



## MEMBERS ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at 5.30pm at Lion Works

Committee Members present: Colin Clark – Chair, Neil Cumming – Deputy Chair and Membership Sec, Annelie Triandafyllou – Accounts, Gill Collins – Teaching, Stuart Barker – IT, David Lampert, Sheila Smurthwaite Paisey – Volunteer Co-ordinator, Sandie Donaldson – Secretary

### Welcome and Update

Colin Clark – Chair

Apologies: See attached list

Colin welcomed everyone and updated the on what we have achieved in the last year:

The building: The back wall has been re-rendered

Office rebuilt.

Teaching / training area has new screens

Decorating inside will be done once we have the outside work certificated – Ros advises there is a little more work to be done.

Committee: David Spencer has left the committee and David Lampert has recently resigned.

Colin explained how our arrangement at Lion Works is completely different from Wish Road where RAFA had the responsibility for the building and we paid them rent. At Lion Works we have a fully repairing lease and need volunteers and income to sustain the club.

Workshops and Teaching have been organised to maximise both use of the building and revenue. The Club is, however, empty in the evenings and that is something we can look at.

We are now a Charity and the first AGM will be next year.

Q. Who covered the cost of the rendering?

A. The Landlord covered the cost.

Q. Is the kitchen licenced for preparing food? We would like more tournaments with food.

A. The kitchen is currently not licenced but is on the committee schedule.

Q. Would there be a Christmas 'do' at the club? Not this year. Our Christmas party is already booked at Sovereign Harbour.

Q A question about Monday evening being for 'Top' players prompted a discussion about the NGS grade of people playing in various sessions, particularly very experienced players

playing on a Tuesday which is supposed to be Simple Systems and a logical next step after the two ACOL sessions.

Q. Swiss Pairs should be for all levels.

Q. Individual sessions? Sov Harbour has one every Easter.

A. Colin. Team Events and Random Teams would cover this. Ros as Club Captain called upon.

Q. How do we advertise lessons?

A. Gill Collins. Flyers produced by Sheila and Ann Pennycuick. People are already registered for Autumn lessons.

Bruce Carrison provides copy for the Herald.

Q. Younger people to join the club was discussed – generally, the effort produced no new players or members.

Colin continued: We need volunteers and trustees. Trustees could be Trustees only without any additional responsibility. We cannot fall below a minimum of 5 so it would be good to have more. David Lampert has agreed to continue as a Trustee and Linda Sherlock has volunteered to become a new Trustee. Colin envisages a Board of Trustees with the Committee sitting beneath.

The club needs a new Fire Officer. It is essential we have one. (Christine Gawad has volunteered to fill this role – thank you Christine)

Accounts: Annelie Triandafyllou confirmed the annual accounts had been made available to all members and that we currently have over £50,000 in the bank.

The club now banks with Metro and has Charity and Savings accounts. Metro use another agency for their Card Machines and Annelie is to apply for one this week. The committee have agreed that the minimum sum in the bank should be £25,000 and expenditure will be measured to make sure that is the case.

As well as re-fitting the office, the fire alarm and incidentals for the kitchen and club, we purchased a new dealing machine this year at a cost of £4,000 and there is a further expenditure of £10,000 in October when the handrail and safety guards for the lift are fitted. Annelie's forecasted income is £3,000 per month table money plus teaching receipts.

Our costs should reduce. Community Tax will be greatly reduced now that we are a Charity, although water costs will rise. On the whole, utility costs were lower than had been anticipated. Last year's full costs were £53,000 with between £43,000 and £45,000 forecast for the coming year.

Comment from the floor – our teaching prices are low and could be raised.

Teaching: Gill Collins reported 6 new teachers have been trained this year and they will add to their learning throughout the coming twelve months. There are 18 new volunteers, doing everything from signing people in and making tea to helping run sessions. We need more.

Attendees this year: Beginners with Glenda – 15. Fast-track with Stuart – 12. Intermediate with David Lampert – 32

Supervised play – 2 sessions – 20 or so per session

Regular workshops – 1 per month - 20 or more on each – run by Colin Clark. Ros Wolfarth, Glenda Pelling, David Lampert and Bruce Carrison

(Sov Harbour and Seaford were invited and next year Wannock and Patcham will also be invited.

Glenda's Weds morning ACOL session usually has 12 or 13 tables  
Thursday afternoon ACOL (20 boards) currently has four or five tables  
Tuesday afternoon – Simple Systems – 24 boards – ten tables this week. Ann Pennycuick organised a mentoring session for one of the Tuesdays to encourage Weds morning and Thurs players to 'move on'. This was well received, but has not resulted in people moving on. Ros organised 'Welcome Pairs' with a view to inviting people from throughout East Sussex at or below level 5 NGS to come to the club and take part – however only members from our club attended.

