

Clare Bridge Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting held on 10th March 2026 at 31 The Street, Assington

Those present: J. Symons (Chair) A. Clifft(Sec), P. Routley, P. Starling, J. Hooper & E. Farr

Apologies for Absence

The following members sent their apologies for being unable to attend the meeting: M. Morris, M. Ellison & G. Ford

Correspondence

Reminder received by email from EBU for membership and club insurance. The insurance cost is £74.70 and club membership of EBU is £32.00. Both are due on 1st April 2026. JH will arrange payment

Matters Arising

Matters arising from the previous meeting included discussion regarding the piano occupying storage space. A quote was obtained for its removal for £360.00. It was agreed that it would be more expedient to pay the whole sum rather than waiting for Lavenham Village Hall to contribute as it is low priority for them and funds are low.

The Andrew Robson teaching day in February was a great success. The coffee van parked in the car park outside worked well although there were a few complaints that a coffee wasn't included in the price of attendance.

The Clare director's rota has been taken on by M. Ellison and is working well

Treasurer's Report

The club remains in a healthy financial position. The Andrew Robson teaching day made a profit of £960.00 and the tuition days, a profit of £1260.00. The account balance as of today is £7164.00.

Club events and tournament planning

Clare continues to be steady and it is hoped that numbers might increase. There were 6.5 tables on 9th March 2026. PS raised concerns about the low number of scorers at Clare. JH said there were online courses available for anyone who was interested. JH enquired about the possibility of reinstating the Beryl Dory Trophy which ran before Covid. The committee agreed that there was no reason why it shouldn't be revived.

Lavenham continues to prove to be very popular but is getting close to capacity and twenty tables would seem to be the upper limit. ME requested that remuneration for providing tea and refreshments should be increased to £25.00 to account for the increase in numbers. This was agreed and will take place with immediate effect.

The teaching course on Wednesdays has been very successful and there is one final teaching session left. Six further sessions have been booked for them to play among themselves with light supervision.

Monday online bridge continues to be well supported. JH reported of the passing of Trevor Day, who was the main contact at Swindon Bridge Club. It was agreed to send a donation of £50.00 to the nominated hospice.

The team of eight playing in Leicester on 26th May 2026 will comprise of; Ed Farr, Tony Philpott, Jenny Price, Nigel Bardsley, Nancy Williams, Dave Allen, Nick and Sarah Farr.

Swiss pairs: The date is set for 7th June 2026 and a licence has been obtained from EBU and the event will appear on its website. It will be a blue pointed competition. EF will do the entry forms which will appear on line no later than mid- April and a proposed ticket charge was agreed at £20.00 to include a light lunch. A proposed top prize of £200.00 for the winning pair, £100.00 for the runners up and £50.00 3rd place and £50.00 for the best improvers. JS will liaise with Rob Sasson who will be the director. JH was keen to ask Huy Bridge club in Belgium if they would be interested in attending, as in pre-Covid times , they used to visit on alternate years

Membership Subscriptions

Will be raised from £5.00 to £10.00 with immediate effect.

Committee Matters

PS and EF are both stepping down from the committee. Both were thanked for their kind contribution to the club. EF will continue to be the Webmaster for which we are very grateful. ME will take over the role of membership secretary from PS.

AGM

In line with the clubs constitution the date of the next AGM will be on Friday 1st May 2026 at 1.00pm at Lavenham village hall before the relaxed pairs session.

AOB

JS reported that one of our club members had been rude and unpleasant to one of the tournament directors on more than one occasion. The member concerned was given a four week suspension and a letter of apology to the director concerned was requested but has not been received and the individual concerned will now be barred from the club. It was agreed that there is no excuse for rudeness and we are very fortunate in having such capable and pleasant tournament directors whose decision is final.

A date of **28th April 2026 at 10.30am at Centuries, 31 The Street, Assington.**

The meeting closed at 11.45am.