

CASTLE MORPETH BRIDGE CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at Storey Park Community Centre, Morpeth

6.30 pm on Tuesday 4th June 2019

In Attendance: Janet Angel, Jean Armstrong, Sonia Ashurst, Bill Aynsley, John Beaumont, Anne Bell, Eric Bell, Dan Benison, Kenneth Bodenham, Moyra Booth, Sylvia Capron, Tim Capron, Pauline Chapelhow, Anne Coates, Mike Craig, Judy Creswick, Laura Curran, Margery Dodds, Barry Graham, David Gunn, Keith Harbour, Malcolm Hargreaves, Norman Henry, Val Ireland, Dorothy James, John Kingcome, Mary Kingcome, Donna Lawrence, Jo Lormor, Bob Lyon, Cecily Manghan, Alistair Markham, Isobel Markham, Laura Marriott, Peter Marshall, Garry Matthews, Cyril Meehan, Laurie Monkhouse, Brenda Mueller, Carole Newton, Ann Noble, Jonathan Noble, Fin O'driscoll, Barbara Park, Ray Rayner, Ken Reed, Ali Ritz, Marilyn Ross, Mike Rowlands, Helen Sadler, Bill Sharp, Freda Simpkin, Frank Spingett, Trevor Stone, Ted Szymczuk, Barbara Thompson, John Towers, Monica Tuke, Jim Turnbull, Janice Watson, Ken Waugh, Marjorie Waugh, Jean Wilkinson

Apologies received from: Stephen Reay, John Wiltshire, Betty Newton, Dorothy Craig, Vince Price, Joan Monkhouse, Paula Gates and Lola Simonson.

Minutes of Meeting held 15th May 2018: The minutes were adopted as a true record. Proposed by Judy Creswick and seconded by Laurie Monkhouse.

Matters Arising: The club no longer uses polystyrene cups and members were reminded that when using the cups provided, to wash them and replace back in cupboard. It was suggested that members may wish to bring their own cups.

Chairman's reports: Looking back over my reports for the last few years I find that I invariably start with how many members we have. I make no apology for this as falling numbers are probably the biggest threat to all bridge clubs. Fortunately I can report that this year we have managed to retain our membership at 103, very slightly higher than last year and our table numbers were steady at 16.

Your Committee is continuing to explore new initiatives to encourage student players to join our club. We hope soon to start a dialogue with teaching groups to see if there are any further steps we can take. You can be assured that we have studied the article in the current EBU magazine "Making a bridge club attractive to new members".

The image we try to create for Castle Morpeth is a friendly and welcoming club for visitors and potential new members. But also a competitive one where members have the opportunity to play in national simultaneous pairs and represent the club in teams and NEBA competitions. It can be an effort to maintain our reputation as a no-fear club and it does frustrate your Committee to have incidents thrown back at us that we know are not recent. It takes only one acrimonious exchange to put a potential member off playing in a club. If you have the opportunity please do spread the word about how friendly we are these days.

We continue to maintain two teams in the inter-club competition and although the A team was not promoted this year they are well placed in the table for next year. I should like to thank Freda as captain of our teams and all the members who have taken part.

The NEBA draft calendar has been published rather late this year but all the events are shown on our website calendar for next year and we are continuing with the same programme of competitions and simultaneous pair events. Our Christmas Party on 10th December will be rather special this year as we are combining it with our 20th Anniversary. So watch the noticeboard and announcements for more details later.

There are many members as well as the Committee who work hard to make this club run smoothly and I should like to thank them all – they know who they are. We are pleased to welcome a new Director as Stephen has almost finished his training. We could do with another scorer and also someone to help update the website. These are not onerous tasks and we can provide training so if it interests you don't be shy in coming forward.

Treasurer's Report & election of auditor: Freda reported that the club has had a healthy year and we have a good balance. This was in some way due to gift aid which the club receives. The accounts were adopted by Val Ireland and seconded by Ken Reed.

Norman Gray was thanked for auditing the accounts and dealing the boards. Norman Gray was re-elected as honorary reporting accountant for the forth-coming year. Proposed by Peter Marshall and seconded by David Gunn.

Election of Committee Members: All current members were re-elected.

Resolutions from Club Members: No resolutions received.

Any other business: There was no further business

The Meeting closed at 6.45 pm

Presentation of Trophies:

Club Championship Pairs	19th Jun 18	Anne Bell & Val Ireland
Club Handicap	10th Jul 18	Cyril Meehan & Bob Lyon
Club Championship Teams	26th Mar 19	Frank Springett & Mike Stanbury
Tessa Lee Trophy		Brenda Osborne & Peter Avery
Club Mixed Pairs	12 th Feb 19	Barbara Thompson & Trevor Stone
Club Ladies Pairs	27th Nov 18	Jo Lormor & Margaret Andrew
Club Mens Pairs	27th Nov 18	Frank Springett & Mike Stanbury
Individual Club Shield(1)	Apr – Mar	Frank Springett
Slam Champion	Apr – Mar	Frank Springett

Definitions:-

(1) Based on av % pairs score over year 1st Apr – 31st Mar. Must have played half of available match pointed pairs events (46) & best 24 scores included.