Below are details for the coming months:

**Monday 10.15 Supervised Play** - bid and play the same hands as in a club session BUT get help if you need it. Learn how to bid and play the optimum way. Compare how you did with club players and gain the confidence to move into club sessions. **Starting Monday 8 September.** Contact Trevor for queries [trevorsmart56@hotmail.com](mailto:trevorsmart56@hotmail.com)

**Tuesday 10-12 Supervised Play** for Improvers. A brief lesson followed by a selection of hands some of which reflect the lesson. Help with bidding and play. Perfect for those who need more practice but don't feel ready to move on to the intermediate course or for those who have done the intermediate course and just want more practice! **Starting Tuesday 14 October.** Contact Gill for queries [collinsgill@gmail.com](mailto:collinsgill@gmail.com)

**Tuesday 1.30 Simple Systems.** This is the most advanced of the three sessions designed for those learning Acol. If you would like to attend, but don't have a partner or the confidence, we will happily arrange for a mentor to play with you.

**Wednesday 10.15 - Easy Acol.** The session to move onto as your first move into playing Club Bridge. A very friendly and relaxed session. Arrive at 9:30 for a lesson which analyses a hand from the previous week.

**Thursday 1.30 - Intermediate Acol.** Playing more boards and slightly more formal than a Wednesday morning, but there is a sociable tea break! This session is for intermediate players or improvers who cannot come on a Wednesday morning or prefer to come on a Thursday afternoon. Of course you are welcome to come to both!

**Friday 10.15 Beginners lessons.** Contact Glenda for more information and to register [glen-dasbridgelessons@gmail.com](mailto:glen-dasbridgelessons@gmail.com)

**Friday 10.15 Intermediate lessons.** For those who have attended beginner lessons or for those who have been playing for a while but want to learn more. Contact David for more information and to register [david.lampert@btinternet.com](mailto:david.lampert@btinternet.com)

Both courses start on **Friday 19 September.**

There will also be a series of monthly workshops on a variety of topics applicable to Club members as well as those Improvers and Intermediates who are interested.

Berni is looking at setting up an online session in September using Real Bridge.

**Membership:** Membership: Neil Cumming advised we have 274 members, five of whom are Honorary Life Members. Fifteen of our members are over 90 and they currently have free membership. However, as this perk is not recorded in previous minutes or in the club Constitution this will no longer continue from 2026/27 for all members aged over 90.

He also stressed how grateful he is to members who paid their subscriptions on time. This year 117 members did not pay by the due date. He also thanked those who pay by BACS, which makes his job much easier.

Volunteers and Fundraising: Sheila Smurthwaite Paisey thanked the volunteers helping at this Meeting and requested more. She thanked Alison King for volunteering to create a garden at the end of the club premises.

The book swap, a bargain at 50P per book to read and return, raised £82.00 and this was used to cover refreshments for this meeting.

On 18<sup>th</sup> October, there is to be a Quiz Night, hosted by Colin, featuring supper and a quiz. Sheila requested Hamper type prizes for a raffle at the event.

Thanks: Colin thanked the following:  
Linda Sherlock has been made a life member in recognition of her services to the club. Linda has also offered to be a Trustee without portfolio.  
Peter Booth for dealing and admin.  
Martin Ritchie for scoring and moving lots of waste from the premises.  
Kathy Hill for her constant support in dealing, teaching and help.

Trophies: Sheila accepted the Phyllis White award on behalf of Julie Brough and herself.  
Bjorn Winge trophy awarded to Richard Matthews.  
Under 10,000 – Sarah Peacock  
Under 5,000 – Philip Draud  
Club League – David Benjamin and Michael Keeping

Refreshments were taken after the meeting.

S Donaldson  
Secretary

Apologies

Jeanne Boydell	Mary and Martin Stockton
David Benjamin	Georgie Lea
Mike Keeping	Helen and Crombie McNeil
Marjorie Platt	Sandra Balchin
Tina Shingler	Barbara Geary
Joanne Green	Dee Spicer
Sandra Grusd	David Spencer
Dona Crescenzi	Bruce Carrison
John Chester	Gwyneth and John Clark
Alan and Alysia Middleton	Chimi Notenboom
Christine Horley	Jonathon Gill
Ann Hall	Su Htoon
Mi and Robert Reece	Trevor Smart
Jenny Economou	Cristine Young
Pam Vickery	Rod Smart
Sue Jones	Judy Barnett
Pamela Gover	Veronica Phillipson
Rosemary Field	Alex Buchan
Anji Fellows	Mary Winchester
	Mary and Chatterton Sim

**Attenders:**

Barbara Baker

Hugh Ball

Stuart Barker

Pam Blackman

Ann Booth

Peter Booth

Colin Clark

Gill Collins

Marianna Conte

Catherine Cresswell

Auriol Cumming

Neil Cumming

Robert Depper

Sandie Donaldson

Philip Draude

Luda Fooks

Christine Gawad

David Hastings

Christine Holt

Kay Kemp

Alison King

David Lampert

Sue Mathers

Carolyn Maylen

Sue Millard

Nick Moxon

Eileen Pavey

Linda Sherlock

Susan Sinsbury

Sheila Smurthwaite Paisey

Ann Squires

Annelie Triandafyllou

Ros Wolfarth