



## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Young Chelsea Bridge Club held at 6.30 pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

**Present:** Chris Duckworth (Chair); Brian Callaghan, Sara Chiappara, Athena Chow, Mark Lehto, Ryan Stephenson, Rosie White (MC members); , Mark Davies, Carrie Eden, Chantal Girardin, Eryk Godzowski, Heather Hanbury, Alex Hannon, Gitte Hecht Johansen, George Korus, Juliet Melford, Tony Mutukisna, Barry Myers, Prakash Paranjape, Shelley Shieff, John Vos

### **1. Registration of Proxies**

The following members were present by proxy: John Bonham, Laura Boyle, Matt Brown, Croz Croswell, David Douglas, Mike Eden, Tim Gault, Chris Goodchild, Audrey Hartley, Imogen La Chapelle, Jonathan Lillycrop, Lorinda Muller, David Muller, Paul Nicholas, Margaret Nygren, Martin Nygren, Judith O'Connell, Ian Payn, Nathan Piper, Graham Sadie, Mary Anne St Clair-Ford, Kath Stynes, Maciej Szczerczak, Pauline Van Luven, Lorna Vestey

### **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Andy Clery and Rachel Bingham (and from those who had arranged to be represented by proxy).

### **3. Minutes of the AGM of 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

The minutes of the last AGM had been published on the club's website. The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and no matters arising were raised

### **4. Chairman's Report**

A written report had been sent out with the agenda (see Appendix A below) and Chris summarised the main points. The main change during the year had been the recruitment of Eva Balazs-Elek as Centre Manager and the resultant big increase in use of the building by a variety of users, particularly during the weekday daytimes. Eva was warmly thanked for all her great work since arrival. It was noted that the Hammersmith & Fulham Council were now major users of the Centre, both for holding meetings and for their Wellbeing programme for local residents, which is booked to continue well into 2025. The building is also now very much a centre for chess, with a number of events run by different organisers as well as the regular club and league evenings.

The club's Friday duplicates and the YC Super league remain very popular and there has been an increase in use of club by the Goldhawks group, with regular relaxed morning duplicates now established on Fridays. The supervised play sessions run by Shelley Sheiff have also grown in numbers and are helping to bring learners into club play.

Chris reported that Rosie White, having retired from working for the YC Management Team last March, had now decided to retire from the Management Committee and as a Director of YCBC Ltd. club. She had done an enormous amount for the club over a number of years and it had been decided to offer her honorary life membership of the club. She was also presented with an engraved award in thanks for all her efforts.

Andy Clery was also retiring as a Director and from the role of club Treasurer at this meeting and he was thanked for all his work, as were others who have helped to keep the club running smoothly.

Chris noted that this left a vacancy as Club Treasurer and asked for anyone interested in filling this to come forward. Sara Chiappara suggested that Jim Stevenson (one of the Goldhawks players) who is an accountant might be willing to take this on.

## **5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of accounts for 2023/24**

Andrew Clery had sent his apologies for being unable to attend the meeting, but had provided a Treasurer's Report (see Appendix B below) prior to the meeting, which had been circulated along with the accounts for both YCBC Ltd and Cardinbrook Ltd. Carrie asked for clarification of the bottom line, and Rosie said that the business made about £20K profit in the last year. It was also noted that the club was on course to make a small surplus in the current year. There were no further questions and the accounts were adopted nem con.

## **6. Election of Directors**

Chris reported that, following the resignation of Andy and Rosie, there were three vacancies for Directors of the club, alongside the remaining three Directors, namely Brian Callaghan, Chris Duckworth and David Muller. The Board had nominated three people to fill these vacancies, namely Heather Hanbury, Mark Lehto and Ryan Stephenson. There being no other nominees, these three were declared elected and were welcomed to the Board.

