

# **Cambs. and Hunts. Contract Bridge Association**

## **Management Committee Meeting**

**Date:- Friday September 9<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**Time:- 7.30pm.**

**Venue:- 55 Almoners Avenue Cambridge CB1 8NZ**

### **1. Officers present:-**

Adam Bowden (Chairman), Penny Riley (Secretary), Peter Last (Treasurer), David Man (Competitions Organiser), Peter Grice (Tournament Director), Colin Sills (Website manager)

### **2. Delegates present:-**

Brian Hope (Peterborough), Yvonne Palfrey and Ian Hill (Huntingdon), Peter Grice (Cambridge), David Man and Gladys Gittins (Thursday), Peter Last (North Cambridge), Peter Rice (Morden Ruffians).

### **3. Apologies:-**

Roger Salmon (Cambridge), Alison Lloyd (North Cambridge), Gordon Scott (Lines), Simon Wood (Friday BC), Trevor King (Peterborough), Jenny Jacobsberg and Joanne Caldwell (ECL Captains)

### **4. Previous Minutes from 6.06.2016**

Accepted unanimously and signed by the Chairman, Adam Bowden

### **5. Matters Arising**

#### **a) Payment to Directors and Scorers of County Events (Peter Last)**

(see attached report)

Current expenses payment of £30 to directors is far less than in other counties. Peter Grice reported that Herts. pays £110 for a large event which covers time involved for directing and scoring, travel and a meal, but not provision of boards or entries. They also have a flat rate of £60 for matches of 24 boards. C & H has fewer tables per event than Herts. so Peter Last proposed that C & H pay their Director-Scorers a flat rate of £70: additionally, Scorers of Swiss events should receive £50. This would avoid dealing with travel and meal receipts. After a short discussion this proposal was made by Peter Last and seconded by David Man. It was accepted unanimously 8/8.

**b) Garden Cities selection method and possible venue (David Man)**

David reported that, following the decision to revert to a one-day teams of eight event, he had approached Huntingdon to see if the event could be held at their Brampton venue. This was thought to be easier than Peterborough for access by most C & H clubs. However, the Huntingdon committee did not think it was possible since, unless they entered a team, there would be nobody available to unlock the cupboards. Also there would be noise from footballers. Brian Hope said that Trevor King has offered to run it again at Peterborough, not charging for the room in return for free entry for all clubs. Brian H. said that Peterborough would provide free tea and coffee but players must bring their own food. Peter L. agreed that the County would waive the entry fee for all clubs and will pay for the boards and Director. Peter L. proposed that the offer from Peterborough be accepted for this year and Penny seconded it. It was carried unanimously 8/8.

Yvonne Palfrey from Huntingdon agreed that Brampton would be a better location and would ask the Committee to reconsider holding the event there next year. Brian H. said that if that happened, Peterborough would only enter one team and the total number of entries would not change.

**c) Rules for entry to County heats held at clubs (Peter Grice)**

Alison Lloyd asked (via Peter Last) whether clubs could hold closed heats for County events to prevent good players from other clubs entering and winning allocated places in the final. It was proposed by Peter Grice that clubs could have the choice. This was agreed 8/8 and Colin Sills said he would make this clear in the competition rules on the County website.

**d) Calendar (David Man, Peter Grice and Peter Rice)**

David said the calendar was almost finalised. Dry Drayton will host the Individual event but it still needs a director. Penny volunteered to organise the Swiss Pairs with Peter L. and Peter G. offered to direct and score. Colin S. said he could also be scorer. Gladys said that Terry Otterman will run the Novice Pairs. Venues still need to be booked.

**6. Reports from Officers**

**a) Chair (Adam Bowden)**

He said he has no plans to make vast changes.

He supports Roger's plans for a County Bridge Centre (see A.O.B.) at Trumpington Meadows but requires more information regarding finances involved.

The County still needs a Secretary prepared to liaise with the EBU.

**b) Treasurer (Peter Last)**

Peter reported that the County currently has a positive balance of £5,375.

This consists of £3,092 in a Current Account and £2,283 in a Deposit Account.

The major expense in 2016/17 was for tournament fees (which were £1,148 in 2015/16). There was a minimal profit on County events of £179 in 2015/16. Directors fees already dealt with in 5a. and Garden Cities will be free as decided in 5b. No other major expenses anticipated for 2016.

**c) Membership Secretary (Penny Riley)**

Membership of the County is currently 808 of whom 496 are full members having played 12+ times since April 1<sup>st</sup>, and includes 20 Direct members who pay annually to the EBU. There are also 33 dual members who are members of C & H clubs but are registered through different counties who pay nothing extra. [Added later. Also 2 dual members who do not belong to a C & H club who pay £3.00 each to belong to C & H.]

**d) Competitions Organiser (David Man)**

David has spent some time trying to arrange a viable Garden Cities Heat for teams of eight. It has not been a popular event in recent years for two reasons. The location, Peterborough, being too far to go for an afternoon's bridge, and the chance of winning being low due to the presence of one or two superior teams. David approached Huntingdon, more accessible for many clubs, but they refused on the grounds that, as they would not enter a team, there would be no one available to unlock the equipment and there would be some noise from footballers. The decision to go with Peterborough for this year was outlined in 5b. Arrangements and bookings for other competitions are being finalised.

