

Mid Leinster Bridge Region

AGM Saturday 7th May 2011 held in Westmanstown

Attendance: Neil Burke, Jim Egan (Castleknock), Barbara Burke (Westmanstown), Ann Burns (Maynooth), Bert McKay (Leixlip), John O'Connor (Maynooth), Helen McDevitt (Cnucha), Mary Greene (Castleknock), Angela Doran O'Reilly (Celbridge), Mary Cosgrave (Enfield).

Apologies: Marie Collins (Kill Village), Melita O'Gorman (St.Mary's, Lucan), Mairead Daly (Westmanstown), Fran Dignam (St.Brigid's).

Minutes of 2010 AGM: The minutes of the 2010 AGM were read out by the Secretary. Copies were circulated to the meeting and had been emailed to all Secretaries and Presidents in the Region two weeks previously. Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Barbara Burke and seconded by Jim Egan. There were no matters arising.

President's Address: The President, Neil Burke, thanked the Committee for all their work during the year and thanked all the clubs for their support. He reported that our A team from Lucan, who had won the National Finals in 2009 were picked as part of the CBAI team to play in the Sonia Britton Trophy, which the CBAI won overall. Neil was encouraged to note that our Region was beginning to be noticed out and about, often being referred to as the 'New' Region. We are way ahead in some areas e.g. the Novice League initiated by Barbara and Bert - 9 teams participated. No other Region has a league for Novices. Novices have to be encouraged by all clubs. A No Novice policy will lead to the death of clubs. This is already affecting at least 1 club in the Region. The Fun Team of 4 at a National level is a great success. We held a Regional Qualifier this year with 16 teams participating, again one of the biggest in the country.

Correspondence: An email was received from Paul Porteous, General Secretary of the CBAI, giving apologies for not attending the meeting – there was a Management Meeting already scheduled for the same day. Neil read the email to the Meeting. Copy attached. Paul thanked all the Regional Officer for all their hard work during the year. He noted we had an increase of 145 new members on last year. He gave a general update on things that had happened during the year

- the Production of the Guidelines for Clubs and the separate Guidelines for Regional Committees
- an Orientation course will be offered to all Regional Officers in the coming September
- Fun Team of 4 last year had over 50 teams, this means over 50 Novices and B players who might never have played outside of their own clubs, actually played in a National Event.
- President's Award, the second presentation of this Award was made to Delores Kelly of the SE Region.
- Juniors, there is a Schools Programme to bring encourage Juniors to play, the Junior Golf Classic will be held in Hollystown on 29th July 2011.
- Master Point Submission – clubs who do not submit their Master Points have always automatically been allocated same, as from this year the allocation will be doubled.
- Paul gave the dates for the Simultaneous Pairs for next year.
- He encouraged all clubs to have Public Liability Insurance.
- He emphasised that it is from now that we should be making an effort to attract potential students for next September.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary had prepared a written report, copies of which were available to the meeting. She outlined the events which had taken place over the year, i.e. The Tournament Directors Course, The Regional Pairs and Teams Qualifiers, the Holmes Wilson, the JJ Murphy, the Simultaneous Pairs, the Inter Club Leagues, the Novice Competition, the Fun Team of Four, Beginners Classes in Naas, End of Year Dinner and finally she thanked everyone for their help. See attached for details.

Treasurer's Report: John O'Connor distributed copies of the Statement of Accounts for the year 2010/2011. We have currently a balance of 8626 euro. This was nearly double last year's. However John pointed out that our AGM is a month earlier and there were still substantial payments to be made e.g. League Prizes, Subsidising of the End of Year Dinner and Payment of Entry Fees in the M50 Tournament. Barbara commented on how well the Accounts were presented and proposed adoption of the Statement. This was seconded by Angela Doran O'Reilly.

Development Officers Reports: Barbara presented a written report to the Meeting – copy attached. The progress and participation of the Novices in events, especially the League has been a great step forward. This appears to be the result of the classes, etc. that we have promoted over the past few years. The league itself is still running successfully. The finals will be completed by the End of Season Dinner on 20th May. The success of the Fun Team of Four was a great day for bridge in the Region. To get so many Novices out to play with Masters was a great achievement (really all due to Barbara). The Tournament Directors Class this year also proved very successful. The topics covered would really be of benefit to more than just those who are aspiring to tournament directing. It was suggested that the title of the course be changed for the next time. Barbara emphasised that the success of events really boils down to phoning clubs to encourage them to participate.

Bert likewise did a lot of work encouraging the Novices, especially guiding them through the league matches. Bert has kept the classes going in the Naas area by actually giving them himself. He will be following up on the individuals to see they are settled in clubs and will continue the classes again next year. He thanked Leixlip BC for their premises for the first night of the A and B League matches, he thanked all of the committee and the staff of the CBAI.

Election of Committee: As all of the committee were going into their second year, there was no need for an election for any positions. Two new names were proposed and deemed elected. They are

Position	Proposer	Seconder
Committee	Evelyn Blennerhassett Castleknock	Barbara Burke Neil Burke
	Geraldine Keane Coolmine	Barbara Burke Neil Burke Westmanstown

The Secretary sought clarification on the length of time one spent on the committee either as an officer or an ordinary member. A discussion ensued. It appears different people have different interpretations of the Constitution. It was felt the Committee should have a look at this rule to make sure there are no ambiguities or misunderstandings.

Nomination of Auditor: Jim Mc Kenna was proposed as Auditor for the year 2011 – 2012, proposed by John O'Connor and seconded by Angela Doran O'Reilly.

Delegates for AGM: The AGM of the CBAI is to be held on Sat. 2nd July in Carlow. We are allowed 5 delegates. It was agreed that they would be the President (Neil), Secretary (Ann), the 2 Development Officers (Bert and Barbara) and the President Elect. If anyone could not make it John O'Connor was proposed as first substitute and Jim Egan as second substitute.

Any Other Business: Sue Streek had resigned as President Elect due to personal reasons. Bert McKay was proposed by Barbara and seconded by Angela for the position. It was felt all the clubs in the Region should be informed and members of the Region given the chance to go forward if they were interested. Ann is to write and email the clubs. If no one comes forward Bert will take up the position as well as continuing as a Development Officer.

Jim Egan thanked the Committee for all their work over the last year.

A Committee Meeting was agreed for 18th June.

Signed: _____