

# MOUNTNESSING BRIDGE CLUB

Meets every Thursday at 7.25 for 7.30  
at Mountnessing Village Hall, Roman Road, Mountnessing, Essex, England, CM15 0UG

## Summary of decisions made at the inaugural meeting of the Shadow Committee 04/02/15 Held at Kennel Lane, Billericay

**All these decisions will be put to the full club for ratification at the Inaugural General Meeting of the Club, 7 p.m., April 9<sup>th</sup>, Mountnessing Village Hall.**

1. Graham Allen was elected as Chair
2. Nick Hagan was elected as Vice Chair
3. John Sutcliffe was elected as Secretary
4. Alaric Cundy was elected as Treasurer
5. John Sutcliffe was elected as Membership Secretary.
6. Bill West will take on the role of Webmaster; we will switch to Bridge Webs. Bill will investigate / start the free one-month trial in the near future. Back-up / assistance from Alaric as necessary
7. Val Mollison has offered to organise the Directors Rota. The four directors will be Val Mollison, Bill West, Graham Allen, Alaric Cundy. Alaric to send Val contact details for the four directors.
8. Roger Hayward has agreed to act as Honorary Financial Scrutineer.
9. Sheena Millins volunteered to manage the kitchen and the refreshments. It was suggested that members could be asked to bring their own mugs to save costs on the plastic cups.
10. Sheena offered to assist Alaric with management of the wireless scoring equipment.
11. The Club Accounting Period will run from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> each year; in the inaugural year of 2015 the first accounting period will run from April 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. The Membership Year will run from April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>.
12. An Annual General Meeting will take place in late February each year – timed to allow for the accounts for the preceding year to be presented, and any operational issues that affect the up-and-coming new Membership year to be voted on as necessary.
13. The draft constitution was agreed subject to minor changes to section 5.2 and 6.3. The constitution will take effect from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 and will remain in force until such time as it may be amended by a vote at a General Meeting in accordance with the procedure set out in section 16 of the constitution. The revised version is attached.
14. A full stock-take of the club's physical assets needs to be undertaken. The financial assets as at 01/04/2015 will be all membership renewal subscriptions less any expenses for 2015/16 paid in advance, such as, anticipated, the hall hire for April.
15. **It was agreed to cease awarding wine as prizes**; the savings are to be used to fund a wireless scoring system. No more wine will be offered after the end of March. There will still be regular prize-winners – as below.
  - The current 'Player of the Month' scheme will continue, but there will be no prizes - merely 'the glory'
  - There will be a new 'spot prize' (tokens, not wine) awarded at the Christmas Party, possibly on the basis of a free-to-enter raffle drawn at random OR the nearest score at the end of the evening to some pre-drawn random value
  - There will be an additional more open 'handicapped monthly ladder' that will be accessible to all regular players at the club, and for which a prize of tokens will be awarded; Alaric to explore options for a handicap system – possibly based on NGS gradings as at the start of the month. Alternatively, the monthly prize could be awarded on the basis of a random draw from the pool of players who played every week in the

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month - so if you simply 'turn up to play' every week for a month you have a chance of winning the monthly prize.

16. It was agreed to continue to deploy computer-dealt boards. It was agreed that (at least) one more set of boards should be purchased to ease the logistics of picking up / dropping off the boards. It was agreed to explore whether multiple copies of the computer hand sheets could also be provided, and if so, what the additional charge would be.
17. **It was agreed in principle to adopt wireless scoring.** It was also agreed NOT to put the club into debt – the system could only be purchased using cash in hand. It was agreed to pursue the possibility of hiring a system from another club. It was agreed to run a one-table trial of the Jannersten Scoring system on February 12<sup>th</sup>.
16. It was agreed to modify the special events programme for 2015/16 thus:
  - o Two Simultaneous pairs will be held – both Charity-related: e.g., Kidney Research in July and WBF in January.
  - o The monthly teams of four events will be discontinued
  - o The Club Championship events will be restricted to two per year: the Mary Rogers Trophy (January) and the Summer Club Championship (August)
  - o The annual ladder scheme will continue as now. The two winners (Ladies, Men) will each hold a trophy for a year, and additionally the overall Ladder winner at the end of the year will earn the accolade 'Club Captain' for the following year, which honour bestows the privilege of selecting the teams to represent Mountnessing in the annual Essex Invitational Teams events - that is the Fletcher Trophy / Cup for Clubs (usually held in October) and the Ray Cornell Trophy (previously known as the Helliard Trophy) (usually held in February)
17. It was agreed that both the Director and the Director's partner would be exempt from table money. It was agreed to invite Dorothy & Alaric Cundy to be Honorary Members.
18. **It was agreed to make no changes to the core charges** for the year starting April 1<sup>st</sup> 2015, other than as at point 17. Club membership - £15 for the full year; table money for club members – £2.50 (normal), £5 (Sim pairs), Free (Christmas Party); for non members, respectively £4, £7, £5. The Treasurer will commence collection of subscriptions for 2015/16.
19. The Treasurer will explore options for a suitable bank account. Free banking is a 'must'; on-line banking at least for inspection actions is highly desirable. Initially there will be four designated cheque signatories – The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, with any two of those four required to sign each individual cheque or mandate.
20. Host System / Find a partner: Alaric to enquire whether the service for Mayflower & St Edith's could be expanded to include Thursday night too. As an alternative option, **the Membership is to be asked whether they would be prepared to act as Host on a regular basis – perhaps monthly or quarterly.** A financial incentive would need to be offered for the 'duty host'.
21. Alaric offered to help Graham with set-up of scoring software; Alaric to contact Val on the subject of scoring on nights when she will be directing.
22. Committee members will share responsibility for collecting the table money on the night.
23. It was agreed to seek to formalise the arrangements such that all four directors and Sheena could be established as registered key-holders.
24. A possible nomination for 'Education Officer' was discussed; Alaric to pursue.
25. The invitation to have a stall at the Mountnessing Community / School Fête was accepted in principle; details to be agreed nearer the time.

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26. Certain routine operational practices were agreed as needing to be brought to the attention of members:
- Pairs should be at the club (or at the very least, advise of a late arrival) by 7.25 to enable a prompt start – e.g., to avoid late changes to the movement / boards / etc. This point will be even more critical after wireless scoring is introduced. ***Pairs arriving after this time without any prior warning cannot be guaranteed a game.***
  - ***All fit and able-bodied players should contribute to setting out the Hall and to clearing away***
  - ***All players should ensure that their used cups and cup-holders are returned to the kitchen by the end of the evening***
27. ***It was agreed to hold the inaugural General Meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup>***, immediately prior to the club session. If deemed necessary, there will be a committee meeting at the club at 6.30 that evening.