

BOSTON BRIDGE CLUB

Annual General Meeting

Held at Boston Tennis Club on Thursday 9th January 2025 at 6pm.

PRESENT:

31 members – Sue Gray, Claire Rylott, Richard Tupper, Steve Bradley, John Loomes, Linda Lovell, Angela Cannon, Ruth Street, Kath Yates, David Bennett, Dorothy French, Lisa Dichmont, Pam Rawlings, Judy Nicholson, Sally Hippisley, Tony Dillon, Sandra Dillon, Janet Sharman, Pete Sharman, Pat Clifton, Pam Townsend, Lyn Brocklehurst, Isabella Masters, Alec Connell, Val Robbs, Richard Rylott, Phil Boyd, Alan Taylor, Louise Mitcham, Lesley Parker, David Marshall

APOLOGIES:

Received from 7 members – Joan Young, Ian Duck, Alison Casswell, Mary-Jo Mangion, Janice Troughton, Pam Smith, Sheila Manning

The chair, Sue Gray, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Minutes from last Annual General Meeting held on 4th January 2024

MATTERS ARISING

1. Accounts – At the 2024 AGM Claire had asked Richard if it would help him to hold the AGM a couple of weeks later in order for him to have accounts to hand. Richard said then it wasn't a problem and having them ready for the 2025 AGM was okay too.
2. Bidding cards – New bidding cards were purchased for the club and agreed by the 2024 committee.
3. Charities – Two charities were supported with £100 each going to It's A Big Deal and Children In Need.
4. Keys – The tennis club had sorted the storeroom's door lock and purchased new keys for us.

There was nothing further to report. The minutes were proposed by Ruth Street and seconded by Steve Bradley.

CHAIRS REPORT – Sue Gray

It has continued to be another very good year for the club building on last years increased membership, new faces and a really good turnout for all the sessions. We seem to be bucking the trend being seen at other clubs in the county which is very encouraging. This has been helped by the WhatsApp page run by Claire to get partners at short notice.

The most satisfying element continues to be the consistently high number of tables each session and the dramatic up take for Tuesday afternoon bridge. A big thanks to members who run these sessions. It is an area we need to continue to support, and I hope to see more people feeling they can become involved in the running of them. A special thanks to Linda who has done the lion's share of these (except when she's off gallivanting

across the globe). There has been a subtle change in that fixed partnerships have emerged. This may be as a result of the numbers wanting to play and the fact that we don't have those new to bridge in the same numbers.

In September we joined the EBU It's a Big Deal in aid of Cancer Research UK. Claire organised a lovely lunch followed by bridge. The total as of 3rd January stood at £125,659.29. As a club we have raised £585 this year which is marvellous. £200 was donated by the club. We also supported ECATS Children In Need event and as of December 2024 the amount raised was £61,048.

We decided to repeat Xmas lunch on a Tuesday again this year. Yet again, this was very well supported with 9 tables enjoying a lovely buffet lunch and an afternoon playing bridge. Many thanks to Claire who organised it all.

County and EBU competitions have been supported again this year and as The Competition Secretary's report will show, we have done rather well in all the events we entered. This is very encouraging and I hope dispels the myth that you have to be a world class bridge player to enter these types of competitions. The club pays the fees for each member entering these events. We have also seen many of our members climbing the master point lists and it is most gratifying to recognise and celebrate these achievements as a club. We continue to have a presence at county run events with Sally and Louise frequently attending them and having some successful outcomes.

As always, many thanks to the committee and members for their support throughout the year, it is greatly appreciated. A special thanks to Pete and Janet who have regularly taken on the task of setting up the room for each session.

TREASURERS REPORT – Richard Tupper

The two pages of Richard's 2024 accounts were sent to all members by email the previous day.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Income		Expenditure	
Subscriptions	6350.00	Rent/Room Hire	3800.00
Lessons	0.00	Venue Hire	0.00
Table Money	1398.00	EBU Pay to Play	1464.82
Bridge days	0.00	Licence and Insurance	336.70
		Equipment	369.62
Refreshments	0.00	Bank	63.20
Charity	385.00	Charity	585.00
		Refreshments/misc	28.00
Total income	8133.00	Total expenditure	6647.34
Excess income over expenditure		1485.66	

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Balance as per Bank Statement 01.01.24	8161.73
Petty cash balance as at 01.01.24	593.40

Total as at 01.01.24	8255.13
Excess income over expenditure	1485.66
Total funds	9740.79

Balance as per Bank Statement 31.12.24	9690.79
Petty cash balance 31.12.24	50.00
	9740.79

COMPARISON OVER LAST THREE YEARS

		Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24
INCOME				
	Subscriptions	3991.00	6566.00	6350.00
	Lessons	910.00	1520.00	
	Table Money	1509.05	1353.00	1398.00
	Bridge Days	951.00	0.00	
	Charity	197.00	286.00	385.00
	Refreshments	182.10	25.10	
	Fenland Bridge Club	2126.04	0.00	
	Total Income	9866.19	9750.10	8133.00
EXPENDITURE				
	Rent/Room Hire	3600.00	3500.00	3800.00
	Venue Hire	128.00	272.00	
	EBU pay to play	1073.40	1502.88	1464.82
	Licence and Insurance	369.70	335.70	336.70
	Equipment	4293.73	867.64	369.62
	Bank	65.20	66.40	63.20
	Charity	202.00	286.00	585.00
	Refreshments/misc	42.89	4.45	28.00
	Total Expenditure	9774.92	6835.07	6647.34
Excess Income over expenditure		91.27	2915.03	1485.66
Balance as per Bank Statement 1 st Jan B/F		5168.83	5260.10	8161.73
Petty Cash balance as at 1 st Jan B/F		0.00	50.00	93.40
Total as at 1st Jan		5168.83	5310.10	8255.13
Excess income over expenditure		91.27	2915.03	1485.66
Total Funds		5260.10	8225.13	9740.79
Balance as per bank statement 31/12		5260.10	8161.73	9690.79
Petty Cash balance 31/12			93.40	50.00
		5260.10	8255.13	9740.79

As you can see from the comparison sheet we were still feeling the effects of Covid in 2022 where subscriptions were only 63% of the 2024 level and we had the double whammy of large expenditure then, making our bank balance shrink to £5260. I'm glad to say that now the bank balance is well over £9500.

