



Essex Contract Bridge Association

A constituent member of the English Bridge Union

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 18 April 2017 starting at 19.30
held at
Paul and Val Mollison's house – Tekoa Lodge, Mayes Lane, Sandon, Essex, CM2 7RW**

Present: Margaret Curtis, Linda Fleet, Audrey Hartley, Bernie Hunt, Pat Johnson, Paul Mollison, Val Mollison, Chris Taylor, Keith Thompson and Sue Thorburn

- 1. Welcome and apologies for absence** Paul Mollison welcomed those present. He accepted apologies from Theo Todman and Dennis Valtisiaris.
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday, 25 January 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** All matters arising are covered by other items in the agenda.
- 4. Reports from Hon Officers**

a. **Hon General Secretary** (Sue Thorburn)

The draft agenda for the AGM had been circulated. One proposal had been received which will be discussed later in the meeting. The final agenda will be circulated after the meeting.

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

Bank Balances on 31.03.17

£9,411- Barclays (Compared to £9,018 at 29/04/16)

£15,685- Skipton

Competitions

Provisionally, there was a surplus on the Gwen Herga but a deficit on the Cornell, PWE and Spring Seniors. The loss on the Cornell was greater than in 2016 as the charge for the hall increased by £200 and the director's fees by £167. Overall for the year the competitions showed a deficit of (£27) (2016 - Surplus £763) and the Essex/Herts event brought in £750 (2016 - £1,100). It was agreed that the entry to the club competitions be increased to £60 for the Cornell, £120 for the Fletcher and £60 for the Cup for clubs. Pat asked if the

intention was to make a surplus from the competitions. Linda said the aim was to cover the cost of Essex entering competitions. The competition breakdown is attached.

P2P

This year we have received £2,665 in P2P (2016 - £2,787). Linda thanked Tony Philpott who very kindly keeps this list up to date. The spreadsheet has been amended to show individual totals per club.

Prizes

The total this year is £1,122 (2016 - £1,158) This year cash has been ordered from the bank and Linda has prepared the envelopes as last year for the AGM.

AGM

Linda cannot attend the AGM but will prepare her report and accounts. The accounts are with Tony and show a surplus of £29 compared to surplus last year of £865 (£351 has been transferred from the development fund to offset some of the costs of the seminars.) Income was down this year by about £300 and expenses up by £615 which accounts for the swing of about £850.

Following the resignation of Michael Vandome, Tony Philpott has very kindly agreed to examine two years accounts and Petra Bromfield from Southend has agreed to take on the role in the future. Appointment of the examiner is an agenda item.

c. Tournament Secretary (Val Mollison)

Directing for competitions

Arrangements are finalised for summer competitions with Alan Rodger doing the majority. Other than the Cornell Trophy, directing the 2017-18 winter programme is provisionally arranged. Alan Rodger has confirmed he is available for all. Catering has been booked for both summer and winter events.

County matches

At the last meeting we discussed having a non-playing director for the County matches. Val will do the match in May as she would like to oversee the computer scoring for the home matches for the coming season until it is bedded in. She is playing in July but will set up the computer and will direct in January as she is not playing.

From the away match at Suffolk it was apparent that one of the advantages of 2 sets of boards rather than 3 is that it increases the chance of a director being available who has already played the boards. Given the cost of paying for a

non-playing director, and the fact there is little for the director to do, she suggested we revert to 2 sets of boards and not have a non-playing director. **Note** a non-playing director will be needed if Val is not playing until other directors are familiar with the computer set-up.

Trophies

Val is in the process of trying to get all the trophies back ready for engraving before the AGM. One or two competitions still to be decided. She will contact players concerned to find out when the finals are due to be played.

Update on competitions

To avoid a recurrence of the problem which occurred at Little Baddow Val will arrange for players to bring tables as we do for Fletcher/Cornell events.

The problem with the access at Anglo European at the Cornell was because the demolition work on the neighbouring building was due to start the next day and so the entrance had been closed because of scaffolding etc. We have been assured it will not happen again.

Holding the Gwen Herga and Play with an Expert competitions on Saturday seemed to work OK.

d. Hon League Secretary (Bernie Hunt)

Bernie reported that the leagues were going well. In South-east, division 1 is complete, division 2 is coming to a close finish and division 3 is ongoing. The west division is not yet complete.

