



8TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JULY 4TH 2026

MEETING NOTES 1.00-1.40PM

1. Present : 40 members as shown on the bridgewebs calender duplicate session.
2. Apologies for absence were received from : Mary Grimley, Robert Grimley, Angela Child, Judi Chapple, Michael Darling, Annie Hobkinson, Diana Light, Janet Kirkland, Nora Hunter, Val Phillips, Anne Gurd, Jean Collins, Janet Scarratt, Judy Flatt, Margaret and Marcel Butterfield.
3. The notes from the 7th AGM were approved without amendment – proposed by Graham Alford and seconded by Margaret Fieldhouse.
4. Report from the Chair – George Strang, who referred members to the annual report which covered the main events although he was not proposing reading it through. George wished to highlight some of the main events which included for the first time a visit to Stratford Bridge Club and the swiss teams which took place after last year's AGM. He thanked Marilyn and John for producing the medals for the swiss and all the refreshments which they provided weekly and also the swiss teams organisers – Simon, Carol, Shelagh including himself. He particularly wished to note the departure of Roger from the committee who had been on it since the club's inception. However, he was delighted to note that Roger would still continue to manage the dealing machine and thanked Roger on behalf of the club, he was given a small gift. George noted that a whole team of people kept the club running well some of whom were on the committee and some of whom were not. In particular, he wished to thank Richard Smyth who led the set up team for the hall each week, Neil Stokes in his role as web manager, Mandy – our treasurer who had worked so hard to manage the new invoicing system, Mary weeks for her work as membership secretary, Sue Allgood who managed the refreshments each week so well, Carol as lead director and Shelagh who seemed to do everything as secretary including teaching, directing and hosting regularly. He noted that she had played with 40 different partners in that role. George recommended the report to the members which was approved.

5. Report from the Treasurer – Mandy Bearne. Mandy referred members to the financial statement incorporated in the annual report. Whilst having been in the role of treasurer for only a year, she had found the task somewhat daunting and thanked Derek Lambourne and John Morris for their support and guidance in the role. The new automated invoicing system introduced at the beginning of the year was a major change for the club and she thanked members for their support in helping to make the system work and George Strang for all his ‘know how’ in the system. We could now be regarded as a cashless club with members using online banking or cheques which could be paid in online. As a result of this bank charges had decreased. Regarding the financial statement Mandy thought we were in a good position with over £5900 in the bank and £1600 income over expenditure. The reason for the increase was the increasing number of members and their attendance on the Thursday session. As a result she was not recommending any increase in the annual subscription or table fees for the year. She noted that we had been able to donate money to charity to Loros from the swiss teams and to MIND and Alzheimers through the Ecats SIMs event. Mandy asked members to note the variation in the raffle expenditure from previous years which was due to the way in which it was presented to include wine for other events. Mandy thanked the auditor, Richard Chantler, for all his work and that the accounts had been signed off by him. As there were no questions from the floor the accounts were approved by members – proposed by Marilyn Morris and seconded by Simon Learoyd.
6. The election of officers took place and as there were no contested positions the following people were elected for 2026/7:
Chair – Philip Callaway, Treasurer – Mandy Bearne, Secretary – Shelagh Rumbelow; Committee Members – Margaret Butterfield, Marilyn Morris, Sadhana Stokes.
7. There were no resolutions for the meeting to consider.
8. Members were invited to make any comments from the floor. Steve Fieldhouse asked if anything could be done regarding the sometimes poor heating in the winter. George asked Shelagh to liaise with the centre. Mary Danaher wished to thank Sue Allgood for her work in dealing with refreshments each week.
9. Graham Alford made a warm and humorous vote of thanks to the committee and those who supported the club in their various ways regarding their work in running the club especially those who worked hard to expand members waistlines each week. Members warmly applauded.