

Minutes of the BBL AGM 24th July 2025 7pm held on Zoom

Attendees:

Committee Dave Lee (DL), Bracknell Forest Dave Green (DG), Ascot Michelle Margetts (MM), Ascot John Sheridan (JS), Crowthorne David Pinder (DP), Camberley	Kenneth So (KS), Woodley Chris Hopkins (CH), Woodley John Fairhurst (JF), Basingstoke Keith Bennett (KB), Basingstoke Adrian Smith (AS), Ascot
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Voting rights:

Ascot, by proxy (DG), 2 votes

Crowthorne, by Proxy (JS), 1 vote

Bracknell Forest, by proxy (DL), 1 vote

Loddon Vale, by proxy (MM), 1 vote

Camberley and Yateley, both by proxy represented by DP, 2 votes (1 each club)

all other clubs present 1 vote

As Aerospace withdrew during the year they no longer have a vote.

Total 9 votes available to be exercised

1. Apologies

Derek Thornton, Bracknell Forest

Giles Thompson, Dianthus

Marc Rivoira, Loddon Vale

Dave Calcutt, Ascot

Apologies have also been received from Marguerite Ehinger, who is taking over from Dave Calcutt as Ascot's BBL contact.

2. Chairman's Opening Remarks

DL thanked everyone for coming and explained the Zoom time limit/ process to connect if necessary. He then explained the voting rights above.

3. The minutes of the 2024 AGM were proposed(DG) and seconded (DP). They will be signed and added to the website when possible.

4. Matters Arising

DL noted that the AV issue from last year will be discussed under proposals for this year later. He also noted that following from last year's meeting MM & DL contacted various other local clubs in an attempt to expand the league. As a result, two new Basingstoke teams joined (and one was rebranded from Ascot L to Basingstoke A) and we also acquired Dianthus (vaguely Woking Based). DL thanked those clubs for joining and MM for her efforts in this.

5. Secretary's Report

MM thanked DL and noted that the three new teams actually performed very well this year and we hope to see them again in the 2025-26 season. Other than that, it had been a fairly standard year – 4 committee meetings and ad-hoc communication with various team captains resolving

small issues over the year. Most recently MM had been involved in the efforts to obtain a new treasurer for the League.

6. Treasurer's Report and adoption of accounts

DL paid tribute to Joyce Baldock who died during the year. She had been a valued committee member for many years and also a keen participant in the league often partnering DL. She is missed.

Following Joyce's passing DL has taken on the treasurer's responsibilities for the remainder of the season while we actively looked for a replacement (see committee members below). He prepared the year end accounts without issue.

In summary, our only income comes from entry fees for the league or EOSP. The RealBridge line in the accounts simply reflects us collecting and forwarding fees to RealBridge on behalf of a number of teams, for matches played on that platform organised by BBL. Overall we made a small profit this year of £55 which is similar to previous seasons. We have no real assets other than the bank balance of approximately £400. The EBU P2P payment has increased from 45p to 46p per person but we will absorb this and aim to keep the entry fees at £26 per team for the 2025-26 season.

AS examined the accounts and has agreed them. DL thanked AS. The accounts were proposed (MM) and seconded (JS). A copy of the accounts is included as an annex to the minutes.

7. Appointment of Accounts Examiner

see later

8. League Fixture Secretary's Report

The season concluded with no disputed boards that captains were not able to resolve themselves and only one match un-played. This was a division one match that did not impact any likely promotion or relegation issue. This result was adjudicated under the league rules for un-played matches (15 – 5, in favour of Basingstoke A over Ascot B). Unfortunately, Aerospace had to drop out of the league at around the half way mark due, as already mentioned, to the tragic loss of Joyce Baldock. Under the league rules this meant that their already played second match v Loddon was nullified and the un-played match between Ascot C and Aero was given an adjudicated score 6 -14 in favour of Ascot C.

The leagues were finalised some time ago and any earned masterpoints should have been allocated.

The new team entrants performed very well with:

- The winner of division 3 was Basingstoke C (Closely followed by Bas B)
- The winner of division 2, by a convincing margin, was Dianthus
- The winner of division 1, in a close result, was Ascot A

Well done to those three teams.

To finalise promotion and relegation for the 2025-26 season, we will need to wait to see how many teams enter the BBL for this season. All entries for next season need to be returned by Friday 15th August.

9. Pivot Secretary's Report

DL stated that the entries were disappointing this year with only 12 to begin the season with and in fact three teams pulled about before round 1 was played, so we only had 9 teams participating. This was actually consistent with the previous year. The final was played between John Fairhurst's Basingstoke team and Mike Corfield's Ascot team and won by John's team. Many congratulations.

DL also noted that for the second year running the final was held between two Division 1 teams. This prompted DP to perform a review of the handicap system which concluded that, based on the limited data from this year the current system (which is based on NGS rankings) is still sound. DP will conduct a review at the end of next season with two years' data to reassess whether any changes need to be made. DL remarked that in recent seasons the Pivot Cup had been won by teams from other divisions so it could just be coincidence.

The Pivot Cup will be run again in the 2025-26 season and we hope to get 10-12 teams. Entries are due by 22 August.