**e) E.C.L. (Jenny Jacobsberg) (report read out in her absence)**

There have been 2 matches so far this season, both away.

V Herts: A won 13-7, B lost 2-18, C lost 6-14

V Essex: A won 20-0, B lost 5-15, C won 11-9

Selection for teams has involved increasing Chris Larlham's database using personal knowledge, individual and club suggestions. Final selection will use NGS gradings, past performance in ECL matches and personal knowledge.

Peter Grice has set up and explained how to use the Bridgemates with the Trumpington computer owned by Cambridge BC. for County home matches.

Jenny will try this scoring in parallel with manual scoring on Sept 18<sup>th</sup> v Suffolk.

Joanne has booked a new caterer for home matches.

[Added later. At the previous Committee meeting it was agreed to hold one of the home matches each season at Peterborough. The next home match is versus Northants on Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 2016. They will provide teas at £5.00 per head.]

**f) Web-site (Colin Sills)**

Colin has updated the Competitions pages and asked for more news items. Peter Rice asked if charity events would be of interest. Colin confirmed this and offered to show anyone interested how to upload items.

## 7. Topics for Discussion

### a) Delegates and voting rights. Proxy voting. Electronic voting.

Brian Hope said that he thought it was important to discuss topics face to face in order to reach a conclusion. B.H. also said that Email conversations prior to meetings are a possibility but in his experience the threads often get muddled and details missed. Colin Sills said he could set up a google group for discussions prior to meetings but nobody supported this idea. As a result, proxy voting by members representing absent delegates, and the use of electronic voting by email or skype conference voting were rejected. This topic to be discussed another time.

### b) Constitutional changes needed for alterations to methods of voting.

This would have to be done at the AGM but was not relevant on this occasion.

### c) Appoint a County News person for items in English Bridge

Carina Negreanu has kindly agreed to take on this role and Adam said she will consult with her predecessor Catherine Jagger. (Delegates vote 7/7)

### d) Collect County History for the EBU

Request seen by Penny on The EBU website. (from Jeremy Dhondy)

Nobody knew of any related items.

Penny will ask the previous Chairman, Chris Jagger.

### e) Consider how might we encourage new clubs to join the EBU

This follows a letter from the EBU introducing Bev Purvis, the new liaison officer who would like to hear of non-affiliated clubs considering joining the EBU.

Peter Rice who represents smaller C & H clubs, volunteered to be involved.

Gladys suggested that teaching groups might be a source of new clubs.

## 8. A.O.B.

### a) Proposal by Roger Salmon for a County Bridge Centre as part of Trumpington Meadows Sports Stadium (See Proposal Report attached )

All those present were in favour of the project but considered it to be expensive to run and that it would take years to become viable, especially as it would probably only involve those clubs based around Cambridge. The building is still in the planning stages and it may be several years before Bridge clubs could even move in. The County does not have the resources to provide funding (as reported by Paul Bond in a letter to Roger Salmon in July 2015). Also the size of the space, 150 square metres, would not be large enough to hold an open green-pointed event. It was decided that more information is needed before the County could support the project.

### b) Margaret Hyde Trophy

This trophy originally was presented for County Swiss Teams which has been abandoned due to lack of support.

Gladys Gittins suggested it could be used for a new event, Novice Teams, either run as a league in peoples' homes or as a one-day event. A league would need

teams of 6 to be flexible. Peter Rice offered to run a one-day event at Morden Ruffians club in Guilden Morden. This was approved by the Committee.

### **c) Teams League rules**

Brian Hope asked why a team that had played in the league for a year could only replace two of its members the following year without losing its position in the league and having to restart in the bottom division. [C & H Team Regulations sent out by Peter G. on 6.09.2016]. Brian thought that members of teams were chosen by their clubs and that they filled the positions reached the previous year.

Apparently this is not the method used in C & H where teams select themselves and start in the division they reached at the end of the previous year.

Peter G. made it clear that, although teams are club based, they represent their captains. Brian H. felt that the team names should reflect this but this was not agreed. After some discussion, Peter G. suggested that more than half the team or half the team including the captain should continue for the team to retain their position. This was considered reasonable by most present but no vote was taken. Peter G. said he would look into it in time for next year's competition. Adam B. said he was a member of a team from mixed clubs which was already approved but no name was offered.

Peter G. reported that this year, with fewer teams entered, no team from division three had been promoted in order to keep the number of teams in each division roughly equal. Also, a top team from Saffron Walden (which has closed) now plays for the Lines club and has kept its position in the first division under a new name. New teams from any club (affiliated or not) can enter, starting in the bottom division unless they are known to be very good players (e.g. University junior internationals), when they will be placed in a higher division.

### **d) County KO**

Peter Grice is taking entries from captains by 11<sup>th</sup> October and will set it up to be run on the EBU website in a similar way to the County teams league. Captains can enter details. Rules available on the County website.

## **9. Date and venue for next Meeting**

Tuesday January 17<sup>th</sup> 2017 at Gladys Gittins' house  
40 Greystoke Road, Cambridge CB1 8DS

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

Penny Riley  
9.09.2016