

Castle Morpeth Bridge Club

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at Trinity Church Bedlington
at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 18th May 2023

In Attendance: Mike Craig [Chair], Freda Simpkin [Treasurer], Ken Reed, Paul Ingoe, Viv Heskett [Secretary]

The chairman thanked Freda for arranging the venue.

1. Apologies: There were no apologies.

2. Minutes of last Meeting: Held on 9th March 2023 were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising: None.

4. Chairman's Report: No items other than those on the agenda.

5. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was circulated. This included the Income and Expenditure account for the year ended 31st March 2023. The report was signed and certified by the auditor Norman Gray. The financial health of the CMBC remains good and the Chairman pointed out that whilst Freda had been Treasurer the club funds had risen from under £5000 to over £12,000.

6. Application to Charities Commission: The application for charity status with the Charities Commission was forwarded on the 29th March. Their website stated that it would take 8 weeks to process. After enquiry we were told that they have amended the time to process our application to 12 weeks. An email request for priority approval was rejected. Gift Aid is obtained through HMRC and it is hoped that we do not have to re-apply.

7. New Club Constitution: The new Club Constitution was approved unanimously by CMBC members at a SGM at St James Hall, Morpeth on the 28th March.

8. Committee Membership: It was agreed that although Mike and Freda are stepping down as Chairman and Treasurer at the next AGM, they will be available for re-election as Committee members and Trustees. Their advice will be gratefully appreciated.

A campaign is under way to encourage members to join the Committee. Freda suggested that perhaps some members who only play online would like to become committee members. Dan Bennison has also shown interest on joining

the committee.

9. AGM: The AGM will be held on 30th May 2023 at 6.30. As required by the Constitution a Notice of the AGM was circulated at the Club on Tuesday 16th May and emailed to Online Members and full Members not attending F2F sessions. It was also put on the website. Nominations for Trustees/Committee Members and Resolutions from Members should be sent to the Secretary by 23rd May

10. A.O.B: Freda has mentioned that now that Covid rules no longer apply to the CMBC and table numbers have increased we can play for trophies again next year. The CMBC needs more players interested in playing in the inter-area competitions. Freda would like to maintain two teams; however at the moment we only have enough players for one. This matter will be brought up at the AGM.

Mike mentioned that his wife Dorothy has sent an email to the Committee suggesting that St James Hall could benefit from being equipped with a defibrillator. At the moment Morpeth only has one which is situated at a distance from the hall. As there are a number elderly people who attend this venue regularly, a defibrillator could save someone's life. It was suggested that the CMBC and Morpeth Bridge Club, who also play at St. James Hall, may be willing to contribute towards having one fitted. It was agreed that Morpeth Council and Morpeth Bridge Club would be approached with this suggestion. Action Paul.

Mike has asked for more volunteers to help with the setting out and tidying up of bridge equipment at the beginning and end of the evening. Action Viv.

Date of Next Meeting: The new Chairman to arrange a meeting shortly after the AGM specifically to discuss the hand over of tasks currently done by the Chairman & Treasurer. Each will prepare a list of tasks undertaken for discussion.