Chris noted that in addition to the Board of Directors, there are other club members who serve on the Management Committee, which is not limited in number. Anyone interested in helping to run competitions or other events would be very welcome to volunteer to join the MC.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Carrie expressed the view that the club should try to establish a quality evening match-point pairs game to run on a regular basis at the club. Efforts to keep Wednesday evening sessions going had failed during the last year, but it was suggested that a new initiative might be tried, perhaps based around the idea of pre-commitment to signing up to play for a number of weeks, maybe with a ladder and prizes. The MC was asked to consider this further.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 7pm.

## Appendix A

### Chairman's Report - YCBC AGM October 2024

At the 2023 AGM, I reported that we were seeking a new Centre Manager, and the recruitment of Eva Balazs-Elek to fill this role has been a major change during this last year. Eva joined us in February 2024 and she has proved her worth in many ways. Since her arrival, daytime use of the Centre has dramatically increased, helping to put the club on a much more stable financial keel. All the rooms in the building are now well-used in both weekday daytimes and evenings, and also most weekends. It is also worth noting that a recent surprise Food Safety visit from the Council resulted in the club being awarded a top 5-star rating!

Various departments within Hammersmith & Fulham council have been significant users of the Centre during the daytimes. Their Wellbeing programme for older residents of the borough uses the Main Hall on Mondays and Wednesdays on a very regular basis, and will continue to do so well into next year. Many other contacts within LBHF hold frequent meetings and other activities within the Centre. We also have a wide variety of other regular daytime and weekend users, too disparate to itemise.

On the mind sports front, we continue to host the Hammersmith Chess Club two evenings a week, the London Chess League one evening a week, and the London Go Centre every Wednesday evening and Saturday afternoon. There are also now many one-off chess competitions organised by individual chess entrepreneurs, and annual tournaments including ones for chess, Go and Shogi. And of course there is a significant amount of bridge usage for one-off matches and by external bodies including the EBU, BGB and LMBA.

Turning to the club's own bridge activities, our membership over the last year has been remarkably stable – we have a total membership of 489, including 139 juniors and full-time students, just 4 more than last year. Our core Friday evening sessions continue to attract a healthy regular attendance and the YC Super League maintains its popularity with one extra team this season. The Goldhawks activity has increased – in addition to the Supervised Duplicates on Tuesdays we now have a regular Relaxed Duplicate well-established on Friday mornings and thriving Thursday evening Supervised Play sessions – both ably run by Shelley Shieff. Other sessions for more experienced players which have been tried have failed to attract sufficient attendees to be viable however, so “Super Wednesday”'s ceased during the year.

We have run teaching courses throughout the year for Beginners, “Next Steppers” and Improvers – all delivered by Elisabeth Mathison and well-received by the students. In addition there was a series of afternoon seminars in the spring and another in the autumn. It is still our aim to start an evening “gentle duplicate” session to help course students transition to becoming regular club players, but this has not yet proved possible. One new positive step, though, has been the start of after-school bridge sessions for local school-children, thanks to Ewa Kater and Tom Townsend's efforts.

At the start of this financial year, it was decided to improve our accounting systems by keeping separate the income to YCBC Ltd, which is a registered charity, from that of Cardinbrook Ltd, our non-charity subsidiary. Eva and the bar staff are employed by Cardinbrook Ltd and income to that company includes all room hires, bar and catering income, whilst YCBC Ltd receives membership subscriptions, table money and competition fees, plus bridge teaching income. This has necessitated card payments for table money and bar purchases being made separately, but members have adapted well to the new procedures. Eva does the day-to-day book-keeping for Cardinbrook Ltd, whilst Tanya Khripun, who joined our bar staff during the last year, has taken on the task of book-keeping for YCBC, and has proved herself well able to carry out this task.

These changes to the book-keeping arrangements coincided with the retirement of Rosie White from the YC Management Team. Since our time in Goldhawk Road, Rosie has been a major force for good in the club, mostly working in the background so that many of you may not realise quite how much she has done. She was the initiator of the Goldhawks group of less-experienced club members and of our regular Monday evening games which took place for several years; she set-up and managed the host system also for many years; she was instrumental in the acquisition of our current building and was part of the project-management team during its refurbishment; she has

been involved with staff recruitment, and she did all the club's book-keeping in the past few years, along with a myriad of other tasks.

