

Cambs. and Hunts. Contract Bridge Association

Management Committee Meeting

Date:- Wednesday September 11th 2019

Time:- 7.30pm

Venue:- 31 Radegund Road, Cambridge CB1 3RH

1. Officers and Delegates present:

Adam Bowden (Chair), Peter Last (Treasurer and North Cambridge B.C. delegate), Penny Riley (Secretary and Membership), Peter Grice (Tournament Director), David Man (Competitions Secretary and Thursday B.C. delegate), Fred Jacobsberg (Blinco B.C. delegate), Jon Cooke (Cambridge B.C. delegate), Jenny Jacobsberg and Joanne Caldwell (ECL Officers), Jenny Cant (Huntingdon B.C. delegate)

2. Apologies:

Barry Lowe (Ely B.C.), Simon Wood (Cambridge Friday B.C.), Gordon Scott (Lines B.C.), Alison Lloyd (North Cambridge B.C.) Karl Farquhar (Peterborough B.C.)
Michael Clydesdale (Dry Drayton B.C.)

3. Previous Minutes from 18.02.2019

(see County website www.cambsbridge.org)

Proposer: Peter Last

Seconder: Joanne Caldwell

Vote: Minutes accepted nem.con.

Signed by Adam Bowden

4. Actions following meeting on 18.02.19

- 1) Colin S. to upload trophy photos to County website. **(Still to be done)**
- 2) Peter G. to check that revised League and CKO rules have been uploaded to the website. **(Still to be done)**
- 3) At the AGM Peter L. asked for a p2p increase of 2p from 8p to 10p and to introduce a £5.00 charge for final entrants to offset the cost of hall hire. He explained that this measure would slow the drain on resources which is currently £1,000 pa.
Both these items were approved unanimously.
The p2p will start in April 2020 and the £5.00 charge for finals to start immediately.
- 4) Peter L. to check availability of Girton Pavillion for Garden Cities Qualifier on Sunday Feb 2nd2020. (Done and booked)
- 5) Peter G. and David M. to produce a draft calendar for 2019-20 including March Pairs (for players of NGS 9 and below) in mid-March to replace Novice Pairs. (Not finished for distribution at the AGM.) The calendar now includes both Relaxed Teams in November and March Pairs for players with NGS 9 or less and will be published following approval at this meeting. Copies available **(Vote 6b)**

- 6) David M. (or others) to check that organisers of each event are willing and able to do so. (Done)
- 7) Penny R. and Peter L. to produce a document to propose a change to the Constitution that will allow Officers, who are not also Club Delegates, to vote at County Management Meetings.
This was presented for a vote at the AGM on May 13th and **approved unanimously**. See document attached re-change in wording of the Constitution. **(Vote 6a)**
- 8) Peter G. was to present two basic systems for use in the Individual Final for a vote at the AGM. The original basic system that C & H have used for years and an intermediate system produced by the EBU with transfers, weak 2s and Blackwood. This was not done at the AGM. For presentation at this meeting. **(Vote 6g)**
- 9) David M. to write to club secretaries appealing for help in organising and hosting County events e.g. Individual. (Done) **Was there any response?** No.

5. Reports from Officers

a) **Chair:** Adam Bowden

Nothing new to report since the AGM in May (see copy at end of these Minutes)

b) **Secretary and Membership:** Penny Riley

We have 923 EBU members, but I do not know their status - adult, junior or direct. 215 are registered through the University Club but most of them have left Cambridge and presumably play at other clubs in different counties, their P2P going elsewhere. The realistic number of players in C & H is about 700 contributing to P2P.

