

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

### **Management Committee Meeting**

**Date:- Friday April 16th 2021**

**Time:- 7.30pm**

**Venue:- Virtual meeting on Zoom**

#### **1. Officers and Delegates present**

Adam Bowden, Chair. Penny Riley, leaving Secretary. Roger Courtney, new Secretary. Peter Last, Treasurer and North Cambridge BC delegate.

Peter Grice, Tournament Director and Cambridge BC delegate.

Jenny Jacobsberg and Joanne Caldwell, ECL Captains. Joanne is Thursday BC delegate.

Colin Sills, Website Officer. Alan Shillitoe, Youth Officer.

Brian Hope, Peterborough delegate.

#### **2. Apologies**

David Man, Competitions Organiser and Thursday BC delegate.

Fred Jacobsberg, Blinco BC delegate.

#### **3. Previous Minutes**

(see County website [www.cambsbridge.org](http://www.cambsbridge.org) 12.11.2020)

**Proposer** Peter Grice

**Secunder** Peter Last

**Vote** carried Nem.Con.

**Signed** on behalf of Adam by Penny

#### **4. Matters Arising**

Actions 12.11.2020

- 1) Peter L. and Penny R. to organise Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs in spring 2021. (April 25th)
- 2) Colin S. to update the county competitions on the website and add photos of trophies. (Not done)
- 3) Jenny J. to take the County Teams trophy to the Heames who were part of the Peterborough 1 team that won it in 20/21. (to be delivered on May 5th)
- 4) Graham H. to set up the draw for the County KO. (Done)
- 5) Peter G. to investigate how to run the Garden Cities Qualifier in February. (Feb 5th)
- 6) Peter L. to cancel the booking at Girton Pavillion in February for the Garden Cities Qualifier. (Done)
- 7) Volunteer(s) needed to run the County Pairs Qualifier and Final. (not done)

(Since the next meeting will not be until April, should we consider whether CAH could run on-line events for Relaxed Pairs and Relaxed Teams as planned before lockdown?) (Not done)

## 5. Reports from Officers

### a) Chair: Adam Bowden

Little to report due to the continuing Covid pandemic.

Next month there will be a meeting of County Chairs, for which he may need a volunteer to take his place.

He thanked Penny for her time as Secretary,

### b) Secretary: Penny Riley

Club sessions and County competitions have been conducted on-line using BBO or RealBridge. Players can join any Club or County sessions.

The County Club (CAH) continues to run on Wednesday evenings on BBO. The average number of tables in the last two months is 9.7.

EBU results for County players

**Rod Oakford and Simon Barb** came third out of 58 in the Easter Guardian Trophy.

Four CAH junior players were successful in the EBU Easter Juniors. The Liz McGowan Trophy for first place was won by **Jamie Fegarty** with his partner, Thomas Gardner. The Paul Porteous trophy for runners up was won by **William Clennel and Dominic Cooke**. **Liam Fegarty** and Ben Gardner were 4th out of 30 pairs.

**Alan Shillitoe** has agreed to be the Youth Officer who will put young people in touch with suitable groups

Finally, I must introduce **Roger Courtney** who will be taking over as Secretary at the end of this meeting.

### c) Membership Secretary: Penny Riley

**Clubs 14**

**Members 881.**

Some no longer live within the County making the total unusually high.

(Many students never switched Counties when they left University.)

**Dual members**, unknown, but they should pay a £3.00 fee unless they are a member of a CAH affiliated club. It is necessary to check that those, playing in County teams or competitions, are registered with CAH as their Primary County. Some Counties have had players banned from National competitions for several years for cheating on-line, but I am pleased to report that none are from CAH.

### d) Treasurer: Peter Last

**Cash Balances:**

We currently have:

£ 1,982 Current Account

£ 2,647 Deposit Account

**£ 4,629 Total**

## **Highlights regarding draft Accounts to 31 March 2021:**

1. Income has continued during lockdown due to Universal Membership fees (P2P) 10p per session per individual (£923) and the sharing of BBO fees through EBU to County (£1,697), with March amounts for both still to come.
2. Minimal expenses due to cancellation of almost all tournaments both at local and national level, but include:
  - a. £443 EBU Universal Membership charges (40p per player for County run games),
  - b. £352 Tollemache entry (2020),
  - c. £231 Simultaneous Pairs charges and
  - d. £165 charitable contribution to David Carmichael Memorial Charity Event.
3. Overall surplus anticipated of approximately £1,500 (only broke even last year)
4. Thanks especially, to Peter Grice for directing regular County games unremunerated.

### **Other Matters:**

- County Universal Membership Fee currently 10p per player per game (plus EBU get 40p) effective 1 April 2020 as agreed at the 2019 AGM.

### **e) Competitions Organiser: David Man**

The CHCBA League for Winter 20/21 has been completed and it is noteworthy that all the scheduled matches have been played. One benefit of online play. The winners were Peterborough Bridge Club, heading Division 1 with a match average of 14. The University teams 1 and 2 were 2nd and 3rd. In Division 2 the leading team was University 3 with a match average of 13.17. Thursday 1 were second.

