

Minutes of AGM of the Billericay Mayflower Bridge Club

Held on Tuesday 4th June 2024 at 7.00pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

- The meeting was opened by the Chairman and everyone was welcomed.
- Apologies for absence had been received from David Tennet, Barry & Hazel Capel and Pat Johnson.

2. Minutes

- The minutes of the last AGM (30th May 2023) were accepted and signed.
- Maureen Vede proposed accepting the minutes. Seconded by Mike Harbour.

3. Matters arising

- There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

- The Chairman thanked the various club officers for their work and all members for their support.
- He noted that the ECBA – of which he is Chairman – had again waived their levy on table-money, thus helping the Club's finances.
- The ECBA is supporting the EBU's Festival of Bridge scheduled for September this year. Club member Bernard Kaye is the ECBA contact. The Club will be supporting the initiative on Tuesday 17th September, further details to be announced in due course.

5. Tournament Secretary's Report

- The results of the Club competitions, and the Club's efforts in ECBA competitions, had been reported previously but were rehearsed for appropriate applause and banter.
 - **Club Championship:** David Tennet & Leon Lewis (Jacek Lapszys & Sandy Riach, Lorraine Buttler & Mike Harbour)
 - **Individual Ladder:** David Piper (Peter Oake, Graham Beeton)
 - **Partnerships Ladder:** Colin Scott & Peter Oake (Maureen & George Vede, David Piper & Graham Beeton)
 - **Cornell Trophy** (February 2024) – 9 / 11 (George & Maureen Vede, Paul Mollison & Bernard Kaye)
 - **Cup for Clubs** (October 2023) – 10 / 13 (John McCoy & Marcia Levan-Harris, Peter & Wendy Williamson)
 - **Fletcher Trophy** (October 2023, Teams of 8) – Did not enter.

- **Notes:**

- i. Jack & Sandy had run away with the Club Championship but were not eligible as they hadn't played at the Club for the required 12 sessions during the year, so the title was awarded to the second-placed pair.
- ii. There was a particularly rousing cheer for George and Maureen, runners-up in the Partnerships Ladder.
- iii. The Tournament Secretary noted the difficulty – common to most clubs – in raising teams for the ECBA inter-Club events. He will endeavour to raise teams earlier in the year before players get 'bagged' by other Clubs.

6. Treasurer's Report & Appointment of the Examiner

- Linda presented the accounts and reported that the deficit this year was much less than last year – around £150 as against £770 last year. The table money and membership fee have been retained as for last year: £15 membership, £3 table-money (£4 for guests).
- Membership has held up well: 48 as against 44 last year.
- The Club's cash balance at the financial year end was a healthy £1,951.
- The accounts were accepted unanimously.
- Thanks were again given to Robert Elliott who had examined the books and was prepared to carry on for another year. As Robert was not present, the Secretary will write to him expressing our thanks.

7. Election of Officers

- All the current Committee members were standing again unopposed.
 - John McCoy – Chairman
 - Linda Fleet – Treasurer
 - Theo Todman – Secretary, Tournament Secretary, Webmaster
 - Marcia Levan-Harris – Director
 - Chris Comer – Member
 - Sandra Fenton – Member
- The incoming committee was proposed by John Cosgrove and seconded by Sheena Millins and elected unanimously.

8. AOB: SIMS

- The Secretary rehearsed the value of SIMS events, irrespective of any charitable aspect: connection to the wider bridge world, extra local points (blue points for EBU events) and the analysis booklets available for download.
- A set of statistics for EBU and ECATS SIMS had been handed out.

- Over the last year, the Club had taken part in two SIMS events, both charity events with ECATS.
- An initial vote was taken as to whether we should hold more SIMS in the coming year or whether there should be the same (or fewer). It was close: 9 votes for more, 10 votes for the same or fewer. After some discussion it was decided to support the three ECATS charity events, but not the EBU events.
- The discussion then moved on to whether or not the Club should 'match' donations made to the SIMS events.
- A proposal was put forward by David Piper to the effect that the Club would not match donations but that Members would pay the usual table money, plus the 'extra' required to play the SIMS (usually £3), but could make extra donations as they saw fit. This proposal received some support, but the vote went 16 in favour of keeping the status quo with 10 voting for a change.
- Historically the Club has 'matched' donations for only one SIMS event – that for Children in Need (though this year we matched both charity SIMS). To keep finances stable, it was agreed to match two SIMS – but that the CiN SIMS – which receives massive support nationally – would not be matched.
- So, the SIMS are-
 - i. March - Charity Challenge Pairs - Mind and Macmillan Cancer Support
 - ii. July - Summer Charity Pairs - Kidney Research UK and the British Heart Foundation
 - iii. November - Children in Need
- As for what 'matching' means in the light of our now matching two events and the need to remain on an even financial keel: the club will charge £6 for a SIMS session, being £3 table money as usual plus £3 for the SIMS. For 'matched' events, the Club will match the £3 SIMS charge, therefore paying £6 / player to the SIMS provider (ECATS). The 'status quo' would have been £5 charged per player, doubled, so that £10 per player went to the SIMS provider (but for only one SIMS). The total for the 3 proposed SIMS is now £15.

9. The meeting closed at 7:25

- Marcia Levan-Harris was thanked for providing the catering, washing-up and front-door closing throughout the year.