In both areas the Friendly Fours are progressing well although in South-east one team are having problems scheduling matches and if their games are excluded it will significantly change the league results. It was agreed that there would be no promotion or relegation but trophies should be awarded; Val will look at which trophies from discontinued competition are available.

The final numbers for next year's leagues were not yet available. Bernie will confirm details at the next meeting.

Theo wants to stop registering the teams for ECL matches on the EBU website. It was agreed the team captains would be asked to do this. Jill Tattersfield will be asked to add all three captains for each of the leagues so of them can enter results for any of the teams.

e. Hon Teachers' Liaison Officer (Keith Thompson)

Very little activity to report, all enquiries have been dealt with. Val circulated a leaflet which had been produced for an Older Persons Information event in Chelmsford. Next year we will consider having a stall.

There was a short discussion about developing bridge and it was felt more teachers were needed in west Essex although mid-Essex and the Southend area had good examples of development.

The plan for Tanya Genthe to take over following Keith's resignation was well received.

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

Theo was not at the meeting but sent the following report by email.

Mostly, things have been chugging along nicely

I did some more tinkering with the Masterpoints promotions and ranking, and "trued-up" the 2016 promotions with the EBU take thereon. I've not been able to do the end-March run as – following the EBU's membership database upgrade, and the subsequent fall-out – the EBU haven't run the promotions either.

As part of their upgrade, the EBU said they were replacing the membership database download. I've not heard anything further. Has anyone else. The above Masterpoints functions depend on this. I've run the old download OK just now, but it may not be reliable if it's running off old tables that haven't been updated.

I think the hand-over of the ECL results entries to the EBU is "in hand" – Val will explain. I've set up the ECBA website, and Jill Tattersfield has rolled-over the EBU page, which my page links to OK.

The Eve Goblets function is up-to date, as are the associated website pages.

I added a few more features to my "mini websites". See the Jubilee site (<http://www.essexbridgeresults.org.uk/Jubilee>). I'll probably stop the enhancements when Colin Scott retires and I can take bridge seriously.

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

Teams have been selected for 2017/18.

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

Pat had little to report. A list of trophy winners has been prepared for the county news.

5. **Herts/Essex joint venture** (Linda Fleet) The Essex share of both events last year was only £750. The September event only just broke even. The increase in fees to £25 from July 2017 and the withdrawal of free tea and coffee should make 2017 a better year. Ware is now booked for July and September 2017.

A meeting has been arranged for 25 May to discuss the viability of the September event and the possibility of holding the September event at Barleylands. Linda will do a costing comparison for holding the event at Barleylands, Ware or Anglo European. Alan Woof is the new representative for Herts.

6. **Share Holder's report** (Margaret Curtis, Audrey Hartley, Keith Thompson). There had not been a shareholders meeting since the last committee and thus there was nothing to report.

Both Audrey and Keith have resigned from the committee and, as shareholders are automatically members of the committee, this means new shareholders are needed. Essex can have up to three shareholders and the only requirement is to attend two meetings per year. Linda offered to take on the role. A final decision will be made at the next meeting.

7. **Tollemache entry** (Paul Mollison) A member had approached Paul about the possibility of using the funds currently subsidising travel and accommodation for the Tollemache to improve the standard of the squad by providing mentoring/training.

Following a full discussion it was agreed to provide the subsidy in November 2017 but, subject to review, discontinue it after that. Linda will book accommodation. Initially mentoring will be funded from reserves and will begin after the rolling Warboys starts in June 2017 although not necessarily immediately. Once the subsidy is discontinued Approximately £1000 will be released.

The discussion covered the following points:

- a. Discontinuing the subsidy will also apply to the Corwen and Pachabo as agreed in November 2016 (minute 9a). It was felt that most people would still play without a subsidy and the team would not be weaker. Many other counties do not subsidise their teams.
- b. The subsidy for 2017 will be £50 per head not £40 as agreed in November (minute 9a). This will also be paid for the Corwen and Pachabo.
- c. The format of the training will need to be kept under review. It was felt the best initial approach would be an analysis of hands played in the Warboys.
- d. Ian Moss will be asked for advice on who could provide the mentoring. One option would be to use an international player as a consultant; another would be to use Paul Spencer and/or Marc Chawner. The latter option is practical if the analysis approach is taken.
- e. All squad members should be encouraged to attend although there was a feeling the A team may be reluctant while the other teams would welcome mentoring.
- f. Attendees should pay a small charge to contribute to the cost of the mentoring session.

- 8. Venue for ECL matches against Norfolk** (Audrey Hartley) Audrey was concerned that we had not kept to the original agreement to play matches against Norfolk at an easily accessible venue. Although the AGM had voted heavily in favour of using Barleylands for all matches Audrey felt they had not been given the full picture.

Val said the extra travel time to Barleylands over Thornwood was in the order of 17 minutes. There were considerable advantages in using a fixed site as it was not necessary to spend time arranging and setting up the venue.

It was agreed there should be no change and all matches will continue to be played at Barleylands..

- 9. Eve Goblets rules** (Theo Todman) Theo had provided some notes on his thought about the Eve Goblets. There was general agreement that the rules needed review and Theo was asked to submit a firm proposal to the next committee.

- 10. Metropolitan Cup 2017**(Val Mollison) Val had received an invitation for Essex to play in the Metropolitan Cup which is at East Grinstead this year. A team of 12 can be entered in each of the A and B sections and two teams of 8 in the C section. Entry fees are £120 per team in A and B and £80 in C. Chris and Bernie will look at the possibility of entering a team and report back to the next committee meeting.

- 11. AGM** (Sue Thorburn) The draft agenda had been issued and one proposal had been received from Peter Scotting who felt the three Seniors events should be increased to 30 or 32 boards. He was also concerned at the distance some people had to travel to the venues and felt there should be a single central venue. The committee felt these were two separate issues and that he should be asked to submit a clear two part proposal. **Later** The second part of the proposal has been withdrawn.

- 12. Any Other Business** Audrey and Keith have resigned from the committee. Paul, with full support from the remainder of the committee, thanked them for their contribution to Essex Bridge over several years.

Linda asked for confirmation that the team for the Corwen should be given £50 per person subsidy but should arrange their own travel and accommodation

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 28 June 2017.

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

P2P Submissions for Year to 31st March 2017

Club	April	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Total
Hamlet Court	8.64		8.56		7.60		9.04		8.16		7.68		49.68
Collier Row	9.92		8.80		9.20		9.76		8.08		8.24		54.00
Thorpe Bay	28.00	30.00	27.12	33.20	29.60	34.72	32.96		63.92	22.40	31.84	31.12	364.88
Woodham													
Ferrers	11.36		8.72		9.76		8.96		9.36		6.24		54.40
Felstead	14.40		12.16		11.20		13.92		12.72		13.36		77.76
Mountnessing	18.48		18.16		15.04		13.44		14.00		11.68		90.80
Lingwood	18.96		10.00		15.12		13.44		12.96		13.36		83.84
Alpha	13.16		12.88		10.40		14.32		10.88		10.56		72.20
Loughton	17.84		16.80		20.88		19.20		16.00		12.80		103.52
Hutton	4.40	4.72	3.36	5.04	3.28	4.24	4.08		11.28	1.84	6.24	6.56	55.04
Waltham Forest	2.96	4.32	2.48	4.88	4.24	2.08	3.28		23.44	1.92	2.08	5.04	56.72
Chelmsford	10.48		10.16		9.52	5.12	4.32		10.08	2.88	3.84	4.88	61.28
Billericay													
Mayflower	9.20		14.72		15.84		14.64		12.56		16.40		83.36
Monday	6.48	5.68	3.44	4.72	5.68	4.32	4.56		11.60	5.60	6.40	6.16	64.64
Witham	2.16	1.84	2.56	0.48	1.76	0.48	0.56		5.60	0.48	1.04	0.64	17.60
Southend & Leigh	34.64	36.32	43.92	38.96	41.36	38.40	36.80		73.52	30.32	41.44	35.52	451.20
Old House Friday	3.12	4.32	5.12	4.80	2.80	5.36	4.48		9.04	3.04	2.72	3.84	48.64
St. Annes	11.68	9.52	7.52	10.40	8.24	10.08	8.00		16.16	4.16	7.76	7.20	100.72
Rochford & Rayleigh		7.44		7.28	7.12				9.84	7.12	2.88	2.56	44.24
Brentwood & District	4.72		5.12		4.08		3.20		7.44		2.16		26.72
Westbury	15.44		16.56		16.96		16.00		15.36		14.08		94.40
Iford	7.76		9.04		8.56		8.00		6.24		7.52		47.12
Ann Owen	2.64	8.56		11.68	4.08	1.44			21.44	1.60		7.60	59.04
Apple	11.76	6.08	8.24	6.40	8.32	11.28	6.32		17.60	6.08	9.20	5.12	96.40
Brevion	19.60		21.08		16.16		20.48		15.12		18.56		111.00
Mid Essex	23.48	24.80	20.60	28.24	24.40	22.56	21.84		47.20	24.24	24.52	34.40	296.28
	311.28	143.60	297.12	156.08	311.20	140.08	291.60		469.60	111.68	282.60	150.64	2665.48

