



Billericay Mayflower Bridge Club

Minutes - Committee Meeting

22nd April 2025

Present:

- John McCoy – Chairman
- Linda Fleet – Treasurer
- Theo Todman – Secretary & Webmaster
- Marcia Levan-Harris – Director
- Chris Comer – Committee Member

Apologies:

- Sandra Fenton – Committee Member

Agenda Items:

1. **Membership Renewals for 2025/26:** Only 28 renewals to date, but Linda expects the figure to rise to circa 45 in due course, down marginally from the 48 last year.
2. **Accounts Preparation and Agreement:** The bank balance was £1,413. Linda will hand the draft accounts for scrutiny to Robert Elliott on Friday 25th April.
3. **Club Development / Viability:** There has been a slight decline in the Club 'year-on-year' attendance to 6.1 from 6.8 tables. Distinct attendees declined from 68 to 62. A brief discussion was held on the possibility of retreating to RealBridge. It was agreed that this should be a last resort, not necessary at the moment. The possibility should be raised at the AGM to gauge the feelings of Members. John volunteered to run the RealBridge events as he had during the pandemic should this become necessary.
4. **Committee:** John will be moving to France shortly after the AGM and will be standing down as Chairman and will retire from the Committee. Marcia will be staying in England until December so will remain on the Committee – and as Director – until then. Theo is willing to stand as Chairman, but that raises the issue of multiple office-holding, currently prohibited by the Constitution. There was no enthusiasm within the Committee to take over the role of Secretary, even in a 'titular' sense. Volunteers for Secretary and Chairman will be requested from the Membership. In the absence of serious contenders, the Members will be asked to temporarily suspend that aspect of the Constitution so that Theo can undertake both roles.
5. **AGM:** 3rd June. Theo will send out the draft Agenda and request for an additional Committee member as soon as possible.
6. **Director's Courses:** Given Marcia's ultimate departure, a new Director will be

needed. Lorraine stands in on occasion and there are a few members who have directed in the past or who have received training, but whose knowledge is out of date, and who are unwilling to perform the role. Bernie is organizing a Course in September. Theo will write to him to ascertain the date and costs. The Committee agreed that the Club could fund one attendee, based on the likely cost, and Theo would solicit a volunteer. David Piper has indicated willingness but Tim Connett should be given the option.

7. **Club Entries for ECBA Events:** Theo will attempt to obtain commitments in good time for the following events:-
- Club Pairs (Sunday 8th June)
 - Fletcher (Sunday 19th October)
 - Cup for Clubs (Sunday 26th October)
 - Cornell (February 2026)

Things aren't looking good for the Club Pairs. Linda, Tim & Steve and the Vedes are unavailable and John & Marcia have recused themselves.

8. **SIMS:** 8th July & 11th November (& March 2026); all ECATS. Given the limited Club finances it will be put to the AGM that the Club no longer matches donations, though all monies collected on the night will still be donated.
9. **AOB:** The Club had received an advertisement for a new bridge App: Handle (<https://handle.bridge128.com/>) – analogous to Wordle but with daily declarer-play problems. There's a 30-day free trial, then £48 p.a. Theo has had a look and it seems worth taking the free trial. The Committee authorized him to write to the membership encouraging them to give it a go.