



Hungerford Bridge Club

Minutes of AGM held at the Royal British Legion Club at 6.30pm on 22nd January 2025

Members present: Evelyn Archer, Val Bray, Martin Buck, Nicola Buckland, Amanda Cooper, Martin Davies, Brian Davis, David De-Saxe, Chris Doyle, John Harland, Phil Hickman, Jacquie Hide, Kevin Hughes, Adrian Lambe, Linda Madden, Liz Madeley, Stephen Martin, Ann McMahon, Lucy North, Lynne Phillips, Keith Philpott, Hugh Pihlens, Lois Pihlens, Graeme Robinson, Bill Russell, Rebecca Sheinman, Amelia Tester, Evelyne Thomas, Garry Towns, Chris Waye, Gill Weeks, Peter Willetts

Chairman's Welcome: Bill Russell thanked all for attending and explained that the conflicting priorities of a full agenda and finishing on time required the meeting to start on time and remain focused.

- To that end, background detail on various agenda items had been made available on the website and feedback from the membership requested prior to the AGM – no comment or feedback was received.

Apologies for absence: Eileen & David Barratt, Nicola & Robin Buchanan-Dunlop, Dilys Short, Pat Coates, Bill Washington, Hugh Thompson

Approval of Minutes from last AGM (January 2024): These were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman as such.

Chairman's report: Bill Russell delivered a summary of his report - copies of the full report were available to the AGM.

Treasurer's report for the Year ending 31st December 2024: Chris Doyle delivered his report. Copies of the accounts for 2024 were available to the AGM - these were unanimously approved (proposed by Amelia Tester and seconded by Liz Madeley) and signed by the Treasurer and Chairman as such.

- It was stressed that the reduction in revenues was due to reduction in table money because of reduced attendances during the year (average of 7 tables in 2024 vs 8 tables in 2023), but that harmonising the recovery from SIMs table money would help to address this shortfall, as well as being more equitable.
- Brian Davis questioned whether it was necessary to have such a large reserve – the Committee try to maintain the reserve at a consistent level in case of need to replace the laptop, the bridge mates; or items such as the tables and table cloths. The committee will consider this topic during the year.

Membership Fees and Table Money

The Committee recommended that:

- 2025 Subscriptions (Membership Fee) should remain at £10.00.
- Table money for SIMs evenings should be increased by £2 (i.e. Members increase from £3 to £5; Visitors increase from £6 to £8).
- Other table money to remain as-is (£2 for member, £4 for visitors).

Carried nem con.

Election of Officers:

The three Officers standing for re-election were approved unanimously, as was the remainder of the existing committee.

There being no other nominations the committee for 2024 is as follows:

Chairman – Bill Russell

Treasurer – Chris Doyle

Secretary – Lucy North

Committee member (Assistant Treasurer) – Rosina Dickens

Committee member: Hugh Pihlens

Committee member (with responsibility for membership) – Liz Madeley

The Hungerford Bridge Cup Award: Keith Philpott was awarded the cup (again), having achieved an outstanding score of 58.37%

Review of Club position on SIMs: The Committee wished to ensure the number and type of SIMs played fully reflected the wishes of the membership following the implementation of the decision at the 2024 AGM to replace 50% of the EBU SIMs with ECATS SIMs. The Committee offered up three alternatives to stimulate discussion:

- Option A being the following six (6) SIMs as being comparable to 2024 (with the exception of the January SIM being ECATS rather than EBU):

Date	Platform	Title	In aid of:
29/01/2025	ECATS	January Charity Pairs	Unicef
12/03/2025	ECATS	Charity Challenge	Mind/McMillan
14/05/2025	EBU	EBED Spring Pairs	EBED
09/07/2025	ECATS	Summer Charity Pairs	Kidney Res/BHF
03/09/2025	EBU	Autumn Sim Pairs	EBED
12/11/2025	ECATS	Children In Need	Children in Need

- Option B being just the four (4) ECATS SIMs
- Option C being just the Children in Need (ECATS) Sim.

Option A – the six SIMs in the above table – was carried with a large majority.

Review of position cards: To support fairness the club tries to randomise initial seating positions by having members draw position cards upon arrival (bar reasonable exceptions such as position of the Director; physical or other requirements; etc.). Following discussion the following options were voted upon:

- As per current intention, initial seating position cards laid out and members pick a card on arrival with the expectation that this will be followed (as opposed to searching through for a more preferred seat).
- As per current actual practice, initial seating position cards laid out and members pick a card on arrival but often then search through and pick another.
- Members are handed a position card upon arrival
- Members just sit where they want upon arrival.
- Members fill in from Table 1 N/S on arrival.

To ensure the membership wishes were understood, members were able to vote for more than one option.

Option C - Members are handed a position card upon arrival – was carried with a significant majority.

Any Other Business:

Chris Waye asked if the club would prefer 'one winner' table movements every evening - there wasn't much uptake. It was reiterated that it was the Director's choice which movement was played.

Martin Davies thanked Bill Russell for all his hard work as Chairman.

There being no other business, the AGM was declared closed (prior to 7:00 PM).