

CASTLE MORPETH BRIDGE CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at Storey Park Community Centre, Morpeth

6.30 pm on Tuesday 16th May 2017

In attendance: Margaret Andrew, Kathey Banerji, Anne Bell, Eric Bell, Pauline Boardman, Moyra Booth, Janet Brough, Sylvia Capron, Tim Capron, Pauline Chapelhow, Sarah Cleverley, Anne Coates, Dorothy Craig, Mike Craig (Chair), Aileen Cunningham, Margery Dodds, Don Eadington, Ann Elliot, Angela England, Margaret Fenwick, Liz Gray, Helen Hardy, Malcom Hargeaves, Jill Harrison, Simon Hedley, Syd Hetherington, Ian Hudson, Sheena Hudson (Secretary), Paul Ingoe, Dorothy James, Donna Lawrence, Joyce Liddell, Jo Lormor, Bob Lyon, Axhar Mahmood, Cecily Manghan, Alistair Markham, Isobel Markham, Laura Marriott, Peter Marshall, Garry Matthews, Betty Matthewson, Cyril Meehan, Elizabeth Murphy, Betty Newton, Carole Newton, Sheila Parker, Mike Rowlands, Helen Sadler, Freda Simpkin (Treasurer), Charlie Singh, Frank Springett, Mike Stanbury, Trevor Stone, Ted Szymczuk, Barbara Thompson, Jim Turnbull, Carole Walton, Ken Waugh, Marjorie Waugh, Jean Wilkinson, John Wiltshire.

Apologies received from: David Gunn

Minutes of Meeting held 17th May 2016: The minutes were adopted as a true record. Proposed by Mike Stanbury and seconded by Peter Marshall.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

Chairman's report: Our current membership is 113 which is slightly less than this time last year and our table numbers have averaged just over 16 each week. Recently our numbers have fallen slightly and while this is not yet a matter of concern we have noticed that fewer new members have joined from teaching classes. This may be partly because of the growth of independent groups linked to teaching. While this is good for the bridge community at large it does mean we have to work harder to encourage improvers to make the move to a bridge club. We have always focussed on making our Club the first step for players wanting competitive bridge in a friendly environment. We work hard to make the experience enjoyable as we know that it only takes

one bad experience to put new players off a club for life. The Committee have recently agreed to encourage new players to our club by giving them a free trial evening, so please let Freda know if you bring a new guest who would fit in this category.

We support two teams in the NEBA inter-club teams competition and I should like to thank Freda as captain and all the team members who have played over the year. It is not easy to maintain two teams and we are always pleased to hear from any member who would like to play for the club. Our A team although tying equal 1st place with Cramlington B was unlucky not to be promoted.

Their division has a North and South regional split meaning that only one team is promoted from each area. We believe this limits competition and have put forward a resolution for the NEBA AGM on Wednesday 24th May suggesting that the Division structure is re-examined. We hope that local clubs who have teams in this Division will be able to support this resolution.

We occasionally hear murmurs that we have too many simultaneous pairs evenings. The Committee discussed this at their last meeting and as club finances have improved we decided that the best way forward was to stop the extra £1 table money for members on sims evenings. We will also reduce the number of sims from 7 to 6 a year by stopping the January one.

We are very fortunate as a club that we have many helpers who share the work of keeping your club running efficiently. I would like to thank **all** members of the Committee for effectively carrying out their duties and helping to tidy up at the end of the evening. Also all the directors who make our evenings run smoothly, Frank for his informative Hand of the Week and Freda for organising so capably behind the scenes.

Treasurer's report & election of auditor: Freda circulated copies of the Income and Expenditure Accounts for year ending 31st March 2017. These accounts were self-explanatory and Freda invited questions from the members. Freda was asked if there were any major expenditures envisaged for the forthcoming year but there are none in the foreseeable future. Our healthy balance has partly been attributed by being able to reduce the rent for Storey Park Community Centre by 25% due to the club being in receipt Gift Aid. The accounts were adopted, proposed by Peter Marshall and seconded by Ann Elliot.

Norman Gray re-elected as honorary reporting accountant for the forthcoming year. Norman was thanked for his work. Proposed by Aileen Cunningham and seconded by Laura Marriott.

Resolutions from Club Members: There were no resolutions put forward.

Any other business: No other business

Presentation of Trophies: Mike Craig and Freda Simpkin presented the following trophies.

Club Championship Pairs	Frank Springett & Mike Stanbury
Club Handicap Pairs	Ann Elliot & Angela England
Club Championship Teams	Laura Marriott and Ted Szymczuk
Tessa Lee Trophy	Margery Dodds and Mike Rowlands
Club Mixed Pairs	Anne & Eric Bell
Club Ladies Pairs	Jo Lormor & Margaret Andrew
Club Mens Pairs	Frank Springett & Mike Standbury
Individual Club Shield (1)	Frank Springett & Mike Standbury
Slam Champions	David Gunn & Norman Henry

Meeting closed at 6.50 pm.