

Clare Bridge Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting held on 30th June 2026 at 31 The Street, Assington

Those present: J. Symons (Chair) A. Clifft(Sec), P. Routley, P. Easting, J. Hooper & M. Ellison

Apologies for Absence

G. Ford sent his apologies for being unable to attend the meeting.

Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting and the committee were informed of Micky Morris' resignation. The committee extend their thanks for his time and contributions.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported income from subscriptions and table money from Clare and Lavenham came to £3280.00 and the main expenses were from hall rental and EBU membership and insurance coming to £1365.00.

Last years accounts have been sent to Phillip Peters to be examined.

Matters Arising

- I. **Swiss Pairs Review.** The event was a success but made a loss of £975.00 largely due to catering costs. Only ten pairs had a strong affiliation to the club and were in the minority. The treasurer suggested maybe switching the day to a Friday at Lavenham to encourage a greater take up. The idea of "bring your own lunch" instead of full catering was discussed and AC queried the need for a cash prize.
- II. Correspondence was received from Sarah Farr which was attached to the agenda as she requested. The Chair has already contacted Sarah to apologise and address the concerns she raised. The matter is now closed.

Club events and tournament planning

Clare

The Chair feels that Clare is struggling for numbers and wondered whether there may be a way to encourage some of those who attend Stansfield BC on a Thursday, to try Clare on a Monday. PE reported that the cleaning facilities at Clare for crockery could be better (although a steriliser is used) and wondered if she could purchase the requisite cleaning materials on the club's behalf. This was approved by the committee.

Lavenham JH reported that 132 different people have played at Lavenham this year with an average of 12 tables per session. The hall will not be available to the club on the 4th and 11th September 2026 and 13th November 2026. The idea of arranging an afternoon session(as a one off) on 3rd September was discussed as the hall would be available that day. PE reported that people who are hosting at Lavenham would like more notice. ME said the rota sheet is usually available for people to check and that it is shown on the Calendar on the website.

Online Bridge; Continues to be well supported. There are more Clare BC players than Swindon BC currently.

The team of eight Travelled to Leicester on 26th May for the championship and were not successful in bringing back the trophy but it is hoped they enjoyed the event.

Evening Bridge at Lavenham: The Chair wondered whether it was possible to have a evening session at Lavenham. JH thought that it would be difficult to arrange as the hall is very popular in the evening. JH said he would make enquiries.

Lavenham Summer Party: ME is hopeful a total of 68 players will be coming to the summer party. The booking of the hall will be from 1.00pm-6.00pm. The small hall will be made available after 4.00pm. There will be an additional cost for the kitchen of £27.50. Francesca's in Lavenham will provide the catering at a cost of £9.50 pp.

Renaming the Club

The Chair asked whether it would be more inclusive to have Lavenham incorporated into the club's name. The committee weren't convinced of its merits and preferred to leave the name as it stands.

Committee Matters

Peter Routley will take over the Clare directors' rota. Penny Easting agreed to take on the host rota at Lavenham after the summer party and Maggie Ellison will continue to operate the membership.

AOB

JH reported that some of the cards in the bidding boxes were in poor condition and need replacing. It was agreed that a total of eight bidding buddies are to be purchased for Clare and eight bidding boxes will be transferred back to Lavenham. Bidding buddies are more competitively priced than the boxes and are easier to set up.

Next meeting **Tuesday 13th October 2026 at 10.30am at Centuries, 31 The Street, Assington.**

The meeting closed at 12.00pm.