10. End of Season Pairs (EOSP)

This event was held on 15th May in the same venue as last year (Finchampstead Hall) as the price and facilities are good. It was felt to be a success and enjoyed. We had 9 tables on the night (ten tables entered but two pairs dropped out). Basingstoke took the two top spots – well done to them. We will run this again next year.

11. Overview of Issues and Proposals for the 2025-26 season.

DL explained that, following a few issues in a match played on BBO, Bracknell Forest had put forward the following proposal which was seconded by Crowthorne. Last year there had been a debate at the AGM regarding the use of the AV facilities during a match and it concluded that most people preferred the use of both audio and videos – Real Bridge easily facilitates this.

Proposal from Bracknell Forest (BFBC)

BFBC recognises the social benefits of playing face-to-face and accepts that teams should be encouraged to play BBL matches in this manner if possible. However, the reality is that most teams chose to play on-line matches because of the convenience of playing in one's own home.

Of the two platforms allowed within the league rules, in BFBC's view RealBridge (RB) comes close in terms of the social benefits of face-to-face matches. By contrast BBO falls very short in that respect. The automated nature of RB also makes it less likely that issues occur in setting up the seating arrangements for a match.

BFBC propose that RB becomes the default for on-line matches except in those cases where both teams agree to play on BBO. This proposal has been seconded by Crowthorne Bridge Club.

To implement the proposal, BFBC suggest the following change to 9.3 of the league rules (9.3 Matches Played on-line).

Replace

'9.3.1 Matches may be played on either RealBridge or BBO, subject to the agreement of the two team captains. In the event of no agreement, the match shall be played on the preferred platform of the home team'.

With

'9.3.1 The default for matches is RealBridge. However, subject to agreement between the two team captains, matches may also be played on BBO'.

12. Votes on the proposals

The proposal has been discussed by the committee before recommending its adoption. It was approved by the two-thirds majority of those present (and by proxy) and so the amendment to the rule will be made. DL and DG commented that the League can administer the RealBridge access for those clubs who do not have their own accounts, and that advice will be given to anyone unsure about how to set up and run a match on RealBridge.

In addition it was agreed that the default for matches this year will remain on line in accordance with the Committee's recommendation.

13. Entries for Next Season

Entries for 2025-26 may be slightly down as the Aerospace team has been disbanded and it was felt that Yateley may lose a team. Deadline for entries – 15th August 2025 for the League to allow for the extra work involved and 22 August for the Pivot cup.

Since the meeting, DG has updated the playing weeks spreadsheet and MM has sent out the emails with the new season information to the Club contacts.

14. Election of officers and the Committee

We have been actively looking for a new treasurer to replace Joyce and Adrian Smith has agreed to join the committee and take over this role. Thank you Adrian.

Clearly this will mean we need to find a new accounts examiner – Adrian cannot mark his own homework! It was felt this will be much easier as it's a small annual role, and once we get through the current new season flurry of activity we will be looking for a volunteer.

The committee for 2025-26 season will therefore be:

Chairman	Dave Lee
Secretary	Michelle Margetts
Treasurer	Adrian Smith
League Fixtures Secretary	Dave Green
Pivot Fixtures Secretary	Dave Lee
Member	David Pinder
Member	John Sheridan

The Committee was elected 'en-bloc'. CH thanked the committee for all their hard work.

15. AOB

There was no other business.

The meeting finished at 7.33pm.

Bracknell Bridge League - Income and Expenditure Accounts Season 2024-2025					
Income	2024-2025	2023-2024	Expenditure	2024-2025	2023-2024
League	£520.00	£494.00	EBU licence fees	£405.36	£379.66
RealBridge fees received - league/cup	£272.64	£222.72	RealBridge fees	£272.64	£222.72
Pairs evening entry fees	£200.00	£200.00	Engraving	£59.85	£57.00
			Pairs evening - prizes	£30.00	£30.00
			Pairs evening - director	£10.00	£10.00
			Pairs evening - hire of hall	£81.20	£78.40
			Pairs evening - other expenses	£5.81	£7.11
			Pairs evening - refunds	£20.00	£10.00
			Admin expenses	£8.90	£2.95
			Bridgewebs fees	£36.00	£36.00
			Web Master	£0.00	£6.50
			Examiner's fee (2023+2024)		£18.00
			Examiner's fee (2025)	£7.25	
			BBO Refund		£32.00
	£992.64	£916.72		£937.01	£890.34
			Excess/(Loss)	£55.63	£26.38
			Bank Reconciliation		
			Excess/(Loss) - expenditure v income £55.63		
Opening Balance			£332.06		
Excess/Loss			£55.63		
Carried forward			£387.69		
			Current Assets/ Liabilities		
Bank (current account)			£387.69		
Cash			£0.00		
Stock in hand - 500 score cards			£20.00		
			Current Assets	£407.69	
Notes to the accounts - Profit & Loss figures for each competition					
Pair evening 2025					
	Receipts	Payments			
Entry fees	£200.00				
Refunds (Diston/Whitmarsh)		£20.00			
Director		£10.00			
EBU licence fee		£16.56			
Hire of Hall		£81.20			
Refreshments		£5.81			
Prizes		£30.00			
	£200.00	£163.57	Excess/(Loss)	£36.43	
League 24-25					
	Receipts	Payments			
Entry fees	£520.00				
EBU licence fee		£388.80			
	£520.00	£388.80	Excess/(Loss)	£131.20	