | | | | | | 276.00 | | -276.00 | **** |
| Spring Seniors | 20/03/2019 | | 30.00 | | | | | 52.00 | | | -52.00 | |
| Seniors Cup | | | | | | | | | | | 0.00 | |
| Championship Pairs 20 | 14/04/2019 | | | | | | | | | | 0.00 | |
| Sub Total | | 2446.00 | | 891.00 | 151.80 | 480.00 | 150.00 | 936.00 | 934.00 | 80.92 | -1177.72 | |
| Premier League | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| League S.E | 2018/2018 | | | | | | | | | | 0.00 | |
| League West | 2018/2019 | | | | | | | | | | 0.00 | |
| | | 0.00 | | 891.00 | 151.80 | 480.00 | 150.00 | 936.00 | 934.00 | 80.92 | -1177.72 | |
| One Day Event* | | 0.00 | | | | | | | | | | * |
| Total | | 0.00 | | 891.00 | 151.80 | 480.00 | 150.00 | 936.00 | 934.00 | 80.92 | -1177.72 | |
| | | | | | | Thornwood | 150.00 | | | | 80.92 | |
| | | | | | | Barleylands | | Disc | | | | |
| | | | | | | Anglo European | | | | 80.92 | | |
| | | | | | | Thorpe Bay BC | | | | | | * Half share of net surplus. |
| | | | | | | Little Baddow VH | | | | | | **Includes entry to Corwen |
| | | | | | | **** includes entry to Garden Cities | | | | | | *** includes entry to Pachabo |