

CHELMSFORD BRIDGE CLUB
COMMITTEE MEETING

29th July 2024 6.00pm via Zoom

MINUTES

Present

Denis Anderson, June Brown, Cath Fox, Julie Payne, Colin Peden, Valdie Poter, Jill Collier

1. Apologies

Ted Cockle, Jean Maker

2. Previous minutes to be agreed

The minutes for the previous Committee Meeting are available on the website. The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters arising

None

4. Charity evenings

We have had several suggestions for charities to support in the coming months. It was agreed that, where necessary, the committee should discuss the priorities between meetings by email. In particular, the charity to support at Christmas warrants discussion as the donations are usually higher in December.

It was agreed that in September our Friday charity session would support the EBU's "Bridge - It's A Big Deal" fundraiser for Cancer Research UK.

5. National Handicap Pairs

The EBU National Handicap Pairs is scheduled to take place on Sunday 8th September. Some members had enquired whether the club would be hosting a heat this year.

After some discussion, because of the likely small turn out anticipated from club members, and the complexity of collecting entry fees from visitors in online sessions, it was decided that we would not hold a heat.

It was suggested that there might be a heat being hosted face to face at Barleylands. If this can be confirmed, we should inform members by email.

6. Teams competition entries

The annual EBU and Essex CBA teams competitions will be held or start in the autumn.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the club would not enter a team into the NICKO for 2025/25.

However, the club will enter teams in both the ECBA Fletcher (one team of 8) and Cup for Clubs (multiple teams of 4) competitions, being held on 20th and 27th October respectively.

In previous years, emails to try to find interested members have not solicited an overwhelming response, so Cath will start to canvas interest directly from potential team members.

When entering teams for these competitions on the ECBA website, Colin will ensure Julie is made aware of the entry fee requirements, so that prompt payment can be made.

7. Face to face sessions

Valdie suggested that we should consider resuming weekly face to face sessions.

In principle it was accepted that this would be desirable. However, there was reluctance to alter any of our current online RealBridge sessions which are all currently well supported, and many current players would be unlikely to play if the session became face to face.

Realistically the only time in the weekly calendar for an additional face to face session is Wednesday evening. It was noted that there are currently several opportunities to play face to face in the Chelmsford area during the week, while the 'local' atmosphere of our RealBridge sessions is unique in the area.

It was therefore decided that we should not make any changes to the current playing schedule at this time, but the situation would be regularly reviewed.

8. Club competitions

Thanks to June, the monthly Handicap competitions have been running successfully for several months with the winners listed on the website. So that more members are aware of the winners, June will send an email listing the winners at the end of each month.

9. Membership renewals

The new membership year starts on 1st September, and as agreed at the AGM, all current members whose accounts are in good standing will receive two free sessions. Julie noted that there were several players who had played only as guests during 2023/24, mainly on the charity face to face evenings, and who had not paid a membership subscription. It was agreed that these players would not be entitled to free sessions in the new membership year.

10. AOB

Due to several people being on holiday for the next Charity evening on 13th September, Jill offered to help with setting up and scoring for the evening.

Valdie will check on the availability of the large hall at the Millennium Community Centre for the Christmas Party in December.

11. Date of next meeting

Monday 21st October 2024 @ 6.15pm

Colin Peden