



Proposed Merger of Billericay Mayflower BC and Mountnessing BC



Proposal

It is proposed that Billericay Mayflower Bridge Club and Mountnessing Bridge Club are merged to form one joint club. This is a joint proposal from the Committees of both clubs following a detailed assessment of the benefits and drawbacks. The Report of the Working Party is available on both websites.

This proposal will be put to both AGMs and will only proceed if both AGMs sanction the merger in accordance with their respective constitutions.

Why

- The principal reason for considering the merger is to provide a sound base for both clubs in the future both in playing terms and financially. The number of players is limited and reducing; the need is for one strong club to withstand these existential issues.
- The recent Covid pandemic has affected the numbers playing.
- Bridge clubs throughout Essex are struggling to survive.
- There are limited numbers of volunteers to fill the Honorary positions and the committee seats.
- There is a cold wind coming and we need to consolidate and shore up before we are forced.
- It should be noted that both clubs are currently in a sound financial situation. BMBC has an account balance of c. £3k and MBC c. £7k.

Benefits

- To safeguard the future of both clubs, with a larger playing base and sounder financial position. The committees firmly believe that, looking to the future survival of the clubs, this is essential.

- To become one of the leading clubs in Essex and to attract players to ensure a continued strong playing base.
- To facilitate the joint teaching of bridge. Without new players bridge will disappear like tears in the rain.
- To reduce the administrative burden on the few willing souls prepared to put their heads above the parapet.
- The Clubs meet in the same venue and use the same shared scoring equipment with the same scorers.
- A minor saving in EBU & Bridgewebs fees.
- The Tuesday and Thursday evenings will largely be as currently with separate competitions, ladders, etc.

Potential Downsides

- Loss of club ethos.
- Loss of history.
- The loss of another club to the ether.
- Cost but no benefit for players only able to play on one night.
- Fewer players able to represent the club.
- Changes to potential payments to members in case of liquidation.

Next Steps

Should this proposal be adopted it is intended to call a joint Extraordinary General Meeting to agree the following:-

- Joint name.
- Joint Committee and form of said committee.
- Annual subs.
- Table money.
- Club Competitions.
- Club Ethos.
- Club website.
- Bank account.