

CASTLE MORPETH BRIDGE CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at St James Community Centre, Morpeth

6.30pm on Tuesday 28th June 2022

In attendance: Chris Stenning, Dan Benison, Bill Sharp, Bob Lyon, Kenneth Bodenham, Monica Tuke, Jim Turnbull, Donna Lawrence, James Wood, Laura Marriott, Peter Avery, Frank Springett, Garry Matthews, Ted Szymczuk, Jo Lormor, Margaret Andrew, David Gunn, Janet Angel, Ann Noble, Paula Gates, Simon Hedley, Pauline Chapelhow, Ken Reed, Sheena Hudson (Secretary), Freda Simpkin Treasurer), Judy Creswick, Helen Sadler, Anne Coates, Mike Craig (Chair), Dorothy Craig, Mary Kingcome.

1. Apologies received from: Val Turner, Viv Heskett, Pauline Boardman, Charlie Singh, Peter Winslow, Stephen Reay, Ann Firth, Jocelyn Heyford, Anne Bell, Ray Green, Aileen Cunningham, Dorothy James, Tim Capron, Sylvia Capron, Maurice Seamans, Ken Goddard, Sue Goddard, Carole Walton, Sheila Parker, Brenda Mueller. Catherine Farrell, Richard Craker, Margaret Spencer, Margaret Fenwick, Ruth Carey, Sheila Brown.

2. Minutes of Meeting held 4th June, 2019: The minutes were adopted as a true record. Proposed by David Gunn and seconded by Ken Reed.

3. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report: Three years have passed since our last AGM in Storey Park in June 2019 and there have been many changes in the way the Club is run.

Our last game before Covid struck was the Club Championship Teams on 3rd March 2020 with 16 tables.

We started playing BBO in April 2020 and over a year later we became an EBU Virtual club. One advantage of this was that during the year we ran National Swiss Pairs & Teams Blue Point events that helped increase our income.

As the fear of Covid reduced we developed a protocol for safely playing F2F bridge and on 7th September we played our first game here at St James our new venue with 6 tables. Numbers have been up and down but are steadily increasing.

It seemed to make sense to merge the results of the F2F and BBO games but there are quite a few differences in playing format and it is right that we should review this decision occasionally. We are aware that we have lost some local players on BBO as they don't like playing with the wide range of abilities that now take part. We also had some unfriendliness at the BBO table but we have addressed this and don't expect it to happen again.

We had two teams playing in the NEBA Inter-Club teams and enjoyed some fairly tough competition. It is hard work keeping two teams running so when the time comes if you would like to be included please let Freda know of your availability.

You may have noticed that we have been playing more Charity Sim Pairs rather than EBU Sim Pairs and over the last year have been able to contribute significant sums to Ecats Summer Charity (Kidney Research & Heart Foundation), Children in Need and Ecats Charity Challenge (Cancer Research and Marie Curie). Next week will be the Ecats Summer Charity. Most of your current Committee have been in post for over 10 years and two of us will be retiring at the next AGM. A lot of expertise has been built up amongst us for running a bridge club and it would be a shame if this was lost. It would be much easier if these skills could be passed on by overlapping the posts this coming year. Please give this some serious thought if you want the Club to continue in its present form.

In closing I would like to thank all the Committee for keeping the Club running during this difficult period, Hristo for starting us down the BBO route and continuing to run these sessions and Frank for trying to improve our skills with his Hand of the Week particularly during the pandemic when he produced a daily bidding problem.

5. Treasurer's Report and election of auditor: Freda reported the club is in a good financial position which was partly due to hall fees and rent only beginning from September 2021. The accounts were adopted by Dorothy Craig and seconded by Monica Tuke.

A special thanks was made to Norman Gray for auditing the accounts. Norman Gray was re-elected as honorary reporting accountant for the

forth-coming year. Proposed by Ken Reed and seconded by Simon Hedley.

6. Election of Committee Members: Several of the committee members have been in post for 10 years and intend serving for one further year. A request was made for club members to join the committee and possibly shadow present committee members until their resignations. Paul Ingoe has volunteered to join the committee and was duly elected without vote.

7. Item raised by members:

Should we continue to merge F2F and BBO results?

Consider preference for number of boards played 22 or 24

A lively discussion took place and members views were expressed on the differences in the format and play between F2F and BBO. An advisory vote was taken and the majority favoured unmerged results. This needs to be balanced with the online members vote where the majority preferred merged results. The Committee will take into account the views of Members for future games. As the F2F numbers increase the scoring becomes less exaggerated and provided the numbers stay up on BBO they could both be scored unmerged. There is a good case for playing Club competitions and NEBA qualifying events unmerged. Unmerged scoring would also have the benefit of allowing different number of boards to be played as the F2F group clearly preferred 24 boards and the BBO showed a slight preference for 21/22 boards.

8. Any other business: There was no presentation of Trophies as there have been no competitions this year.

Peter Avery thanked the Committee for keeping the club running during this difficult period

There was no further business.

MEETING CLOSED AT 6.50PM