Rosie is leaving the Management Committee at this AGM and the Management Committee has decided to recognise her service by making her an honorary life member – something which is very well deserved. Her common-sense and dedication to the club management will be much missed but we trust she will continue to be a frequent presence at the club.

Also leaving the Management Committee at this time is Andy Clery, who has also been a big support to the club over a number of years. Andy has been our Treasurer during all our time in Dalling Road and has done stalwart work in looking after our finances. We are very grateful to him for all his efforts. The post of Treasurer is currently vacant and the Management Committee is seeking a club member who would be willing to take on this role. Someone with a finance background is needed, ideally but not necessarily a qualified accountant – please come forward anyone who is interested!

In addition to Rosie and Andy, I would like to thank the many others who help to keep the club running. They include

- Eva Balazs-Elek – without whom now the club couldn't function
- Maciej Szczerczak, who works part-time for the club and is indispensable in dealing with all sorts of problems that arise all the time
- Brian Callaghan, an unpaid member of the Management Team who has responsibility for club competitions and equipment (and who also has to put up with me nagging him!)
- the other Management Committee members – Carrie Eden who resigned during the last year and our other current members Sara Chiappara, Athena Chow, Mark Lehto, David Muller and Ryan Stephenson
- our loyal and hard-working Ukrainian bar and cleaning staff – Nataliya, Tamara, Iryna, Olena, Tanya and Alina
- Gitte Hecht-Johansen who organises the Super League and the team of club TDs, as well as keeping us all in order at Friday duplicates
- our teaching staff, Elisabeth Mathison and Shelley Shieff for the adults, Tom Townsend and Ewa Kater for the children
- many others who have helped in small ways with aspects of the smooth running of the club, such as hosting, offering professional expertise when needed, helping with competitions and events.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members who support the club by coming along to play – do keep coming as often as you can! The club belongs to its members and without you, there would be no club.

Chris Duckworth  
October 2024

## **Appendix B**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT 23/24 YOUNG CHELSEA AND CARDINBROOK ACCOUNTS**

#### **Young Chelsea Income**

23/24 Sales Income was £131k compared to £111k in 22/23. £55k of the 23/24 income was from room hire, £70k from bridge income (table money & memberships) and £6k from bridge teaching. 23/24 Other Operating Income was £4k in 23/24 compared to £9k in 22/23. This was due to lower donations generally and some Youth Donations had to be refunded. This was partly mitigated by higher interest rates on the bank balances in 23/24.

#### **Young Chelsea Expenditure**

Wages and Salaries were £16k (£22k previous year). This is because we only had a full-time manager in post from January 2024 and they were paid through Cardinbrook as they managed the Centre rather than the bridge.

Rent was £44k which works out at under £4k per month which was similar to the previous year.

Card Room Expenses & Directors Fees were over £19k this year and similar last year.

Electricity & Water was £6k similar to the previous year.

#### **Surplus (Deficit)**

This resulted in a surplus of £28k compared to £7k the previous year but the caveat is there was no Club Manager paid by YC for the whole year.

#### **Cardinbrook**

It made a profit of just over £13k in 23/24 compared £20k in 22/23. However, this profit was not donated to YC but instead used to pay off / put towards paying off debentures. There was no tax impact as Cardinbrook had accumulated losses from previous years. Debentures Loans came down from £66k to £61k. This was a combination of them being paid and members agreeing to write them off and sometimes being offered life membership as a gesture of appreciation.

#### **Looking Forward**

Things are looking promising with Young Chelsea and Cardinbrook combined making a surplus in the first 6 months of the year. This is with a full-time manager in place

Andrew Clery  
YC Treasurer  
October 2024