### **f) Tournament Director: Peter Grice**

- CAH qualifier for Garden Cities ran smoothly on Real Bridge and we wish our team well in the Regionals.
- So far 42 County sessions have been run on Wednesday evenings. Some have been Sims when EBU offered a 50% discount. The usual Sims cost would mean charging BB\$6 per person just to break even. Our usual charge being BB\$3.
- These games are moderately well supported but may decline when clubs return to face-to-face bridge.
- Peter intends to continue running the games as long as numbers are viable.
- He did not run any competition that might be used as our "County Pairs" competition. The calendar looks very full in the coming months and finding a date to do this looks very challenging.
- We have our Blue-Pointed Swiss Pairs 25 April with some entries already in place. This event was advertised nationally in EBU's Event Focus sent out recently. It would be helpful to have a standby pair to avoid the need for a sitout. Running Teams competitions (League and County KO) online has been successful and so we can continue this strategy with the option to play face-to-face should it become safe to do so and both captains agree.

## **g) ECL Captains; Jenny Jacobsberg and Joanne Caldwell**

### **County matches**

#### ***2020-21 season***

All matches were cancelled.

#### ***2021-22 season***

The various ECL captains have agreed to play this season's matches on RealBridge, with the possible return to F2F later in the season, if appropriate, and with the agreement of both captains.

Some members do not wish to play online, but I am hopeful that we will be able to field 3 teams. Some counties may only field 2 teams, and the University only enters an A team. Obviously, we will match the opposition in terms of number of teams. All dates have been agreed. They are as follows:

May 16 – Northants Home

June 6 – Norfolk Home

July 18 – Beds Away

October 17 – Suffolk Home

November 21 – Herts Away

January 23 – Essex Away

February 13 2022 – University Away

N.B. Jenny is not 100% sure how to host a County match on RealBridge, but will try to find out before May 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Garden Cities Qualifier**

The Teams of 8 club event was played online on RealBridge on 7th February. It was won by the Cambridge Club team of David Kendrick and Graham Hazel, Jon Cooke and Paul Barden, Jamie, Liam and Paul Fegarty, Jonathan Mestel and Julian Wightwick. The University team was in second place.

Many thanks to Peter Grice for setting up, directing and scoring the qualifying event.

The Regional final is on 8th May, and the National final on 19th June, both on RealBridge.

## **h) Website Officer: Colin Sills**

He will try to update competition results and add trophy photos soon.

He would like everyone to learn how to add their own items to the website, but agreed to liaise with Alan to add items for Youth Bridge to the site.

## **6. Topics for Discussion**

### **a) County Competitions**

Relaxed Pairs, Relaxed Teams and the Individual competitions were discussed.

They were abandoned due to the pandemic in 2019, 2020 and 2021. It was decided not to run these competitions until players could meet Face-2-Face again.

Heats and Final for County Pairs have not been run this year which means that there are no pairs to send to the Corwen unless the result from County Swiss Pairs can be used. Peter G. will enquire of the EBU immediately. (Answer: YES, and CAH members have been advised by Peter G.)

**ii) ECL and Garden Cities (J.J.)**

Jenny says **ECL** will run on-line until the pandemic is over.

**Garden Cities** Heat: Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 2022 to be booked provisionally for Girton Pavillion.

(Now been done by Peter L.)

**iii) On-line CAH sessions, e.g. current Wednesday evenings**

Will continue until interest wanes. Ave 9.25 tables.

Many thanks to Peter Grice for directing for free.

**iv) Date for AGM 2021? Venue: Lines B.C. for F2F.**

A date in the Autumn, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October, was suggested.

Roger will check with their Chair, Gordon Scott.

**7) A.O.B.**

**i) Youth Officer and Information on website**

Alan S. considered it best for people to be directed to information on the EBU web-site [www.ebu.co.uk](http://www.ebu.co.uk) and also to Starter Bridge by Liz Dale. The best approach is for pupils to experience Bridge in classroom sessions at school, like the ones run by Liz Dale, before joining a club. CAH should wait until there are enough young people from school sessions to form a club before setting one up. Stamford run a Sunday club once a month.

**ii) Email from Margaret Bowen re addition to CAH website**

<https://www.playgroundequipment.com/a-beginners-guide-to-playing-bridge/>

It is an American site and not considered useful. Alan will write to M.B.

**8) Date for next Meeting**

Proposed AGM date of Thursday October 7<sup>th</sup> at Lines or Virtually.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm.

*Penny Riley* 20.04.2021

(The following item should have been included in this meeting. It was put on the website earlier this year by Penny.)

### **Tony Oram (1927-2021)**

Tony Oram was an active member of the Cambridge Club and Chairman of the County in the 1980s, prior to Ray Porter (-1991) and Chris Jagger (1991-2016). Since then, he has been one of our Vice Presidents and has always taken a keen interest in the management of County matters.

He taught Bridge at Linton Village College, Sawston U3A and Cambridge University Bridge Club. He organised the interschools' competition for the County for many years and was keen to promote interaction between all Cambs. and Hunts. clubs.

On a more personal level he was a retired engineer, born in London. He was a keen bridge player partnering his late wife Sue, son John, and more recently Peter Grice. When the opposition arrived at his table, he always asked the same questions of the same people, for example 'are you playing 5 card majors?' or 'are you still playing precision?' in the possible hope that they might change their ways. He also loved peppermints.

P.Riley