

## **So, you want to play bridge for Essex?**

**October 2023**

Essex participates in the Eastern Counties League (ECL) where we compete in the Divisions 1,2 & 3 and in the Metropolitan Cup, A B & C sections and in the Tollemache Cup which is the premier national inter-county team competition.

Members of the ECBA may apply to be considered for admission to the county squad. Application should be made to the Chair of the Selection Committee (email below) and should include a summary of your bridge experience and achievements. A guide to what the selectors would be looking for to admit a player (preferably a pair) to the Eastern Counties League squad is shown below. Results at club level would not normally be taken into account unless the stated club has an exceptionally high standard membership. Essex also gives opportunities to its members, many of whom may not be in the ECL squad, to represent the county in friendly matches against non-ECL counties and in relaxed, international pairs and teams sessions organised by the ECBA Selection Committee. Currently Essex members have the opportunity to compete against players from several countries around the world. The Selection Committee also encourages aspiring members to take part in our various training sessions including the much lauded "Boot Camps".

Squads are reviewed as a whole annually, usually in January, but the Selection Committee can admit new applicants at any time, after due consideration. Any application or recommendation is considered by all the members of the Selection Committee. We also encourage players to aspire to play in the higher divisions.

### **Admission guide for ECL squad**

Applicants should:

1. Have at least six months membership of the ECBA, be in good standing as a member of the EBU and have Essex as their county of allegiance.
2. Have participated in an Essex league and/or Essex county-level events during the previous year. Participation in representative friendly sessions and attendance at training will carry weight.
3. Consistency of good results will assist an application, particularly in team or IMP pairs events.

### **Metropolitan Cup selections**

Teams for the A, B & C sections of this event will normally be drawn from the ECL squad. Counties are usually permitted to enter a second team to the C section. Essex will try to use this opportunity to give experience to players who are not current members of the ECL squad but whom aspire to join it.

### **Tollemache Cup selections**

Teams for this event will normally be selected on experience, tournament results and performance in ECL Divisions 1 & 2. The selectors will give considerations to less experienced pairs whom show potential to play at the required level.

### **Selection Committee January 2024**

If you have any enquiries, please contact a member of the Selection Committee:

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