

Civil Engineers' Club Contract Bridge Report for 2020

Contract Bridge is a sociable game and until the Coronavirus pandemic Bridge was played predominantly Face-To-Face. When lockdown started in 2020 all FTF Activities for Bridge ceased in UK and that was the case for the whole of 2020. Therefore, the two Bridge competitions for the Brunel Teams and the James Jones trophy competitions most regrettably could not be played.

During the closure the only Bridge being played in UK was online and I considered running both competitions as online events. However, being unable to meet people and present winners with their trophies meant that I did not feel that an online format was a feasible alternative to FTF Bridge.

Peter Richardson
Contract Bridge Secretary

Civil Engineers' Club Golf Report for 2020

London Region was due to organise the Thomas Telford Trophy tournament on Monday 7th September 2020 at West Hill Golf club but because of Covid-19 this was postponed to Monday 6th September 2021.

M S Taylor
Golf Secretary

Civil Engineers' Club Report from the Northern Ireland Region for 2020

Planned visit to Scotland

Unfortunately, lockdown preceded our planned and much anticipated visit to the Falkirk Wheel in Scotland scheduled to take place on 28th and 29th April 2020. This would have included the hire of a coach for two days and an overnight stay in Glasgow with a total of 24 participating.

Virtual Presentations

As lockdown continued and the prospect of visits not resuming soon it became apparent that some alternative was essential in order to keep the CEC membership in touch and in contact with each other. In consultation with the Immediate past chair to the ICE NI Committee who is my link it was decided to explore the possibility of arranging virtual presentations on various topics. Sam Phillips proved to be very enthusiastic and used his own Zoom to facilitate this.

Presentation on 15 October 2020

We had a very successful and professional talk by an up-and-coming young engineer Seamus Sands on a subject totally new to me – Digital Transformation.

Our meeting followed on from the 'NI Past Chair' zoom gathering and a few of them remained for the CEC zoom meeting. A total of 23 joined the talk. Interestingly enough, one of the past chairs was Tony Greeves who interviewed and gave me my first job in 1965. He is now in his 90's.

Presentation on 17 December 2020

Following our first ZOOM presentation on Thursday 15 October, we held a second one just before Christmas. This was again hosted by Sam Phillips our ICE NI immediate past chair. Sam again invited

his past chair colleagues to join the meeting. The meeting, with questions and contributions from the 'floor' lasted just a few minutes short of an hour.

We had a most interesting short talk by our own very supportive CEC member Dr Phil Donald. When asked what the title of his talk was, he said 'I'm not telling you - it will be a mystery – but I can tell you it will be on the edge of engineering'!! This added interest in advance of the talk when all was revealed on the day.

Phil had three pieces of timber, which were in his possession, as Props for the talk which lasted around 15 minutes and was followed by questions and discussion from the audience.

Board number 1 was from the world-famous Harland and Wolff shipyard. It was made of timber and measured approximately 3" x 1½" x ½" with a recess cut at one end. This was known in the local vernacular as a '*Time Board*'. Each employee had his own time board which was used to record the hours worked and was used from 1860 up until the early 1960s.

The second somewhat older item measured approximately 6" x 2" x 1" and came from HMS VICTORY* which was Nelson's Flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar. The exhibit, which contained a bolt hole, was removed when the main mast support timbers were being replaced before the ship was opened to the public. Apparently, the records show that these timbers were bolted together.

*HMS Victory is a 104-gun first-rate ship of the line of the Royal Navy, ordered in 1758, laid down in 1759 and launched in 1765. She is best known for her role as Lord Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar on 21 October 1805.

Item number 3 was dated by experts to be almost 2000 years old and was discovered during excavations in the River Thames near the Tower of London some years ago. The 3½" x 2" x ½" piece of well-preserved Oak was determined by Historians to be part of the first bridge over the Thames built by the Romans in the first century AD. Then Archaeologists further concluded it to be from around AD 62. The oak would have been from a tree sourced from the forests near London.

A total of 28 joined the talk.

Jim Workman, Northern Ireland Representative for the Civil Engineers' Club

Civil Engineers' Club Sailing Report for 2020

Activities for the CEC Sailing Section include the award of various trophies for yacht races organised by others, such as the Round Island Race held in July each year and the Little Britain Regatta for the Construction Industry, held annually in September.

In 2020 the usual activities were impacted by the Covid pandemic. The RIR was due to take place in July, was postponed until September and then ultimately cancelled due to lockdowns and other restrictions.

The Little Britain Challenge Cup managed to squeeze in between lockdowns and there were 6 entries for the Sir John Coode Trophy. The winner was Andy Hamilton of R&W.

And the final award for 2020 was the Elvera Trophy for the most entertaining record (log) of a voyage conducted by a CEC member during the year. This was won again by Chris Jones for his harrowing tale of various voyages on board White Knight in the compressed sailing season in the waters of Scotland. All undertaken despite serious problems with the motor and a seawater leak. Chris won the £50 cash prize for also being a member of CEC.

David Hardcastle

Civil Engineers' Club Singing and Walking Report for 2020

Joint ICE and RICS Choir for 2020

The traditional joint ICE/RICS Carol Service at St Margaret's, Westminster did not take place in December 2020 as a result of Covid restrictions.

CEC Walking Section Report for 2020

This year we have had two regular Saturday walks. The other planned walks and the Walking Weekend in Northumberland had to be cancelled.

11th January 2020 - The walk started from Kensington High Street Tube Station and briefly visited the Design Museum before heading south through Holland Park, the Kyoto Gardens and Kensington Gardens. After crossing Bayswater Road we continued to the Regent's Canal via Paddington Station.

After lunch at the Lord's Tavern, we followed the Regent's Canal to Primrose Hill before going through Regent's Park and finishing the walk at Baker Street Tube Station.
A total of 44 people took part.

26th September 2020 - The walk started from Bluebell Hill Picnic Site, Common Road, Chatham. We picked up the North Downs Way before dropping down to cross over the Pilgrims Way at Wouldham and going into the village of Wouldham.

We then followed the bank of the River Medway for about 1 mile before taking the path up to a nature reserve alongside the North Downs Way (Medway Valley Walk), where we stopped for a picnic lunch.

We continued along the North Downs Way with views across the Medway Valley to the west and passed through Nashenden before following alongside HS1 and ascending through Monk Wood to the Robin Hood Pub for refreshments before continuing to our starting point.

17 people joined the walk

Thanks to all our leaders for arranging such enjoyable walks during the year.

Tony Barber