

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE CRAWLEY BRIDGE CLUB AGM

WEDNESDAY 6 MAY 2026 6.00 PM

1. APOLOGIES

Sabina Hickmet, Susie Swadling, David Maysey, Judith Wells and Gill Haimes

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

Available on the CBC website.

Approval Proposed by Richard

Approved by a unanimous show of hands

3. DRAFT CONSTITUTION

Richard explained that following a review of the suitability of our old Constitution, particularly in regard to our ability to respond to Best Behaviour at Bridge issues, it was decided we should introduce a new Constitution. The Committee sought guidance from Martin Pool who is the President of the SSCBA and an expert on Constitutions.

A Sub Committee was formed to prepare a draft Constitution (Richard, Gordon and Richard D). The EBU Constitution was used as a starting point and this was largely adopted with some small amendments to make it appropriate and representative of CBC. The draft was circulated to Members and at the AGM a vote was taken.

Approval Proposed by Richard

Approved by a unanimous show of hands

A copy of the new Constitution and a Committee Nomination form for next year will be posted on the website.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Membership. The Club is thriving such that the total membership now stands at 126. Over the year we gained nine extra Club Members and five Online Members. Attendances are excellent and the special events outside our normal duplicate sessions are all well supported.

Teaching. We are coming to the end of BB2025. This is the first year of the new regime since Helen stood back. The lessons take place here on Tuesday evenings. We use the online materials provided by English Bridge Education and Development (EBED) presented on the large TV on the wall opposite the hatch. This has been a mixed experience. The students are happy and all the people we had on day one are still attending. However, we have found some of the EBED material quite difficult to work with and progress has not been as smooth as it was in Helen's time. The result is that we do not expect to complete the course and cover the whole of the Red Book. Consequently, we plan to run a series of Development Sessions over the summer months. These were very popular last year and they give us the opportunity to cover any BB2025 topics we are not able to get to during the academic year. Club members will be invited to attend the Development Sessions.

We are considering running a BB2026 course starting in September. All our neighbouring clubs are very active in teaching and it is an important element in securing the future of the club. If we do decide to do so we will be looking to you the members to help with promoting the course.

Sussex Friendly League. The SFL ran again this year but expanded to include Horsham BC bringing it to four participating clubs. It is an informal, friendly teams competition played through the winter online on BBO. We play each club twice and each match is contested by three teams of four. The teams are structured by NGS ranking such that T1 is an open category, T2 is NGS 8 and below and T3 is NGS 6 and below playing 16 boards per match. The play is not EBU sanctioned and the idea is to have some light-hearted fun and a bit of competition against players of a similar standard from other clubs. It has proved popular especially with the T3 group.

Directing. It's an essential task and you can't run a bridge club without having someone who is prepared to direct your sessions. In the main, I hope directing at Crawley is not too stressful but, in light of the Constitution item it has the potential to be very difficult indeed. We are lucky in this respect at CBC that we have Mervyn who is the gold standard of directing and Richard Davis who volunteered to take on Fridays, passed the EBU directing course and has settled in very nicely. They both deserve our grateful thanks.

They are not the only ones.

Gordon. The amount of effort Gordon puts into the activities of CBC is extraordinary handling our finances, email account and database, procuring supplies and moving furniture. The list goes on. It's a huge amount of work. In doing all this he is calm, accurate and thorough. Gordon, take a bow.

Mervyn. You all know Mervyn's contribution to CBC over many years directing Wednesday duplicate plus many of our special events and acting as our Webmaster. What you may not know is that Mervyn has served on the SCCBA management committee for the last 20 years. We are grateful to the SCCBA for this synopsis of his county career. During his time with us his primary roles have been Masterpoints Secretary (from 2006) and Webmaster (from 2008). Both roles involve determination to research and analyse complex technical issues, attention to detail to reach accurate conclusions and commitment of substantial time and effort to deliver the results required. Mervyn has risen to the challenges encountered with great fortitude. Since its inception, the county website has evolved to become the county's principal source of information and a key element of the services provided to clubs and their members. Alongside these major responsibilities, Mervyn has also been a member of the Tournament Committee for many years often using his technical experience and expertise to contribute significantly to the resolution of other issues such as the consolidation of results from multiple Sims heats and the introduction of new scoring technology. Mervyn's substantial contribution to the success of bridge in Sussex has seen him win the Gladys Hakki trophy in 2014, be selected for an EBU Dimmie Fleming award in 2017 and be appointed one of the Association's Vice Presidents in 2018.

Let's not forget Patricia who is a pleasure to work with and has played a blinder as our secretary, Kate who unfortunately has decided not to continue but has done sterling work on events management, Sylvia our social secretary and Phil organising our duplimating heroes.

Finally thanks go to you – all of you. You turn up, create the atmosphere we all enjoy and help out with setting up and packing away. You deserve a big hand.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Statement Attached

The financial situation of the club remains good with a total net worth at the end of the 2025/26 Financial year of £7,020.32. However, the Committee considers that we need a surplus to fund the possible replacement of our ten year old Bridgemates, which are frequently having to be sent for repairs. During the course of the next year the Committee will review what the options are for the future, whether the Bridgemates are upgraded or whether we move to a new system on tablets or phones.

Approval Proposed by Gordon

Approved by a unanimous show of hands

6. COMPETITION REPORT

Helen presented a summary of the 2025/26 competition results. These are all available on the website. It was noted that there was a healthy spread of winners.

