

In 1987 a meeting took place at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street. The chairman was Mr A W Ruggles-Brice, and the committee were other major Essex landowners. The momentous subject under discussion was how to prevent the smuggling of partridge eggs to London. So, the Essex Poaching Preservation Society was formed. The minutes of the meeting, list the local committees which were setup; some of whose descendants are still members of the Guild. Letters were subsequently sent to police stations and station masters setting out the society, along with a list of committee members, no doubt to give the letters extra authority.

The minutes of the meeting which took place a year later reported success. Four Convictions, three for possession of eggs and one for poaching. Fines of between £1 and £2 being imposed. At the time there were 91 members. In 1903 two 'detectives' were employed, for 6 weeks at a cost of £25, 3000 reward posters were produced and advertisements placed in local papers. In 1924 the name was changed to the Essex Game Guild, though the aims of the guild remained the same up until 1942 when it was disbanded for the duration of the war.

The guild was not reformed until 1955. The smuggling of eggs was clearly no longer a problem and discussions were held to decide what form the guild should take. From this meeting the current Essex Game Guild evolved. There are currently over 120 members. They include both town and country dwellers, landowners, and gamekeepers, in fact from many walks of life, but all with a common interest in the countryside and field sports.

In 2014 a full range of documents about the Guild's long history was deposited with the Essex Records Office.

Updated Sept 22