

Briter Bridge Club 2

Annual General Meeting Tuesday 2nd September 2025 At 6.30pm at Parklangley Club

Agenda

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes and Matters Arising from AGM 2024
3. Chairman's Report
4. Financial Report; and Audited Accounts (please see separate document)
 - Table money for 2025 - 2026
5. Technical Report
6. Membership Report
7. Election of Committee for 2025 - 2026
8. Consideration of issues relating to morning, afternoon and evening sessions
 - Including points raised by members
9. Annual Meal
10. Bridge Weekends
11. Margaret Burrell Memorial Cup Competition
12. Any Other Business

Briter Bridge Club 2
Annual General Meeting Tuesday 5th September 2024
at 6.30pm at Parklangley Club
Draft Minutes

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

The meeting was attended by 33 members: Jenny Davis, Diana Letchford, Sheila Tutt, Angela Hughes, Anne Allocca, Margaret Styles, Julia Booth-Brockbanks, Tim Burrell, Colin Blount, Stuart Bell, Janet Bell, Ann Close, Gail Wells, Lynne Erasmus, Brenda Castle, Chris Uphill, Ray Uphill, John Hayward, Kate Mitchell, Doreen Prockter, Jenny Edwards, Wendy Risley, Sue Highmore, Jane Hall, Kanex Pillay, Andre Erasmus, Anthony Jenkins, Simon Humphries, Chris Uphill, Ray Uphill, Chris Mackenzie, Martine Mackenzie, Anne Jankowska

Apologies were received from 27 members: Susan Hughes, Derek Chadwick, Duncan Bell, Susan Hughes, Susan Lee, Penny Cockram, Sheila Weymouth, Jan Titcombe, Barbara Bloomfield, Mannie Ng, Karen Crouch, Sally Randall, Caroline Ashcroft, Roger Wells, Glenn Winnister, Suzanne Foster, Maggie McDowell, Alan Sayers, Andrea Hixson, Joan Evans, Jenny Shearer, Nga Lim, Suzanne Foster, Luke Titcombe, Doreen Percy, Howard Surfleet, Walter Million

2. Minutes and Matters Arising from AGM 2023

The minutes were accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising not covered by the agenda.

3. Chairman's Report

Tim presented his report; we have now completed twelve years as Briter Bridge Club 2 and have slowly got back to a degree of normality following the difficult Covid period. Our finances are in a much healthier state than a year ago, helped by the establishment of our beginners and improvers sessions on Tuesday mornings. Over the past year, three 14 week courses (based on EBU material) have been completed, with typically 6 to 8 students and many of the 'graduates' have moved on to attending guided duplicate sessions, run by Colin and assisted, when necessary, by Stuart. Several players have now joined the afternoon and evening sessions and have settled in well. The next beginners course will probably commence in January 2025.

It was good to see several of the morning group at our club annual dinner on 19th June, which was enjoyed by a healthy number of club members, with thanks to the excellent catering team at Parklangley Club.

This time last year there had been a recent issue regarding the purchase of alcohol at the bar. The licence covers members and their guests. Clarification from the club manager indicates that Briter members can be regarded as guests of Tim Burrell, who holds a social membership on behalf of

Briter Bridge. It now appears to be sufficient to say that we are bridge club members when purchasing alcoholic drinks.

Tim thanked his fellow committee members for their hard work for the club over the past year; to Colin for keeping the accounts straight and providing appropriate advice and recommendations, to Jan for dealing with the technical issues (scoring/ website etc), to Janet for her secretarial support and for keeping the evening sessions going, and to Ann for maintaining the membership and attendance records over the year. After twelve years, Ann now wishes to step down and Tim thanked her for all her work as treasurer, then membership secretary since the inauguration of Briter Bridge Club. Those attending the meeting endorsed this and thanked Tim for continuing in the role of Chairman.

4. Financial Report and Accounts

Colin presented the accounts, audited and signed by Stuart Bell. These show that the club is in a healthy position, financially, thanks largely to increasing attendance at all three club sessions. There was significant expenditure over the past year, on the new ArcScorer system and tablets and on other equipment, including new sturdy side tables, in addition to the regular expenditure on cards, stationery, the website and insurance.

Colin proposed that we should keep our annual membership subscription at £10 per annum and reduce the table money to £3.00 (visitors' fee of £5 to remain unchanged). He recommended expenditure of c £600 to £800 to cover technology; an additional ArcScorer server, extra tablets (some have cracked screens, although most are very useable) and replacement card carriers as the closure mechanism is becoming slack on several of them.