7. EVENTS CALENDAR

Events Calendar Attached

Mervyn submitted a proposal, attached, and suggested we adopt the same programme of events in future years.

Richard explained that The Committee were satisfied that, in the attached Events Calendar, there are sufficient Team and Pairs Events during the next 12 months. It was noted that these events take significant organisation and the Committee did not want to create any more events.

This Committee did not wish to making any promises for future years as this will be up to the Committee at that time.

Richard proposed that the Events Calendar presented by the Committee be adopted and this was agreed by a large majority of the members and so it was passed.

8. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Unfortunately, Kate Massie is no longer willing to be on the Committee and has resigned as our Events Co-ordinator.

Chair and Teaching Richard Jameson
Vice Chair and Competitions Helen Kent
Treasurer. Gordon Briggs
Secretary. Patricia Kollinsky
Sylvia Smith. Social
Phil Nash. Duplimation
Richard Davis Teaching

Approval of the Committee proposed by Richard
Approved by a unanimous show of hands

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A. Tricia Joyce told the members that she has successfully collected second-hand jewellery and watches in aid of St Catherine's Hospice for some years and that they are extremely grateful for our contributions. Collections will continue at the club.

B. Helen presented the Best Improver Award

1st Kate Massie

2nd Claire Weller

3rd Karina Butler

Kate was awarded with a framed certificate and a voucher for Haskins to the value of £30.

The rules of the Best Improver Award can be found on our website.

C. Claire asked if the Men v Women could be handicapped in some way. The Committee will consider this at one of the regular Committee Meetings prior to the event.

10. DATE OF NEXT AGM MEETING

WEDNESDAY 5 MAY 2027, 6.15 PM

**CRAWLEY BRIDGE CLUB FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR YEAR 1ST APRIL 2025 TO 31ST MARCH 2026**

Notes	Income	2025-2026	2024-2025
	CBC Subscriptions	259.70	230.00
	Charity Collections	902.00	1,010.50
1	Social Events Income	770.00	
	Table Money Club	6,954.00	6,279.00
	Table Money Online	2,768.84	2,387.36
2	Teaching Income	5,285.70	2,176.00
	Total Income	£16,940.24	£12,082.86
	Expenditure	2025-2026	2024-2025
	Bank Charges	£135.25	£50.96
	Bridge Equipment	£908.54	£915.46
	Cards, Cakes, Flowers	£118.23	£130.60
	Charity Donations	£1,747.00	£1,808.52
	Competitions	£387.01	£292.36
	EBU Subscription	£30.00	£29.00
	EBU UM (P2P) Fees	£2,521.02	£2,155.32
	GIBC Room Hire	£3,000.00	£2,872.00
	Laptop	£330.99	£173.70
	Online BBO Fees	£830.64	£716.27
1	Social Events	£1,800.00	£1,043.64
	Stationery and Sundries	£49.38	£25.28
2	Teaching Expenses	£3,118.52	£2,718.84
	Tournament Director	£328.45	£226.25
	Total Expenditure	£15,305.03	£13,158.20
	Surplus / Deficit (-)	£1,635.21	-£1,075.34
	Net Worth	31/03/2026	31/03/2025
	Barclays Account	£6,548.32	£5,039.11
	Cash	£40.00	£38.00
	SumUp Card Account	£432.00	£308.00
3	Total Net Worth	£7,020.32	£5,385.11

Notes	
1	Net social event deficit £1,030 (last year £1,043)
2	Net teaching surplus £2,167 (last year deficit -£543)
3	£7,000 contingency fund allows us to repair / replace old equipment (Bridgemates, Duplimator etc)

Prepared by Gordon Briggs 31/03/26

2026/27 EVENTS CALENDAR

2026

- Summer Barbeque - Sunday 2 August 4.00 pm, Haskins Garden Centre
- Autumn Compensated Teams - Wednesday 2 September (changed from an Individual on 4 Sept)
- Sheila Becarevic (Men vs Women) - Wednesday 7 October
- Children in Need (date to be confirmed) - Wednesday 11 November
- Christmas Party Friday 11 December 7.00 pm, Haskins Garden Centre

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2027

- Winter Compensated Teams - Friday 22 January
- Valentine Pairs - Friday 12 February
- SCCBA Charity Sims (date to be confirmed) - Wednesday 17 February
- Spring Individual - Friday 19 March (changed from Wednesday 17 to Friday 19)
- Spring Compensated Teams - Wednesday 14 April
- AGM - Wednesday 5 May
- Draude Handicap Pairs - Friday 11 June

An Increase in the Number of Compensated Teams Events proposed by Mervyn Wotton

Considering the proven popularity among club members of face-to-face teams events at CBC, as shown by :-

- an overwhelming vote at the 2025 AGM for the retention of the annual Ladies v Gents (Sheila Becarevic) match, with not a single club member speaking or voting for its removal,
- an all-time attendance record of 15 tables for a club night being set in January 2026 by the Wednesday Compensated Teams which is particularly amazing when there are currently 50 times as many pairs events as 'Teams of 4' events,
- an attendance of 9 tables, more than for any normal Friday club pairs night in the past 6 years, for the Friday Compensated Teams event held in March 2026,

I propose that the number of Compensated Teams events taking place at CBC be increased so that, in the upcoming and future years, there are :-

- two Wednesday Compensated Teams events,

and, subject to a vote by regular Friday attendees :-

- either one or two Friday Compensated Teams events.

Mervyn Wotton

April 23rd, 2026