



## Minutes - Committee Meeting

10<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### Present:

- Theo Todman – Chairman, Secretary & Webmaster
- Linda Fleet – Treasurer
- Marcia Levan-Harris – Director
- Angela Fenton – Matchmaker
- Chris Comer – Committee Member
- David Piper – Director in Waiting

### Agenda Items:

1. **Formal co-option of David Piper:** Unanimous acceptance.
2. **Previous AGM Minutes:** The actions had been completed. These related to:-
  - David's attendance at the Director's Course. Completed successfully.
  - The free or subsidized entry for players new to the Club. There was a question over free entry for the 'introducer', but the scheme had only cost £36.50 and had resulted in 2 new 'regulars'.
  - Also ... Sandra Fenton had suggested meeting in the afternoon, but this had been too radical an idea for an AOB item. It will be added to the agenda for the pre-AGM meeting.
3. **Situation re Marcia:** Marcia will be at the Club on and off until next February with maybe half the time in France. She is happy to hand over, with immediate effect, her directing responsibilities to David and catering to Angela. Transition to be arranged between the respective parties.
4. **Accounts Preparation and Agreement:**
  - Linda presented the latest Club YTD statement of accounts (attached below) which show that the increase of the table money to £4 (£5 for guests) had made a significant improvement. Figures are not directly comparable as the 2025 numbers are for a full year as against 10 months. Membership fees are not collected until the new financial year.
  - Robert Elliott has agreed to scrutinize this year's accounts, but may not be willing to carry on as he no longer plays at the Club. Linda will

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look out for a successor if necessary.

5. **Table-money and Subs for 2026/27:** It was agreed to propose increasing the Membership Fee to £20 but retain table money as currently.
6. **Club Development / Viability:**
  - Further year-on-year decline to 5.8 from 6.2 tables for calendar year. 5-table average in January 2026, though this is a 'low' time of year (it was 4.5 in January 2025). April / May 2025 averaged 5.6, so we picked up a bit. 56 distinct attendees as against 62 in 2024/25.
  - 42 current members. Theo and / or Linda to do some financial modeling as last year. It was noted that the issue isn't so much financial as having a viable movement.
  - An eventual move to Barleylands was 'tabled'? It might help Mid Essex, might increase numbers (though some members – eg. The Vedes – might be lost), and would save on 'setting up' and the need for a new laptop, but wouldn't necessarily help financially. It'd also reduce 'diversity' of location. Requires further discussion if there's interest from the membership. Item carried forward to the pre-AGM meeting, but we expect to present the idea to the AGM (though not for immediate implementation if numbers hold up).
  - Moving on-line was rejected at the last AGM.
7. **Club WhatsApp Group:** To solicit partners and for 'exceptional' messages (irregulars attending; regulars not attending). The idea was accepted with enthusiasm. Theo will set up and contact the membership.
8. **Chairman:** General agreement that Theo should stay as Chairman and Secretary. We should ask the AGM whether to change the constitution or have another roll-over of the waiver of separation of duties.
9. **Committee Members:** All – including Marcia – are willing to stand for re-election.
10. **Functions:**
  - **Scoring:** Theo will take the lead with Mike in reserve and George as a backstop.
  - **Boards:** Mike is still the regular 'porter' but Chris is the backstop. Dealing will always be done by Barleylands (currently Mike).
  - **Catering:** Angela will take the lead, providing milk + tea/coffee. Theo will provide the biscuits.
  - **Matchmaker:** Remains with Angela in conjunction with the WhatsApp group.
11. **MVH AGM:** Theo and Angela to be contacts on the MVH website (<https://www.mountnessingvillagehall.co.uk/availability-calendar/> currently has John & Linda as contacts. Theo will get this corrected). Key-codes are issued quarterly and Theo will ensure – now he's an MVH Trustee – that they are sent to him and will forward them to the Club Committee.

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## 12. Mayflower AGM Date:

- 9<sup>th</sup> June (18:30 start).
- Pre-meeting 21<sup>st</sup> April (18:30 start).

## 13. Cornell Teams: Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February.

- Two teams (A: Tim+Steve, Val+Brian. B: David P + Theo, Colin + Peter Oake). We were 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> (of 8 teams; Theo + David 3<sup>rd</sup> in the X-IMPs, Tim + Steve 5<sup>th</sup>).
- We missed out on qualification for the Garden Cities to Thorpe Bay on a split tie.
- We'd not have agreed to go: too expensive £302 + travel + accommodation; see <https://www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/garden-cities>.

## 14. Club Championship Dates: 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> March. Agreed. Theo to advertise.

## 15. SIMS:

- 10<sup>th</sup> March & 10<sup>th</sup> November (CiN). Both ECATS.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> July SIMS will be dropped as "two is enough". This is a variation from the agreement at the AGM (though this only applied to 2024-25).
- NO matched donations but all table-money to be donated. ECATS Fees from Club funds.

## 16. AOB:

- **Cups:** Marcia had handed Theo a bag of swag. Half are ECBA, one Mountnessing, one Suffolk. Theo will find homes for these. Two of the Mayflower cups are in good condition and have space available. It was agreed to resurrect them for the Club Championship and the Individual Ladder. Theo will deal with the engraving.
- **Laptop:** This runs OK but is having difficulty installing major Windows updates on account of its small (60Gb) hard-drive. One major update too 24 hours. Theo will monitor the situation and do windows updates at home. We should accrue for a 'new' (but cheap) laptop.
- **Club History:** Theo will record on the Club website details from the historic 'Shields' and other retiring cups. Theo – in conjunction with Alaric Cundy – is resurrecting 3 websites for our once-potentially sister-clubs now demised – Mountnessing, Hutton and St. Edith's. Further information in due course.
- **Club Anniversary:** Linda mentioned 50 years or thereabouts is up. The website mentions 'early 70s', so we may have missed it.

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

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Members Subscriptions	625.00	701.00
Table Fees - Members	3,550.00	3,267.00
Table Fees - Visitors	78.00	56.00
Sims	110.00	526.00
Discounts	-36.50	
Differences	<u>-26.73</u>	<u>-18.72</u>
	<u>4,299.77</u>	<u>4,531.28</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
EBU Membership	30.00	29.00
Bridgewebs Licence Fee	64.80	64.80
Universal Membership	476.56	639.44
Rent	2,372.00	2,400.00
Stationery etc	0.00	0.00
Catering & refreshments	380.57	280.18
Parties	0.00	158.84
Computer Dealing	838.50	705.00
Equipment	0.00	167.50
Sundry - Director training	0.00	33.50
Monies paid for SIMS	249.80	574.50
Competition Fees	217.60	250.00
Insurance	74.70	74.70
	<u>4,704.53</u>	<u>5,377.46</u>
<b>NET PROFIT/(LOSS) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<u>-404.76</u>	<u>-846.18</u>
Balance brought Forward	1,070.55	1,916.73
<b>RETAINED PROFIT</b>	<u>£ 665.79</u>	<u>£ 1,070.55</u>
Represented by:		
<b>CASH AT BANK</b>		
Barclays	665.79	1,070.55
		0.00

£ <u>665.79</u>	£ <u>1,070.55</u>
0.00	0.00

Prepared by Linda Fleet ..... Dated .....

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 ..... Independent examiner. Dated .....