Three proposals were put to the meeting: –

- a) acceptance of the Treasurer's Report and the audited accounts,
- b) the recommendations regarding membership subscriptions and table money
- c) up to £800 expenditure, as described.

These proposals were all approved by those present.

5. Technical Report

Jan had sent her apologies for the meeting. Her written report had been circulated and there were no major issues. Having more members able to set up and score and manage the dealing machine would be good and training could be arranged for new volunteers. There was appreciation from those present for all the work Jan does for Briter Bridge Club.

6. Membership Report

Ann reported that at the end of the 2023-2024 club year, we had 84 paid-up members, a substantial increase over the previous year, mainly due to the admission of morning improvers as full club members.

7. Election of Committee for 2024– 2025

As already minuted, Ann had expressed a wish to step down after twelve years service, since the inauguration of the club. Gail Wells had expressed interest in joining the committee and this was proposed by Tim, seconded by Janet and approved by those present. There have been no additional nominations and the current committee members have all indicated their willingness to continue. So the committee for 2024-2025 comprises:

- Chairman – Tim Burrell
- Secretary – Janet Bell
- Treasurer – Colin Blount
- Technical Director – Jan Titcombe
- Membership Secretary – Gail Wells

It could be that the roles of treasurer and membership secretary could change to reflect the fact that the roles are very closely related. Colin and Gail will work together to establish the best way of working.

8. Consideration of issues relating to morning, afternoon and evening session

A member had suggested that it might be good to have an additional afternoon session on a different day. Some research by Tim indicated that this would have to be on Thursdays in the upstairs Whitehead Room and, although the room is quite small, there would need to be a minimum of four tables to be financially viable and this would need to be without depleting attendances at the Tuesday sessions. The issue of who would help to run it would need to be considered. There were only six hands raised to express interest, so the proposal would not be taken further.

9. Annual Dinner

This year's enjoyable Club dinner on 19th June had been very well attended and it was agreed that this midsummer timing should be repeated in 2025.

10. Bridge Weekends

Thanks are due to Susan Hughes for all her hard work trying to organise our next bridge weekend. She has spent a lot of time trying to liaise with Abbots Barton Hotel in Canterbury, which is currently being refurbished after having accommodated asylum seekers. Slams Bridge Club has held successful bridge weekends there in the past, and several Briter members have enjoyed these. But it seems the hotel will not be ready to provide full service, including meals for some time and we should look to holding our next weekend elsewhere. Jan is going to check out a hotel in Bournemouth that is used for bridge weekends, or we could return to Worthing.

11. Margaret Burrell Memorial Cup Competition

Tim presented the Cup to Stuart Bell, this year's winner, despite a sizeable handicap.

12. Any Other Business

A vote of thanks was proposed to the committee and endorsed by the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

Janet Bell – Secretary

September 2024

Briter Bridge Club 2

Chairman's Report: AGM 2nd September 2025

Establishment of the club

The club has now completed its thirteenth year. As the Treasurer will report we have a reasonable cash balance helped by the establishment of our beginners and improvers sessions and increase in member numbers.

Use of the Bar

Following on from what I said last year the issue of presenting a club card to buy alcohol does not seem to have been an issue during the year. If asked, just say you are a member of the Bridge Club and give my name.

Beginners' sessions

These have proved very successful. During this calendar year we will have had two 14 week courses. Beginners then go on to take part in improver sessions where duplicate bridge is played under guidance. Thanks must go to Colin for running these sessions ably helped when necessary by Stuart. Several of our students who have been through this process now play in the afternoon or evening. A new course starts on the 23rd September.

Table and Membership fees

Our last AGM agreed that table money should be £3.00 for members and £5 for non-members and an annual membership fee of £10. Colin will be proposing a way forward when he goes through the accounts with you.

Social event

We were able to hold our annual meal again this year. On the 17th June the Langley Club again provided us with an excellent dinner which was appreciated by all who attended. It was great to see some of our trainee members attending.

Competition

I'm delighted to announce that Chris and Martine Mackenzie are this year's winner. Congratulations to them. The newly engraved cup will be presented at the AGM. Congratulations to Chris and Ray Uphill who came second and Walter Million who came third.

Thanks

Finally I would like to offer thanks to all the Committee for the hard work they have done during the year; to Colin in keeping the accounts straight; to Jan for keeping us all informed by the web site and helping us with our technical problems; to Janet for her secretarial support and all the hard work she has put in to try to keep the evening sessions viable; and our new member Gail for maintaining our membership and attendance records for the year.

