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Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 19.30 on Teams on Wednesday 2 August 2023

**Present** Linda Fleet, Pat Johnson, Marcia Levan-Harris, John McCoy, Paul Mollison, Val Mollison, Ian Moss, Sue Thorburn

1. **Welcome** John McCoy welcomed those present.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 10 May 2023** 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 on behalf of the chairman.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes not already included in the agenda** No matters arising.

1. **Introduction from the Chairman** All the topics John wishes to discuss are included in the agenda.
2. **Reports from Officers**
3. **General Secretary** (Sue Thorburn)

There is a new Essex club, Eves Corner, on the EBU trial affiliation scheme. It is a teaching club. There is a question mark over whether Hamlet Court is still affiliated. They no longer appear on the EBU website but we have not received notification they have unaffiliated. Sue will follow-up. **LATER** Hamlet Court is still affiliated but opts not to appear on the list of Essex clubs on the EBU website**.**

Sue will look to update the website to provide details of all competitions. John is providing a briefing on the Bridgewebs based competition entry procedure.

1. **Treasurer** (Linda Fleet)

**Bank Balance at 27.07.2023**

Barclays £9006.57 (£10,000 - 2022)

Skipton £16,554 (£16,283 - 2022)

**Essex Competitions**  The Club pairs and Handicap pairs were poorly attended and resulted in a net deficit of around £60. Details are attached.

**Universal Membership** The EBU portion is now 44p. The Essex portion remains at zero.

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

**Competitions** Val has booked directors for the major events – Swiss Pairs and the Fletcher. Either Val or Alan Rodger will direct the charity event in November. Val would like help with the computer side which John offered to provide. Val is also away for the Fletcher so John will liaise with the director.

The capacity of the larger room at Barleylands is still uncertain but if it can take 12 tables there is unlikely to be an issue. The room needs to be booked before all competition entries are received so we will have to take the hit if it turns out not to have been needed.

**Website** Val asked for home & away information to be reinstated on ECL events. **LATER** This has been done.

John asked Ian, Val and Sueto agree andupdate the format of information on ECL matches on the website.

1. **Shareholders** (John McCoy)

Nothing to report.

1. **Programme Secretary (**Pat Johnson**)**

Nothing to report.

1. **Essex Bridge Academy** John is planning to circulate an update in the next few weeks
2. **Update from Chairman of Selectors** Ian outlined recent results in ECL matches and the international and friendly matches. There will be another boot camp on 3 September and the possibility of a seminar by an England international is being considered. His report is attached.
3. **Committee roles** There was a brief discussion about committee posts. It was agreed the roles of League Secretary and Education Secretary should continue and each will produce a report for the AGM. Marcia will be League Secretary and John will co-opt an Education secretary**. NOTE** The roles of Publicity Secretary and Webmaster have lapsed.

Val said the 2022/3 leagues needed finalisation with the EBU.

1. **League Organisation** The entry form is now on the website but John felt more information was needed including the entry fees. Marcia cannot determine the structure until she knows how many teams have entered. There should be regular website updates on the league positions.
2. **Teams of 4 competition** There was a discussion on a possible new Teams of 4 competition. It was felt there had to be an online option as F2F was unlikely to attract sufficient interest to be viable. Essential features need to be that the competition is of sufficient standard for the winners to represent the county in the Pachabo while in a format that gives all entrants something to play for. Cash prizes and, possibly, a trophy should be awarded.

John asked Ian and Pat to produce a proposal. The first available date would be March 2024.

1. **Competition entry fees and prizes**  Linda outlined how entry fees and prizes were changed during the pandemic when all competitions were online. John asked Linda to circulate a schedule of proposed entry fees for the current programme.

It was agreed prizes should be awarded for the major events ie Championship Pairs, Open Pairs, Mixed Pairs and the two Swiss Pairs. Prizes could be vouchers giving entry to future events or cash. John asked the committee to provide feedback to Linda when she circulates the entry fees schedule.

1. **History of Essex bridge** Audrey Hartley had asked about updating the history of Essex bridge. It was agreed Audrey should be asked to prepare this and all material possible will be provided.
2. **Any Other Business** In line with a draft EBU good practice for CBA guideline John proposed an AGM for affiliated clubs and suggested a Saturday in October.
3. **Date of next meeting** The next meeting will be held on Teams 7.30pm on 8 November 2023. John then closed the meeting.

Summary of report from Chair of Selection Committee: 2nd August 2023

1. In the Eastern Counties League (ECL) match v Suffolk our results were: A team lost 12-18, B team lost 17-3, C team lost 11-9

2. The friendly internationals, with Prince Edward County Ontario, are continuing fortnightly. We are now joined by 4 pairs from Italy (Club Pesaro). who are of good standard and there is indication we will get more. We will also look for a few pairs from elsewhere to ensure these sessions retain interest for Essex.

3. Friendly match v Gloucestershire. This took place on 30th July, each side was represented by 8 pairs. Both sides agreed to select pairs of NGS Q/J/T pair’s rank. Although Gloucestershire won by 47imp over 24 boards, 3 of the top 4 places on the X-imps were occupied by Essex pairs, namely, Maureen and George Vede, Marcia Levan-Harris and John McCoy, Linda Fleet and Paul Stevens.

4. The SC is pushing on with coaching; Marc Chawner is preparing more Boot Camps. I must record a big thank you to Marc who has been the main facilitator for both the international and Gloucestershire friendly matches. Both have involved a great deal of work. Bernie Hunt is investigating the possibility of a seminar by a well-known, sometime, England international. We will decide what our target audience is and what content would be most useful.

5. We have recruited a further 6 players to the squad, mainly based on their form with current members. One pair is completely new. We did this to strengthen B and C match selection.

6. Selection for the Tollemache will be undertaken in August soon after the next ECL match.

7. The Selection committee will meet in September to assess our current activities including timing of selection and announcement of teams for the ECL as requested.