Apart from normal secretarial duties such as organising meetings etc., information was forwarded to club secretaries and delegates and some put on the website. All trophies were engraved and the calendar arranged for next year with Peter G.

c) **Treasurer:** Peter Last (Full report attached at end of these minutes)

We have a total of £2,984 (Current account £1,354 Deposit account £1,630)

Peter explained that £5.00 charges for entry to the finals of competitions were essential to help reduce the rate at which the County was making a loss (£780p.a.) There was some criticism but eventually those present agreed that the £5.00 charge was not too great and was much easier to collect than the £1 or £2 entry fee to heats collected by clubs. If clubs wished to pay for their finalists they could do so.

d) **Tournament Director:** Peter Grice

Organisers for all the County Events need to be recruited well in advance.

e) **Competitions Officer:** David Man

Suggested that organisers should make their own bookings to prevent double bookings at different venues and alteration of times. Organisers need a check list of tasks to complete, such as booking a director. Jenny J. volunteered to write a check list for event organisers.

f) **ECL Officer:** Jenny Jacobsberg

Since the last Committee meeting, we have played 4 ECL matches:

2018-19 season

The last match of 2018-19 season was on 17th March against Herts. The A team won their match 20-0, thus ensuring that Cambs and Hunts are top of the Division 1 for the 2018-19 season, 24 VPs ahead of Herts. The team won 6 matches and drew 1. They qualified for the National Inter-County League Finals, organized by Ian Mitchell, where they came 5th out of 5 teams.

The B team lost 4-16 to Herts, finishing 5th equal out of 7 in Division 2, which was won by Herts. The C team lost 7-13 to Herts, finishing a creditable second in Division 3, 31 VPs behind Herts.

2019-20 season

University – A team only – won 20-0 – May 2019

Northants – A team won 12-8; B team won 16-4; C team lost 4-16 – June 2019

Norfolk - A team won 17-3; B team lost 9-11; and C team won 16-4 – August 2019

Dates for remaining 2019-20 ECL matches

Beds – 29th September – home

Herts – 1st December – home

Suffolk – 12th January 2020 – away

Essex – 23rd February 2020 – home

Garden Cities Regional and National finals

In the Regional final at Stamford on April 25th, the top 2 teams – Coventry & North Warwickshire and Cambridge qualified for the National Final, which was held on June 19th. The final was won by Cheltenham and the Cambridge team came 6th out of 8 teams.

6. **Web-site Officer:** Colin Sills Not Present

7. Topics for Discussion

a) **Change of wording of the Constitution** (item 7 Management para 3) to allow officers to vote as agreed at the AGM 2019. (Peter Last and Penny Riley)

Old wording: Such Officers shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Committee **but not have a vote therein, unless they serve as delegated members.**

New wording: Such Officers shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Committee **and have a vote therein, but if also a delegate they are only entitled to one vote.**

Vote: change of wording was **accepted nem. con.** 6 out of 6

b) **Calendar 2019-20** (copies available) (Peter Grice and David Man).

Vote: the new Calendar was **accepted nem. con.**

Penny would ask Colin Sills to put it on the County website.

c) **Should C. & H. C.B.A. advertise local Charities' requests?** e.g. EACH (Penny)

All agreed that the County website is not the place to advertise or seek volunteers for Charities unless Bridge was involved. (e.g. Charity Drives)

d) **Bridge development for the County** (Jenny Cant)

Jenny C. came to this meeting to find out how to find a teacher, what teaching sessions were offered by clubs in the County or even by the County itself, and how were they followed up. Penny said that one of our teachers, Gladys Gittins had formed many starter clubs from her pupils and that Chris Jagger was starting a group of 7-10year olds with mini-bridge. Jon C. described how supervised play at the Cambridge Club was proving popular for improving players and that individual seminars given had raised money to help fund the Juniors trip to China last summer. Jenny wanted to know what was happening elsewhere in the County and suggested that a survey of all the clubs would be useful. She agreed to be part of a team to conduct this survey. The results will be published for every club to read. Penny will send her a couple of contacts that could help her.

e) **Rules for C & H Bridge League** (Jenny Jacobsberg and David Man)

This year there are 17 teams in the League. David has arranged them into three divisions according to last year's final position. (6/6/5) He suggested that at the end of the season, next April, two will go up and two will go down rather than one up and down. **This was agreed.**

f) **Consider the possibility of online County meetings e.g. by Skype**, as

recommended by EBU County Working Groups. (Document available at meeting) Several present thought this might be too difficult and asked whether the meeting would be as normal but that others could join in by Skype. Jon said this would be possible. Not everyone thought they could setup their computers to be able to join in. Following a short discussion about the merits of communicating in this way such as reducing long travelling times for delegates from Peterborough, Huntingdon and Lines in Saffron Walden, **it was agreed to have a trial.** Adam and Jon were in favour of using Skype and offered to set it up for a trial meeting on Jan 30th 2020.

g) **Individual Event permitted systems** (Peter Grice) (the two systems attached were circulated prior to the meeting, the original basic and three weak twos).

