

Antrobus Bridge Club

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held on 18th March 2026, 7.00pm at Antrobus Village Hall

Committee: David Pearson (Chairman), Simon Barber (Secretary) – not present, Helena Wrench (Treasurer), Richard Clegg (Tournament Director), Linda Ince, Barbara French.

Attendance: 30 members (including committee).

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Simon Barber, Peter and Rita Jordan, Val Eyes, Miriam Manners, John Griffiths.

2. Minutes of previous AGM (12th March 2025)

The minutes of the previous AGM had been posted on the club's website. Malcolm Strange proposed and Anne Hefferan seconded acceptance of the minutes. This was agreed. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the club had 50 members (last year 52), and it would be better to have 60+, so members were asked to encourage bridge-playing friends to join. The club had made a slight loss of £3.59 in the year ended 31st January 2026 (last year surplus £154), and had assets on the balance sheet of £4,221. The surplus was unlikely to be repeated as our costs (such as the hire of the village hall) are rising with inflation and subscription income is declining as numbers fall. In view of the financial situation the Treasurer proposed that annual subs (£15) should remain unchanged but that table money should be raised to £2.50 for members (£2 previously) and £4 for visitors (£3 previously). Members applauded this. The Treasurer thanked John Burke for auditing these accounts. Approval of the accounts was proposed by Tony James, seconded by Carol Bingham, and carried unanimously.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported a successful year for the club though the slight decline in membership was a concern – please encourage your friends! The club's new handicap system (based on the Newcastle Bridge Club system) had operated throughout 2025, but after a review by the Chairman and Secretary, they had decided it was not working in the interests of members and it had been decided by the committee to discontinue the Newcastle method and revert to a simple handicap system based on the results of the previous year. The handicaps would remain the same throughout the year.

5. 2026 Social Events

The Chairman said that the revised format of social events (eat before bridge, tables arranged for groups of six to eat) had been used during all the social events in 2025 and had proved popular so this format would be used for all socials this year and subsequent years. The dates for the socials during 2026 would be 15th April, 5th August, 14th October and 16th December.

6. Tournament Director's Report

The TD said that Tuesday evenings online (joint with Warrington) usually attracted 3-4 tables. He reminded members that Tuesday evening was open to all without the need to join the club. Players should join the online session at 6.45 for a 7.00 start; finish was usually 9.00-9:15pm.

He also reminded members that Wednesday evenings started at 7.00 for 7.15 with finish time usually around 10.15pm. He asked that members endeavour to attend by 7:00am (7:05 at the very latest) so the director can adjust the movement if need be. He said that if we were playing 3 boards per round it is likely that the last round would start before 10pm whereas if we only playing 2 boards per round it is likely to start after 10pm.

Prizes were awarded as follows: Weds Scratch Pairs: 1st, Peter & Rita Jordan; 2nd, Richard Clegg & Tony James; Weds Handicap Pairs: 1st Peter & Rita Jordan (prize not awarded); 2nd David Pearson and Malcolm Strange; 3rd, Richard Clegg and Tony James (prize not awarded); 4th Derek and Sheila Holman. Slams (Weds only): 1st=, Pam Clegg and Helena Wrench.

7. Election of officers and committee for 2026

The Chairman said that all existing members of the committee had agreed to continue for 2026-76. He asked whether there were any other nominations for any of the posts; there were none. The re-election of committee members was proposed by Tony James, seconded by Helen Wright and agreed by the meeting.

8. Any other business

There being no other business notified to the Secretary one week prior to the AGM, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.13pm and bridge play commenced.
