

CAMBS & HUNTS CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of AGM held on 14th May 2024

Cambridge Bridge Club, Trumpington Village Hall

1. **Welcome**

The Chair, Roger Courtney, welcomed attendees

2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Sylvia Blackwood, Barry Lowe, Gordon Scott, Rosemary Tate, Alan Shillitoe, Peter Grice, Fred Langford, Lynn Bouchier, Dennis Collins, Michael Krause, Stephen Goodwin, Nadia Stelmashenko and Victor Milman.

3. **Officers and Delegates present**

Roger Courtney (RC) – Chair

Sarah Dixon (SD) – Secretary and CBC delegate

Peter Last (PL)– Treasurer and NCBC delegate

Penny Riley (PR) – Membership Secretary

Jenny Jacobsberg (JJ) – joint ECL Captain

Joanne Caldwell (JC)– joint ECL Captain

Tanawan Watts (TW) – Competitions and County League and TBC delegate

David Parish (DP) - Competitions and County League and TBC delegate

4. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 22nd May 2023 were proposed by PR, seconded by TW and approved unanimously. There were no matters arising.

5. **Reports from Officers**

5.1 Chair

RC reported that the year had been a good one for Cambs & Hunts with a revitalised calendar of events including a recent return to face to face county bridge, the County Swiss Pairs event was a great success and there is a renewed energy in the county calendar with older events being organised again after an absence and new events coming in. The website also reflects this renewed vitality not least through having gained the functionality to easily click through to the results of County events, one of several great improvements.

Individuals from Cambs & Hunts had done well in national events,

He thanked people who had helped to revitalise the County calendar, particularly David Parish and Tanawan Watts for all their input and hard work in organising new events as well as helping old ones to flourish.

He also recognised Penny Riley's longstanding contributions to the game at school, club and county level including helping to organise events for too numerous to list and a variety of committee posts in a remarkable 24 years of being a committee member. As some recompense for her long years of service Penny has been

appointed as a Vice President joining such illustrious individuals as the late David Harrison and Tony Oram as well as Chris Larlam and Chris Jagger.

He reflected that it had been possible for County bridge to be revitalised only because individuals are happy to give a little of their time to help and urged more volunteers to represent their clubs on the committee or help with the website or organise events or simply come forward and suggest that they could do something. He noted that the County Association wants to support bridge teaching and grass roots bridge and particularly encouraged anyone interested in those areas to come forward.

5.2 Secretary

No report

5.3 Treasurer

PL reported that the Association had had another good year and was still benefiting from income from the online games that had been organised by PG during the pandemic. The audited accounts showed a surplus of just over £1k and reserves of just under £10k. In his view the reserves were higher than needed and he accordingly recommended a reduction in the Association's pay to play levy from its current level of 10p per player per game to 5p, effective April 2025. This reduction would have the effect of reducing the surplus to around zero. He explained it was the Association's intention to use some of the reserves to support selected County events and the training of new directors (including at County TD level) and teachers. These proposals and the accounts for 2023/24 were proposed by Terry Otterman, seconded by RC and approved unanimously.

5.4 Membership Secretary

In her final report as Membership Secretary PR reported that the Association had 12 affiliated clubs and 848 members of which 5 were dual members and 10 were anonymous members. She reminded the meeting that the high number of members was still largely due to individuals joining the University Bridge Club as undergraduates but not changing their primary affiliation later in life. The number of active members was thus far lower. She also took the opportunity to thank the Association for the garden vouchers that had been presented at the recent Swiss Pairs event to mark her retirement.

5.5 Competitions and County League

DP started by thanking PG, PR, Ken Riley and Graham Hazel for their help and support. He reported that the F2F 9-high event had been oversubscribed and the County Pairs had also gone well. The Teams League had twice as many participants as in the previous year. The winners of the 2023/24 competitions were as follows:

9-high pairs for the Joe Ward bowl – Lynn Bouchier and Dennis Collins

C&H pairs for the large silver cup – Michael Krause and Stephen Goodwin

Team League Winners:

Division 1 for the crystal bowl – Team Heames

Division 2 (no trophy) – Team Last

Swiss Pairs for the Jubilee Pairs Cup – Nadia Stelmashenko and Victor Milman
County Knockout (no trophy) – Team Graham Hazel
A similar mixture of F2F and online events is planned for 2024/25.

5.6 ECL Captain

JJ reported as follows:

Garden Cities Qualifier

The 2024 Teams of 8 club event was won by the Cambridge Club team of Julian Wightwick and John Liebeschuetz, Graham Hazel and David Kendrick, Jon Cooke and Paul Barden, Jonathan Mestel and Paul Fegarty.

In the Regional Final, the Cambridge Club team of David Kendrick and Victor Milman, John Liebeschuetz and Jon Bonsor-Matthews, Paul Barden and Jonathan Mestel, Catherine Curtis and Paul Fegarty were first equal and will play in the National Final on 1st June.

Eastern Counties League

2023-24 Season

In the final results for 2023-24, Cambs & Hunts were second in Divisions 1 and 2, third in Division 3.

In Division 1, Cambs & Hunts won more matches (5:6) than any other county, but were pipped by 2 VPs by Herts.

In Division 2, Herts were convincing winners, losing no matches. Cambs & Hunts won 4 matches.

In Division 3, Herts also came first. Two good wins enabled Cambs & Hunts to secure third place in this Division.

2024-25 Season

Our first match of the 2024-25 season is on Sunday, May 19th, against Herts. All matches will continue to be played on RealBridge. The dates of the other matches are:

21st July v Essex – home – 1pm

13th October v Suffolk – away – 2pm

24th November v Northants – away – 1pm

12th January v Norfolk – away – 1pm

23rd March v Beds – home – 1pm

National Inter-County League Finals

This event is a one-day teams-of-eight event open to the champion counties of each division of the five Regional Inter-County League Teams-of-Eight events.

Cambs & Hunts were the winners of Division 1 in 2022-23, so played in Division A of this event in June 2023. The team of Victor Milman and Nadia Stelmashenko, Paul Barden and Claire Robinson, Catherine Curtis and Paul Fegarty, Julian Wightwick and Rod Oakford came second to Kent.

Cambs & Hunts will not be represented in the 2024 final as we did not win any of the ECL Divisions.

She also thanked PG for his assistance and support.

5.7 Junior Bridge – no report

5.8 Shareholders – no report.

6. Election of Officers for 2024/25

RC reminded the meeting that the Association's Constitution gives the power to appoint officers to the delegates nominated by member clubs. Subject to this, he proposed that the current committee continue for the next year with the roles of Secretary and Membership Secretary to be combined.

7. Appointment of Auditor for 2024/25

PL confirmed that PG was willing to continue as auditor. This was proposed by PL, seconded by TW and carried unanimously.

8. AOB

None

Signed:

Date: