



**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EASTERN COUNTIES WORKING GROUP
AT SAFFRON WALDEN GOLF CLUB
ON Wednesday 23 July 2014 @ 2pm**

| County | Name | County | Name | County | Name |
|---------------|--------------------|---------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Essex | Dennis Valtisiaris | Essex | John Williams | Hertfordshire | Bernard Eddleston |
| Hertfordshire | Mike Minting | Suffolk | Peter Bushby | | |

Invited Members:

| County | Name |
|-----------|---------------|
| EBU Board | Darren Evetts |

Apologies:

| County | Name | County | Name |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Cambs & Hunts | Paul Bond | Cambs & Hunts | Chris Jagger |
| Norfolk | Roger Amey | Norfolk | Peter Coates |
| Bedfordshire | Michael Collins | Suffolk | Jeff Orton |

Eastern Regional County Representatives:

Chairman: Bernard Eddleston

Minutes

1. Bernard welcomed members and gave apologies for absent members
2. The minutes of the 15th January meeting had been approved by email
3. National Meeting Feedback
 - Darren, John & Peter reported back on the National Meeting
 - i. The terms of reference had been discussed clarifying the role of the working group as supportive and offering suggestions versus controlling and requiring compliance
 - ii. The paper on Best Practice was discussed and well-received with input requested from all Regional Groups to further improve the content. It was accepted that Counties vary in size and approach and that one size cannot fit all so the paper may end up including alternate best practices alongside each other
 - iii. The paper on Getting More 40-60 year olds was discussed and largely thought useful. Again input was requested from all Groups.

- iv. The paper on Acquiring Your Own Premises was not discussed in depth due to time pressure but was also thought useful
 - v. The Regional Groups will be asked to encourage their Counties to be more active in the EBU Awards process
 - John and Peter were asked if they felt they had the support of the Eastern Regional Working Group and both confirmed they did think that.
4. Chairman's Meeting Feedback
- The Chairman's Meeting is a place from which people can go away determined to do things.
 - One key take-away was the thought that some areas of responsibility e.g. Youth Officers, Development may be shareable across Counties
5. Three Discussion Papers
- 5.1 Best Practice For County Associations
 - i. Felt to be a good paper covering many things and thought-provoking for Counties as to which elements they could adapt for their own use
 - ii. John intends to write an introduction for it and had intended to add a section on setting objectives and measurement
 - iii. It was agreed that Objective Setting and Measurement best served by a separate paper
 - iv. It was agreed that best practice on 'Best Behaviour at Bridge' should include ensuring 'Best behaviour by Directors' and providing a clear path for players who feel they have experienced unacceptable behaviour by Directors.
 - v. Darren noted that P2P is now referred to as 'Universal Membership'
 - 5.2 Getting More 40-60 Year Olds playing bridge
 - i. Also thought to be a useful paper
 - ii. Peter reported that his first 15-week 'Year 1' course had completed successfully and offered to circulate the material so others could see what had been done.
 - 5.3 Acquiring Own Premises
 - i. A valuable document which should be taken forward
 - ii. Parking is a big issue
 - iii. Include a list of people who have successfully done this and can be contacted
6. AOB
- We need to find out why so many were absent from this meeting and what could be done to increase attendance at future meetings
 - John Williams informed the group that he is no longer Chairman of Essex but that Essex wanted him to continue on the Working Group and asked our approval which was unanimously given
 - Peter & John will co-author a paper on 'Why & how' of Objectives and Measurement
7. Next Meeting:
- Aim for February.