



Essex County Bridge Association

MINUTES

AGM - 12th July 2026

Present

Barry Capal
Bernie Hunt
Gemma Fewster
Marc Chawner
Pat Johnson
Jill Fletcher
Linda Fleet

Chairman
Tournament Secretary
League Secretary
Education Officer
Committee Member
Committee Member
Treasurer

Item

Description

1. Apologies

Sue Thorburn

2. Welcome

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Barry Capal, at 1.10pm., confirming quorum had been achieved and thanking everyone for attending. The meeting was adjourned for the Jack High competition and will be resumed at the end of play.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The meeting resumed at 4.30pm., and the minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.

4. Matters Arising

No matters arising



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5. Secretary's Report

As the secretary was absent BC presented her final report. There were no significant changes.

ST was, after nine years of service to the ECBA, leaving post - BC pointed out that Sue had given loyal and professional service since 2017 and the committee were very grateful for her input.

6. Treasurer's Report

Overall the balance sheet was looking good. There has been a boost in income due to GF & IM collecting long forgotten silverware that had been left in boxes in garages and was no longer relevant - the items were taken to Gerrards (Precious Metals) Ltd of Hatton Garden who valued it at c.£5,256 - Chelmsford will receive £275.00, and how the remainder will be used to be discussed at the next meeting, however, BC confirmed that it will all be used for Essex. There are no tax implications in the 'windfall'.

6.1 Treasurer

LF had made it known at the last meeting that she was, after 17 years of service to the ECBA standing down - BC presented Linda with flowers and thanked her for her service.

7. Tournament Secretary's Report

BH is going to contact every club in Essex and, much like the process GF undertook for the Leagues, is going to personally visit every club - BH feels that there needs to be more promotion of Essex events.



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8. League Secretary's Report

GF was very happy to report on the success of the League - all in all there were 29 teams - only one team had to pull out because of the death of Dennis Wilson, Thorpe Bay Tournament Director, GF and the committee offered their sincere condolences to Eileen Wilson for her loss.

Three teams needed to forfeit games due to scheduling issues.

GF believed that the small change to the sub rules helped the league enormously.

GF will be reviewing a 'Real Bridge' possibility for those players with health and mobility issues who cannot physically attend either a club or a venue. GF has asked everyone to let her know of people who are in that situation so that she can reach out to them.

Division Four - Inexperienced players - all coped very well regardless of their inexperience - the overall winners, Bluehouse, were presented with their cup & certificates.

Division Three - Challenging - Rob Orange's team, St Anne's Pioneers, ran away with it - everyone agreed that they were a pleasure to play with and against - a well deserved win.

Division Two - Angela Fenton's team, Ace's High, led from the front but then Linda Fleet's team, The Weakenders, who started late due to unforeseen circumstances, pipped Angela at the post - very exciting.

Division One As you would expect - an absolute humdinger - Vikings leading all the way until a last minute small diamond lead against a slam - first place to fifth and the swing shifted to Tony Verran's team, Waltham Foresters, for the win.



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9. Chair of Selection Committee's Report

Boot camp in the pipeline - details to follow

10. **Appointment of Examiner** - Steve Ensor has agreed to take up the role of Examiner for the ECBA.

11. Constitution Amendment

IT WAS AGREED THAT - the proposed amendment to the Constitution to extend the window for the AGM to the 31st August was agreed unanimously.

12. Election of Officers

Steve Abbott was proposed for Treasurer by Sue Thorborn - the proposal was seconded by Barry Capal and unanimously carried

Mary Perkin was proposed as Secretary by Sue Thorborn - the proposal was seconded by Barry Capal and unanimously carried.

13. A.O.B.

As there was no other business the meeting closed at 5.25pm.

The next meeting of the committee will be on 29th July at 1.30pm., at Barleylands.