

Annual General Meeting
Amersham Bridge Club
Wednesday May 13th 2026

Minutes

Present: Simon Husband Chairman, Sue Brown Secretary, Cath Topliff, Treasurer, Dick Davey, Mark Wilce, and 25 members.

- 1) The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all present
- 2) Apologies had been received from Derek & Celia Oram, Don Collier, Jeff Green
- 3) Minutes of the last meeting. Approved as a true record (Proposed by Francesca Andrews, Seconded by Eva Wallen.)
- 4) Chairmans report

After a great year for the club, it falls to me, first of all, to thank all those people who put themselves out to make club events happen, run smoothly, and give everyone an enjoyable experience. These include: -

Don Collier For ensuring the website is up to date and accurate, and accessible to all.

Sue Brown For sending out weekly reminders of forthcoming duplicates, drumming up attendees and acting as “marriage broker” for those looking for a partner or team-mates.

Sue and Eva For making the Christmas Party such a success.

Dick Davey For making the Christmas Party a well-lubricated success.

Carole Müller For dealing all those boards we play, and for producing hand records.

Carole and Herb For consistently turning up early to set out tables and chairs.

Nigel and Mark For directing and relieving you all from having to put up with me too often!

I’m bound to have forgotten someone, but if I have, please be reassured that your efforts are appreciated.

We have been seeing an increasing turnout over the last year, and I sincerely hope we have got past the era when we had to cancel quite frequently due to lack of numbers. The experiment of holding a teams session on every fifth Wednesday seems to be working very well, and we intend to continue doing this. For those of you who didn’t make it to the last one on 29th April, it was very cosy [here] in the Small Barn, but very enjoyable! Anyway, please keep it up!

During the last year, club members have had significant success in County events and further afield.

- Peter and Dee Lindon playing with Derek and Celia Oram finished second equal in the Swiss Teams at the EBU Summer Meeting at Eastbourne.
- Ed Scerri and Gilly Cardiff finished third in the Berks and Bucks one-day green-pointed Swiss Pairs
- Peter and Dee, Derek and Celia finished third in the Berks and Bucks one-day green-pointed Swiss Teams
- The club achieved first (Carole and Herb) second (Nicola Sutton and I) and fourth (Nigel and Eva) in the Waller bowl (B&B Club pairs) final.
- Most impressively, Peter and Dee Lindon (those names do keep coming up, don’t they?) repeated their success of last year by winning, with team-mates Steve Egington and Bill Souster, the Crowhurst Quaich or Berks and Bucks Knockout Teams championship.
- In the final of the Committee Cup – the B&B Club Teams final – second place was taken by (familiar names warning!) Derek and Celia playing with Peter and Dee.

In the League of Eight, two of our three teams failed to achieve their aims. The A Team finished third in the league. No doubt this is a blip and our gallant squad will be back representing the County in the Garden Cities next season. The B Team had a very lacklustre season indeed and not only failed to be re-promoted to the first division, but finished in fifth place in division 2. The only team which can be proud of their performance was the C Team, who roundly thrashed the B Team in the local derby, and finished a creditable third in division 2.

At this point I would like to remind club members that every member is eligible to play in the League of Eight, unless they are playing for another team. So, if you fancy some teams bridge in the forthcoming season and would like to make yourself available to the three squad captains, please let Sue know and everything possible will be done to give you a game.

The Christmas Party was enjoyed by all and once again I would like to thank all those who made it happen. Last year it coincided with a Teams night at the club, so the bridge was organised on Teams lines. This year the Christmas Party is on Wednesday 16th December, which is a Pairs night. Chris Mooney has very kindly offered to run one of his ever-popular "Pairs with Instant Matchpoints" events; thank you, Chris! The social part remains unchanged with a 7pm start and lots of lovely refreshments.

Finally, there has been some feedback from players who need to catch a last train home about slow play. Generally, play proceeds fairly smoothly on a club night, with one or two exceptions. The Committee are very reluctant to instruct directors to start taking boards away from slow tables. Could I therefore implore those players who hold up the movement to everyone else's detriment to, please, pull their finger out! The alternative – removing boards – is not popular and the Committee would much prefer to avoid it. Let's try to ensure there is no reason to do it.

Once more, thanks to everyone for a great year at the club, and I look forward to more success in the coming year.

5) Treasurers report

Accounts were presented by the Treasurer These had been reviewed and agreed by David Killick. A loss was noted of £274 (£673 in the previous year) The club is fortunate in having a healthy bank balance. Factors influencing the improvement include an increased attendance, no need to replace playing cards and the dealing machine holding up at present though this will need some work in the coming year. Sweets and chocolates have increased in price and the club will need to purchase new cards. There has been a 5% increase in rent (£45.85). The current average attendance over 50 weeks was 5.25 tables (prev. 4.5) although 6 weeks were cancelled due to anticipated low turnout. The committee decided to increase the table money to £4 but to keep the annual subscription the same at £10 and this should result in a modest profit. The aim is to have sufficient funds for replacing both Bridgemates and dealing machine when the time comes.

The Chairman supplemented this report by raising the question of the weekly collection of table money. After some discussion it was agreed to continue taking cash as this was the Treasurer's preference. The accounts were accepted as a true record.

6) Election of Officers and Committee members

All Officers and committee members have agreed to stand for re-election. The Chairman suggested that they be accepted nem con.

7) Prize Giving

A complete list of trophies is available on the website and were presented by the Chairman to those present

8) Any other business.

- 1) The Chairman highlighted the success of the Teams evenings in terms of attendance and overall enjoyment. He initiated a discussion on various options to include the possibility of adding another Teams evening or an evening of IMP scored pairs. The uptake for the extra teams evening on the 5th Wednesday had been good though it was noted that the small barn could not accommodate more than 6 teams. David C pointed out that the use of the large barn by The Rotary Club was now going to be only twice a year instead of 4 times. The secretary will follow this up with Angela. A solution would be to have a Teams evening on the 4th Wednesday in the month that the large barn would be in use. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting although a drawback would be the disruption of regular partnerships.
- 2) The Chairman asked if the weekly member contact by the secretary should be continued? There was a resounding vote that it should be! The secretary confirmed her willingness to continue but did ask that members should take some responsibility when looking for teams or partners and only contact her if they had pursued other options. Val C brought up the suggestion of a WhatsApp group as a means of communication particularly if looking for a partner. The members section of the website does have some members phone numbers but not all. The idea will be discussed at the next Committee Meeting.
- 3) Printed hand records. The Chairman asked for views as to whether these were still necessary. Peter L felt that they were useful and the practice should continue even though the uptake each week was limited to only a handful of players

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.30pm by thanking all for their attendance and contributions.

9) Date of next AGM

May 12th 2027

Minutes prepared by
Sue Brown
Secretary. Amersham Bridge Club
14th May 2026