The good news is that 2024 was another year where we made a surplus. This time it was £1485 which was nearly half the surplus of 2023 but difference was mainly due to the fact that we didn't run any lessons last year which had proved to be rather fruitful. So, the actual full time members were nearly the same as 2023 and we had a small rise in table money of just over £50 which was helped by the success of the Tuesday session.

We spent less on equipment last year (down by nearly £500) and we increased our charity efforts by £300, which also includes free table money to all full time members for all the EBU events during the year. So, all in all, it was a satisfactory year and unless we feel the need to spend money on something major, there should be no necessity to increase the fees for the coming year.

Sue said we were not looking to increase the subscription this year but needed to make sure there is always sufficient funds in case of increases in rent, EBU fees. In 2024 Sue said we had 39 full members and 16 part members. Richard said the numbers had been fairly stable over the last two years. The higher numbers in previous years was as a result of those taking lessons and joining for the duration of the course. Few renewed their membership.

Richard asked for subs to be paid by end of January 2025. John said it was good to keep a reserve of funds in the account too.

Sue thanked Richard for his report which was proposed by Claire Rylott and seconded by Ruth Street.

(Full Membership)

Full Membership of Boston Bridge Club **entitles you to play ALL 3 SESSIONS A WEEK.**

Full Membership costs **£160.00.**

OR

£10 joining fee - allows membership to both the EBU and Boston Bridge Club, **PLUS** £3 table money per session.

Note for Full Membership:- Those who join during the year will pay a 3, 6 or 9 month subscription pro rata of the current membership fees.)

COMPETITIONS SECRETARY REPORT – Steve Bradley

- **EBU SPRING PAIRS** 8th April - (368 pairs entered nationally)
2nd Richard and Pete; 12th Claire and Sue; 65th Bob and Pat
- **EBU SUMMER SIMS** 25th July - (165 pairs entered nationally)
7th Steve and Allison; 14th Richard and Pete; 38th Lisa and Linda
- **AUTUMN SIMS** 7th October - (277 entered nationally)

9th Lesley and Linda; 21st Pam and Alec; 25th Claire and Sue.

- **COUNTY SIMS PAIRS - 25th March** (67 pairs entered)

6th Richard and Pete; 8th Sally and Louise; 10th David and Phil; 12th Lesley and Linda;
14th Steve and Allison

16th September (71 entered)

11th Sally and Louise

16th December (81 pairs entered)

5th Isabella and Royce; 12th Richard and Peter; 14th Charles and Alec

- **BAINTON TROPHY FINAL** February 2024

6th Louise and Sally

- **SEMI FINAL BAINTON** 8th December 2024

2nd Richard and Peter; 11th Louise and Sally

Final to be held at Dunholme February 2025.

- **ECATS CHILDREN IN NEED 2024**

Boston played on Thursday 14th November - 1278 pairs entered nationally the same evening. £68,938 was raised nationally.

18th Phil and David; 56th Lisa and Linda; 60th Richard and Peter.

Two in house competitions were not played this year, Elsie Cammack Teams and the Nora Carter comp. The future playing of these events will be a topic for the next committee meeting.

The overwhelming message that the 2024 results clearly show that a club such as ours, can not only compete within our county but nationally too. AND in each competition we are always represented in the top ten, a fantastic achievement.

So please, please can I encourage everyone to continue to enter these events. National/County Comps. are played on a club night, not differing from a normal club night AND little old Boston Bridge Club clearly compete with anyone.

Congratulations to all.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ruth Street said she was stepping down from the committee. Val Robbs was nominated as a committee member for 2025, proposed by Claire Rylott and seconded by Sue Gray. The rest of the current committee were happy to stand another year – therefore 2025 committee are: Chair, Sue Gray; Vice Chair, Claire Rylott; Treasurer, Richard Tupper; Secretary, Linda Lovell; Competitions Sec., Steve Bradley; Webmaster, John Loomes; Committee members, Angela Cannon.

All officers were elected unanimously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Claire said it had been a good year and thanked everyone for supporting the club. She was wondering whether the club would consider subsidising the 2025 Christmas Party for paid full members and if finances could justify the proposal. Sue Gray asked for comments. Sally said it was a good idea and this was unanimously agreed. Sue said this would be discussed at a committee meeting.

Pam Smith asked to know more details on the membership situation (sent via email). This query has been answered after the treasurer's report above.

Angela Cannon asked if the club could afford new tables which Sue said would be on the agenda for the committee to discuss.

Kath Yates stood up and spoke on behalf of all club members - thanking the committee and everyone for all their good work.

NEXT AGM 2026

The date of the club's next AGM would be Thursday 8 January 2026.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm.

Minutes agreed:

Signed Date
Sue Gray, Chair