Adjustments by
EBU

311.28 454.88 752.00 908.08 1219.28 1359.36 1650.96 2120.56 2232.24 2514.84 2665.48

Competitions 2016/17

<u>Competition</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Entry</u>	<u>Entry Fee</u> <u>2016/17</u>	<u>Room Hire</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>	<u>Tournament</u> <u>Directors</u>	<u>Hands</u> <u>Bridgemat</u> <u>es</u>	<u>Prizes</u>	<u>Capitation</u>	<u>P2P</u>	<u>Profit/Loss</u>		
Accruals											-25.36		
Championship Pairs Pairs 2015/16	10/04/2016	6	900.00	30.00	190.00	22.80	180.00	107.50	186.00	400.00	25.20	-211.50	**
Teams of Four			330.00	30.00					96.00	232.00		2.00	***
Switch Cup			144.00	18.00					36.00			108.00	
Mixed Teams	25/05/2016	6	180.00	20.00	51.50	10.80		15.00	36.00		6.48	60.22	
Warboys/Club Pairs***	05/06/2016	6	192.00	10.00	80.00	11.40	50.00	15.00	30.00		6.84	-1.24	
George Curtis(Blue Point)	26/06/2016	6	432.00	36.00	50.00	14.40		60.00	72.00		60.48	175.12	
Summer Seniors	13/07/2016	6	990.00	30.00	25.00	639.55	60.00	15.00	52.00		11.88	186.57	
Really Easy	31/07/2016	6	120.00	10.00	50.00	7.20	60.00	15.00			8.64	-20.84	
Autumn Seniors	26/10/2016	6	750.00	30.00	144.00	505.25	60.00	15.00	52.00		11.88	-38.13	
Fletcher/ Club Trophy	30/10/2016	6	1665.00	90,,45	375.00	906.90	293.00	90.00	135.00		53.28	-188.18	
Sue Taylor Trophy	13/11/2016	6	432.00	36.00	210.00	14.40	80.00	30.00	72.00		17.28	8.32	
Mixed Pairs	04/12/2016	6	462.00	21.00	50.00	13.20	80.00	45.00	84.00		15.84	173.96	
Swiss Pairs	08/01/2017	7	929.00	25.00	260.00	43.20	100.00	150.00	86.00		93.24	196.56	
Gwen Herga Cornell Sponsorship	18/02/2017	7	403.00	13.00	130.00	19.20	50.00	30.00	72.00		11.52	90.28	0.00

Cornell Trophy	12/02/201	7	1265.00	55.00	407.00	645.70	284.70	90.00		260.00	33.12	-455.52	***
	04/02/201	7											*
Play with an Expert	04/02/201	7	97.00	5.00	50.00	10.80	50.00	15.00	36.00		6.48	-71.28	
Spring Seniors	15/03/201	7	570.00	30.00	76.80	400.90	60.00	15.00	52.00		6.84	-41.54	
Seniors Cup												0.00	
												0.00	
												0.00	
League S.E	2016/201	7	380.00						120.00		141.4	4	118.56
League West	2016/201	7	220.00						40.00		57.12	4	122.88
Prepaid													
Sub Total			10461.00		2149.30	3265.70	1407.70	707.50	0	892.00	4	-27.20	
One Day Event*					2,149.3				1257.0		343.6		750.00
Total			10461.00		0	3265.70	1407.70	707.50	0	892.00	4	722.80	
League			-600						AGM	AGM		9.60	
												353.2	
			9861.00					707.50				4	
C Pairs													
2016			-900							Disc		-14.00	
												339.2	
Debtor			8961.00									4	
			30.00										
			8991.00										

* Half share of net surplus.

**Includes entry to Corwen

*** includes entry to Pachebo

**** includes entry to Garden Cities