

MAYFIELD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE 2017 AGM

The Committee

This has been my fourth year as your Chairman. I have enjoyed the role very much and hope that you will re-elect me for a further year. I would like to thank all the Committee members for their hard work and support during the year. Pam Jardine, Ann Madden and Jacky Russell Smith will be retiring from the Committee at the AGM. Pam has agreed to continue to liaise with St. John's church and Ann has agreed to continue to organise Tuesday hosting, both ex officio.

The Committee is made up of a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer with up to eight other Committee Members. If re-elected as Chairman, I am happy for the committee to operate with only 9 members (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer +6) with the option to co-opt up to two others during the year if required. Under normal operating conditions, I feel that this is sufficient.

Pro-Am Night

The attendance at this event in October was 14 pairs - down from 15 and 21 pairs in previous years. As there seems to be limited enthusiasm for this event, members will be asked at the AGM whether they wish to continue – either drop the Pro-Am from the calendar or consider a different format.

Subscriptions and Table Money

At the 2013 AGM, we agreed to invest in Bridgemates and the Duplimate dealing system. I believe that this was a great decision for the club. The effect of these purchases was to reduce Mayfield's financial reserves from approximately £10,000 to £3,500. The expectation was that, in each of the following years, we would make a small surplus from running the club and we would reestablish reserves for capital purchases, maintenance, or any unexpected expenses.

Examples: We have recently been able to replace some of the bridge tables with inexpensive, refurbished units from other clubs. We will probably soon have to buy more expensive, new tables as the existing ones continue to wear. We have previously been able to beg, steal and borrow laptops and IT equipment. We will need to buy a new laptop at some point. The reliability of Bridgemates and Duplimate is not well documented. Although we have had no problems to date; repair, refurbishment and eventual replacement of items is to be expected.

To date, everything has gone to plan and our financial position is solid.

We have been advised that the rental of St. John's Hall will increase by approximately 13% in April. This has not been increased since 2013 when we lost the discounted rate for Fridays. In negotiation, the church has again agreed to discount the rent on Fridays in the short term but the impact will be to increase our annual costs by £400 in the short term and eventually £800.

The Committee believes, therefore, that we should increase the annual, individual subscription for members from £15 to £20 rather than increase table money at this stage. This will cover the rent increase and allow us to continue to generate an annual surplus. This new figure was included with the renewal form prior to the AGM but will need to be ratified by the Membership at the AGM. We will also ask you to give us a mandate to increase table money from £3 to £3.50 at any point in the next two years as the Committee sees fit and necessary. This would probably only be necessary if we saw the full increase in the rent.

The Subscription has not been increased for at least ten years and table money increased in 2014 following the large expenditure on the Bridgemates and Duplimate.

Entry Fees for Mayfield Representatives

Historically, Mayfield has paid for Mayfield Representatives in Surrey and National events as follows:

SCBA entry to the Mary Edwards for the Club Pairs Champions qualifying from the Norman Cup

SCBA entry to the Wanborough Cup for the Club Teams Champions qualifying from the Mayfield Teams Championship

SCBA entry for Teams of 8 Championship (Initially 1 team but latterly 2)

EBU entry for the National Inter Club Knockout [the NICKO] (initially 2 teams but latterly 3)

When we started paying all these entry fees there were more members, less teams and the entry fees were proportionately low. The Committee has decided to cut back on some of these costs in the new season, after the 2017 AGM.

Team selection remains the prerogative of the Club Captain apart from the NICKO where entry of a team squad is sanctioned by the Club Captain but final selection left to the Team Captain.

Entry for the Mary Edwards and Wanborough is by direct qualification and payment of the entry fee by Mayfield is, therefore, sacrosanct.

Entry fees for the SCBA Teams of 8 will only be paid for one Mayfield team. A second team may be entered but players will be expected to subsidise this. However, should either Mayfield team progress to regional and national finals, then the club will pay entry fees.

Entry for the NICKO will now be paid for by the individual teams.

My best wishes for another enjoyable and successful year of bridge!

Adrian Patrick