

Minutes of AGM of the Billericay Mayflower Bridge Club

Held on Tuesday 14th July 2026 at 7.00pm



1. Welcome and Apologies

- The Secretary opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
- Apologies for absence had been received from Angela Fenton, Sandra Fenton, John McCoy, Barry & Hazel Capal, Alaric Cundy, Sue French, Anne Gillespie, Lorraine Buttler, Peter & Wendy Williamson, Neil & Sheila Hornsby and Gemma Fewster.
- There were 22 attendees.

2. Minutes

- The minutes of the last AGM (3rd June 2025) had been previously published and were accepted. Proposer: George Vede; seconded by Chris Comer.

3. Matters arising

- **Chairman & Constitution:** see Agenda Item later
- **Director's Training:** Complete. David Piper is trained and up and running.
- **Scorers:** Training of George Vede as 'second reserve' scorer is in progress and will receive top priority.
- **Free 'Taster Nights' for new members:** these have been a success in that new members have been brought on board: Neil and Sheila Hornsby, Anne Gillespie & Sharon Glover. No activity recently, though.
- **Playing in the afternoon:** This had been proposed under AOB by Sandra Fenton, but was not supported by the committee and was universally rejected by those present.

4. Chairman's / Secretary's Report

- See Appendix A – which all present had in hard copy – for more detail on the items below.
- The passing of three present or former Club members in the past year was noted with sadness.
- The Chairman reported the continued decline in membership and attendance, but noted that the Club remained viable.
- It is unfortunate that with small table numbers, three-board sit-outs are unavoidable when there are an odd number of pairs. Again, this was deemed acceptable.

5. Tournament Secretary's Report

- The results of the Club competitions, and the Club's efforts in ECBA competitions, had been reported previously and were summarised on a handout for all attendees. See Appendix B

6. Treasurer's Report & Appointment of the Examiner

- Linda Fleet presented the accounts (see Appendix D). Her report appears as Appendix C. In summary: 'At the moment we are holding our heads above water but if attendance continues to fall ... We would like to have a small reserve in order to renew the club laptop'.
- Albert Kitchin (supported by Bernard Kaye) had proposed under AOB that table money be increased to £5. This is firstly to avoid rattling tins for change, but also to improve the Club's finances in the light of declining revenues and the imminent need to replace the Club's laptop. There was some discussion about reducing the Membership fee as part compensation, but it was decided to keep it as it is, £20. New guests will be free for two 'taster' sessions but will thereafter be encouraged to join the Club or will pay £7 table money. The proposal was universally accepted and will come into effect in August 2026.
- Pat Johnson recommended a good supplier of refurbished laptops. The Secretary will follow this up.
- The accounts were accepted unanimously. Proposed by Peter Copsey; seconded by Pat Johnson.
- The Treasurer's Report appears as Appendix C and the Income and Expenditure account for the last financial year appears as Appendix D.
- 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

- The Committee stood for re-election unopposed and were unanimously re-elected:-
 - Theo Todman – Chairman, Secretary
 - Linda Fleet – Treasurer
 - David Piper – Director
 - Angela Fenton – Matchmaker, Catering
 - Chris Comer – Member
 - Marcia Levan-Harris – Co-opted Member
- Proposed by Simon Moorman; seconded by Pat Johnson.

8. Constitution

- The Articles of the Constitution relevant to combining the offices of Chairman and Secretary are:-
 - i. 6.1. The Officers of the Club shall be the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.
 - ii. 6.2. No member of the Club shall simultaneously hold more than one Office of the Club.
- It was universally agreed to amend the constitution to allow the Chairman and Secretary to be the same individual, but the Treasurer must remain distinct.
- Additionally, the Secretary will update the Constitution to correct the Year End date to 31st March, from 31st December.

9. SIMS Policy

- The Club intends to run two 'Charity' SIMS a year – in March and November (CiN) – both ECATS. Given the limited Club finances, the Club will not match donations, though all monies collected on these nights will still be donated.
- The Club will also run two further SIMS, either EBU or ECATS, as and when the Committee decides. These will not be charity events.
- For all SIMS, cost to members will be £5 (£7 for guests). Any additional charitable donations by members will be entirely voluntary.

10. Club 50th Anniversary

- Peter Williamson had agreed with the Committee that a formal celebration of the Club's anniversary would be unnecessary and expensive. However he was grateful that the Club had continued in existence for so long. The sentiment was shared by those present.

11. AOB

- Albert Kitchen: Raise the table money to £5. Covered above.

