

SEAFORD BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of the Special General Meeting held at Waves Leisure Centre on Tuesday October 1st at 13.00

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Francoise Basden-Smith, Margaret Parkinson, Roger Chapman, Michele Conway, Alison Johnson, Margaret Norris, Christine Creamer, Jean Allen, Simon Thorpe, Susan Emery, Lionel Pelling, Sylvia Winterburn, Pat Carter, Mike Bennell and Jo Green.

2. Proposal to merge Seaford Bridge Club and Southdown Bridge Club

The following statement was read by the Chairman:

“Well good afternoon everybody. We will be voting shortly on whether the Seaford and Southdown Bridge Clubs should at last be brought back together after they split in 1991 and to decide whether or not the Members would like to enhance the features of Bridgemate with a Dealing Machine. I hope you have all had a chance to look at the documents on the Seaford BridgeWebs Home page which have been there for more than 4 weeks. Concerning both items on the Agenda. I have answered a number of questions from different Members and hope that you have had enough information to support your Committee and vote favourably today. I think we are in a different position this time from previous attempts to merge the Clubs with us both using BridgeWebs and Bridgemate successfully and the most important point in my eyes this time is that your Committee is 100% behind me in making this recommendation. You should all have had a chance to see the Pros and Cons of merging the two bridge clubs which are self explanatory and my spreadsheet. I'll briefly go through it so that you can all understand the figures. With regard to overall membership, Seaford has 90 Members of which 74 are active with the other 16 appearing very rarely, if at all. Southdown has 58 Members of which 55 are active and there are 12 Members of Southdown who are not Members of Seaford. The new total Membership of a combined club will be 102 but trends have demonstrated that we are very unlikely to see everyone turn up together. You might be surprised to know that Eastbourne Bridge Club has over 300 Members but never gets more than 12 ½ tables. John, our Secretary, has looked in depth at Members likely playing preferences and these indicate the position as follows:- Tuesday max: 54 = 14 tables Friday max: 58 = 15 tables I can't speak for the Wednesday evening but currently they work on an average throughout the year of 9 1/2 tables. They have had 12 ½ occasionally, but even with Seaford Members joining, they are unlikely to exceed our current maximum of 15 tables, based on our average Friday turnout. I will now ask you all to vote on the Merger”.

A discussion followed during which the Chairman confirmed that it was not anticipated that either the annual subscription or table money would increase as a consequence of the merger.

The recommendation to proceed with the merger was proposed by Andy Blann and seconded by Ruth Skinner.

A vote was taken and taking into account 12 postal votes received the motion was carried by 52 votes to 3 with one abstention.

3. **Proposal to Purchase a Dealing Machine**

The following statement was read by the Chairman:

“With regard to the Dealing Machine, you will all have seen Pam's Paper and again I have answered questions on this from Members. Again, your Committee is 100 % in favour of such a purchase and we have the resources to buy a Dealer 4+ now and, of course, prior to a purchase we can have a demonstration of it working. Not quite the same as Bridgemates as only those interested in preparing Boards would be involved. Not counting myself, I already have 6 others willing to prepare 4 sets of Boards once a week, which should take no longer than 15 minutes. I will now ask you to vote on the purchase of a dealing machine in the coming months”.

A discussion followed during which the Chairman took a number of questions and advised of the weight and physical dimensions of the dealing machine. He confirmed that the Club would have to buy new sets of boards to enable the machine to be used. The cost of the boards was not known but not considered to be significant relative to the cost of the new machine*. He further confirmed that the proposal to purchase the machine was only ‘in principle’ and that procurement would not move forward until a committee representing the newly merged clubs was formed. It was entirely conceivable that the new committee might review this decision and decide not to proceed.

The recommendation to proceed with the purchase of a dealing machine was proposed by Debbie Forrester and seconded by Alastair Dunbar..

A vote was taken and taking into account 12 postal votes received the motion was carried by 41 votes to 15 with one abstention.

The meeting closed at 13.26 and was followed by an afternoon of bridge.

* Subsequent to the meeting the cost of procuring 128 new boards compatible with a Dealer 4+ dealing machine is £307.20