Peter was in favour of the system using three weak twos, commonly used in clubs, for the Individual Final. He knows there is one club that would prefer to keep the old basic system but the response from his survey suggests that most would like to keep up with the times.

Vote: Unanimous, to use three weak twos for the Final of the Individual.

However, clubs can use whatever system they like for their heat.

7. A.O.B.

Penny suggested that Management meetings were held at different times of year. One following shortly after the AGM would be useful. Peter G. suggested that the Calendar should be ready for distribution at the AGM in May. Both ideas received approval and would be considered at the meeting on Jan 30th 2020.

8. Date for next Meeting on Jan 30th 2020 by Skype.

The Meeting closed at 9.25pm.

P.M.Riley

13.09.2019

Chair's report from the AGM 2019

He said that the year had gone by without too many problems apart from finances which the Treasurer will talk about later.

He then reported that, although we are a small county, many of our members had been successful in national competitions; that four of our juniors had represented Britain in the world championships in China; and that David Man, our County Events Co-ordinator, had received a **Dimmie Flemming award** from the EBU for over 20 years of service to the County.

Treasurer's Report (Sept 2019)

Cash Balances:

We currently have:

£ 1,354 Current Account

£ 1,630 Deposit Account

£ 2,984 Total

Income/expenses from 1 April to date:

• Income:	P2P (to July)	991	
• Expenses:	National Tournament entries	921	note 1
•	Local Tournaments (net loss)	90	note 2
•	ECL matches	67	
•	General costs	240	
•	Loss for first 5 months	327	

Notes:

1. **National Entry Fees:** Garden Cities £284 qualifier and £180 final, Corwen £224 and Pachabo £233 paid in this period, only Tollemache entry still outstanding (£443 last year)
2. **Local Tournaments:**
 - a. Swiss Pairs 11 tables £430 entries £435 expenses overall loss £5
 - b. EBU charge Universal Membership fees for league and knockout £85
 - c. Agreed at AGM to charge £5 per player at local tournaments (except league due to declining entries) from now to offset hire of rooms, Director's fees etc
3. **ECL** players already contribute £5 per head per home match towards venue hire and refreshment expenses
4. **General costs** relate to engraving, AGM expenses, repairing duplimate machine etc.

Additional Matters:

- County Universal Membership Fee currently 8p per player per game (plus EBU get 39p). This will increase to 10p from April 2020 as agreed at the AGM.
- Free to enter tournaments previously lost about £175 each (£100 venue and £70 Director's fee) but will now be £5 per player to enter, partially offsetting costs.

Summary:

Loss for first 5 months on cash basis, and likely to be a loss for the full year circa £780 as competition entry fees will be levied this year but P2P revenues will not increase until April 2020.

Cambs & Hunts County Individual System (for use in the Individual Final)

(not compulsory in the club heats)

(Sept 2019)

Basic system: Acol; 12-14NT; 4-card majors, 3 weak 2s

NT ranges; 1NT: 12-14; 2NT: 20-22; 1NT overcall: 15-17 (direct) 12-14 (protective)

2-level openings; 2C: strong; 2D, 2H, 2S: weak (5-10, 6-card suit, Ogust)

Responses to 1NT, 1NT overcall and 2NT; Stayman & transfers to H, S and C

X of Pre-empt bid; for take-out; over weak 2, 2NT is 15-17

X Suit bid; for takeout – negative doubles to 2S

X Notrump bid; for penalties, suit bids are natural

Jump Overcalls: weak

Slam: Standard Blackwood, Gerber only over 1N and 2N without interference

Signals & Discards: normal count, normal attitude; normal suit preference

Other conventions: 4th suit forcing

Anything not defined otherwise is natural. A more complete convention card is also available.