Noise

Finally a moan! The noise level in our sessions has grown during the year and is extremely difficult to play in for those who have not completed their hands. I mentioned this at the beginning of our session last Tuesday which only seemed to make it even louder! Anyone visiting other bridge clubs will notice how quiet they are. Please if you are having conversations at the end of a hand keep them very quiet. Thank you.

Tim Burrell – Chairman

August 2025

Briter Bridge Club 2

Treasurer Report: AGM 2nd September 2025

Financial position to July 31st 2025

- 2024/25 accounts audited by Stuart Bell during August 2025.
- Signed accounts available at AGM
- Balance at August 1st 2024 approx £4,500
- Balance at July 31st 2025 approx £4,800
- Annual Membership income increased from £802.50 to £930
- Capital spend in line with agreed plans

Background to Financial position

- Revenues exceed forecast due to higher AM and Evening attendance
 - Average attendance Evening = 4.2 Tables (up from 3.3)
 - Average Morning attendance = 3.7 tables (up from 3.4)
 - Average Afternoon attendance stable at 6+ tables
- **Despite** 2025 table fees dropping from £3.50 to £3.00
- **And** only 2 Beginners courses this year
- Capital expense approx £400 (Tablets, Scorecards, cables, connectors)

Other Information:

- Attendance range across 3 sessions = 41-72 people
- Average of over 14 tables each Tuesday
- Worthing weekend projected to break even
- Park Langley Stotesbury Room rental rose to £110 per day from April 25
- Park Langley Whitehead Room rental remained at £35 per morning (when used)
- Room set up/takedown cost remain at £30
- New Park Langley systems required BBC2 Debit Cards (TB and CB)
- Average weekly income required to cover operational costs is approx £150
- One-off annual costs (Licenses etc) expected to be circa £1,200

Proposals for 2024/25

- Current levels of attendance are anticipated through 2025/26

which will enable:

- Reduction of Table Money from **£3.00 to £2.50** (reducing excess reserve)
- Visitor fees (£5) and Annual Subs (£10) to remain unchanged
- Continuation of single fee incentive to attend multiple sessions
- Capital investment (£600 - 800) in equipment (Tablets, Card Carriers, Cases)
- Retention of a reserve circa £3,000+

AGM Approvals requested

- Audited accounts
- Reduction of table fee
- Further equipment investment as required

Colin Blount – Treasurer

August 2025

Briter Bridge Club 2

Technical Report: AGM 2nd September 2025

Website Bridgewebs is still value for money and used by the majority of UK bridge clubs. We probably don't exploit it as much as we could but it serves our purposes. It is fairly robust although there was one brief outage in November 2024. There is still an issue with emails sent to members from the website. If you want to respond to an email from the club please, don't click on the "reply to" button or arrow on your email app but click on the link/s in the body of the message. Erroneous replies are copied to me and I forward them, but it causes a delay and it is more difficult for the originator to get back to you. There is a crib sheet for new members giving guidance on accessing and the benefits of the members only parts of website.

PairsScorer is the software we use to calculate the scoring. For the benefit of our new members, I will briefly recap the issue. It is no longer supported free of charge for non EBU clubs. This means that loading it onto new laptops is difficult and sometimes impossible. But while it still works and we have sufficient useable copies the hassle of learning a new system still outweighs the inconvenience of fewer people being able to correct scores after the event.

Arcscorer on tablets is the system we have been using instead of the Bridgemates for over a year now. It is easier to use and see the results for players. It is less forgiving if the set-up needs changing just before play commences and there is less documentation. So please make sure at least one of a partnership is in the bridge room at least 10 minutes before a session begins. There is still over reliance on Colin and Tim because they have used it the most. We do now have more players to take turns but not yet enough to fully cover during holiday periods. We can organise some training sessions and compile some crib sheets

Dealing machine still working well. Volunteers to join rota for dealing hands always welcome.

Electronic payment successfully in operation for over a year and new volunteers helping to collect money has been very helpful

Issues for AGM

- Agreement by members that the majority are happy to continue with current technical solutions
- Volunteers always appreciated
- Let Jan or Gail know if you want a new members' crib sheet.

Jan Titcombe – Technical Director

August 2025

Briter Bridge Club 2

Membership Report: AGM 2nd September 2025

Currently, there are 102 members, an increase from the 84 members this time last year.

In the last few months there have been 9 new members, spread over all the sessions.

We are encouraged by the growth that there has been, particularly the morning practice sessions and the larger evening sessions of late.

Gail Wells – Membership Secretary

August 2025