12. The meeting closed at 19:25

APPENDIX A: CHAIRMAN'S / SECRETARY'S REPORT

1. RIP

- Nick Hagan
- Tony French
- Roger Bacon
- Eric Field

2. Club Membership & Attendance: A continued, but sustainable, decline in attendance:-

- 2023/24: 6.8 tables (55 members, 68 distinct attendees)
- 2024/25: 6.2 tables (55 members, 62 distinct attendees)
- 2025/26: 5.8 tables (45 members, 59 distinct attendees)
- 2026/27: 5.1 tables (40 members, 45 distinct attendees; only April - June)

3. Sit-outs

- 2025/26: Sit outs on 28 / 51 sessions; 2.7 average boards sat-out where sit-out; 1.5 average boards sat-out over all sessions.
- 2026/27: Sit outs on 11 / 13 sessions; 2.9 average boards sat-out where sit-out; 2.5 average boards sat-out over all sessions.

APPENDIX B: TOURNAMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT

Club Championship:-

1. David Piper & Theo Todman
2. Jacek Lapszys & Sandy Riach
3. Bernard Kaye & Albert Kitchin

Individual Ladder:-

1. Theo Todman
2. Tim Connett
3. Steve Ensor

Partnerships Ladder:-

1. Tim Connett & Steve Ensor
2. Val Mollison & Brian Davies
3. David Piper & Theo Todman

ECBA Cornell Trophy:-

- The A Team (Val Mollison, Brian Davies, Tim Connett & Steve Ensor) came 3rd out of 8.
- The B Team (Peter Oake, Colin Scott, David Piper & Theo Todman) came 4th.
- Given the strength of the teams, the result was a little sub-par, and we lost out on a split tie to Thorpe Bay, who came 2nd and 5th.

ECBA Championsip Pairs:-

Colin Scott & Simon Moorman came 2 / 22.

ECBA GP Swiss Pairs:-

Peter Oake & Simon Moorman came 3 / 15.

ECBA Fletcher Trophy:-

No entry despite being teams of 4 this year.

NICKO

Theo Todman, David Piper, Peter Oake & Colin Scott: the Club won its first match against Deva Bridge Club E, but was then well beaten by a strong Cambridge Bridge Club B.

APPENDIX C: TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurers Report

Bank Balance at year end 31/03/2026 - £820 – (2025 £1,070) (as per accounts)

There was a deficit of £250 at the yearend (deficit £846 in 2025)

Bank Balance at the end to date - £1,199

Our membership for the year ending 31/03/2025 was 43

Memberships renewed this year so far is 38

Subs collected for 49 sessions last year was £4,294 average = £350pm

Expenses pm are:

Rent £208

UM approx. £40

Dealing £60

Milk etc £35

Total £343

At the moment we are holding our heads above water but if attendance continues to fall ...

We would like to have a small reserve in order to renew the club laptop

Bank Balance to date is £1,136

APPENDIX D: INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Billericay Mayflower Bridge Club Income and Expenditure Account For the year ending 31st March 2026

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
INCOME		
Members Subscriptions	625.00	701.00
Table Fees - Members	4,206.00	3,267.00
Table Fees - Visitors	88.00	56.00
Sims	225.00	526.00
Discounts	-68.50	
Differences	-50.76	-18.72
	<u>5,024.74</u>	<u>4,531.28</u>
EXPENSES		
EBU Membership	30.00	29.00
Bridgewebs Licence Fee	64.80	64.80
Universal Membership	553.84	639.44
Rent	2,632.00	2,400.00
Stationery etc	3.26	0.00
Catering & refreshments	423.92	280.18
Parties	0.00	158.84
Computer Dealing	898.50	705.00
Equipment	0.00	167.50
Sundry - Director training	0.00	33.50
Monies paid for SIMS	384.60	574.50
Competition Fees	217.60	250.00
Insurance	74.70	74.70
	<u>5,283.22</u>	<u>5,377.46</u>
NET PROFIT/(LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	<u>-258.48</u>	<u>-846.18</u>
Balance brought Forward	1,078.85	1,916.73
RETAINED PROFIT	<u>£ 820.37</u>	<u>£ 1,070.55</u>
Represented by:		
CASH AT BANK		
Barclays	820.37	1,070.55

£ <u>820.37</u>	£ <u>1,070.55</u>
0.00	0.00

Prepared by Linda Fleet *Linda Fleet* Dated04/04/2026
 Expenses are accounted for on a cash basis and included in the year in which they are paid

The above is an accurate account of the books and records of the club which I have examined.
 It represents a true and fair view of the Club's financial affairs for the year ended 31st March 2026.

Signed *[Signature]* Independent examiner. Dated08/05/26