

Minutes of 74th Annual General Meeting of Farnborough (Kent) Bridge Club
Held on Wednesday 19th August 2026 at 7pm

Committee Members present:

Chris Clegg, Chair

John Hunt, Treasurer

Kim Romanski, Honorary Secretary

Wendy Church, Norman Inniss, Claire Martin, Rodney Meredith

Other members present:

John Amor, Richard Anscombe, Camilla Blackburn, David Brown, Stephen Brown, Graham Clements, Joan Cook, Richard Creamer, Brendan Doolan, John Erdos, Jean Fishleigh, Paul Fishleigh, Colin Game, Brian Grimwood, Indiana Hamilton, Alan Hodgkinson, Carol Homden, David Hudson, Marian Hunt, John Hunter, Jan Johnson, Mary Kendall, Jenifer Kerr, Janet Kopczyk, Roy Lambert, Graham Long, Bob Manser, Don Mitchell, John Oakland, Sue Parkins, Lesley Pechey, Roger Pechey, Susan Phillips, David Powell, Hilary Powell, Anette Raby, Mike Rafferty, Jan Romanski, Charles Scott, Rajinda Sehmi, Fiona Sinclair, Tom Smith, Val Smith, Chris Steed, Rod Steed, Jenny Watson, Leila Williams, Mike Wood.

Total attendees (including committee): **55**

1. Apologies for absence:

Teresa Berry, Jan Chambers, Tony Conway, Annie & Brian Davies, Allan & Gillian Foster, James & Suzanne Foster, Brian Hogg, Barbara Jackson, Bob Kendall, Norman Kincaid, Jo Lightfoot, Gordon McBride, Moya Nesom, Jean O'Doherty, Mike Pearson, Gillian Ridges, Yogi Raj, Helen Smithson, Susanne Walsh, Mike Wood, Jennifer Viles.

2. Approval of minutes of 73rd AGM

Approved

3. Matters arising

Ladder which has now become one division and amends to rules completed.

4. Election of officers

Chris Clegg (Chair) and John Hunt (Treasurer) stepped down. Nominations received were Chair, Kim Romanski, Treasurer, Claire Martin and committee member Graham Clements. Norman Inniss had been co-opted onto the committee in August this year to become Secretary should Kim become Chair. Wendy Church and Rodney Meredith remain committee members. All nominations and committee members were uncontested and the bloc vote confirmed all.

Approved

5. Chairman's report The Chairman's report for 2025-2026 was as follows:

Farnborough had a record 74th year with membership increasing to 184, the highest in its history. This is reflected in the P&L account and balance sheet which our treasurer will shortly detail.

4 years ago I was co-opted as treasurer even though, as partners can testify, my maths is a work in progress. All you have to do is collect casino chips and bank the cash, said Jo Lightfoot, now that I can do. How times have changed!

In my time on committee three people have been key to our success. First is Norman, who runs our teaching programme and the result is seen in Kim and Claire, our most improved players who will take us forward. Kim is an expert marketeer who runs several businesses and Claire is a chartered accountant who was head of finance at Bromley CC. Thanks Norman for all your support and for rejoining the committee.

Bridge is a frustrating game, especially when you don't have the cards. Mike Penney has spent years making sure that never happened. He dealt literally thousands of hands and is one of the most reliable, honest and meticulous men I know and the club owes him a great deal. Our aging dealing machine has now been joined by a brand new model to allow James Foster and Brian Hogg to share the dealing now. Thanks to both of them for replacing Mike.

Last but by no means least is our treasurer Mr Hunt. I would not be Chairman if John had not signed up and his calmness and voice of reason were hugely important in the committee's decision making. His report will highlight how the club's finances have improved substantially and it's testament to his coolness under fire. So many thanks to John.

I thank our catering guru Wendy for keeping everyone fed and watered, John Oakland and Rodney for continuing to grow Tuesday to 30% of revenue, Kim for dragging us screaming into the digital age and finally John Hemington who captained us to four consecutive winning Corbett Cups.

Thanks also go to Jenny, who stepped down as a trustee of FVH after years representing our interests and which Kim and I will continue to do, Hilary and all the scorers, directors, key-holders and hosts, without whom Farnborough simply could not function.

Chris Clegg, Chair (outgoing)

6. **Treasurer's report** The Treasurer's report for 2024-2025 was as follows:

The club enjoyed an increase in club funds of just over **£8000** last year. The reasons being:

1. Membership increased by 29, up from 154 to 183, all paid up which raised an extra **£312.00**.
2. There was also an increase of **£3262** in table money, up 18% on last year.
 - This can be attributed in part to the 50p increase in table money introduced this year but there was also a 3% increase in overall attendance which was an extra 150 visits over the course of the year.
 - The Tuesday attendance increased by 45% to 1378 visits. Special thanks to Rodney Meredith and John Oakland for their commitment to Tuesday bridge.
 - The Wednesday attendance dropped by 2.5% to 2318 visits.
 - The Friday attendance dropped by 11% to 1754 visits.
 - There were 5450 total visits made up of 207 different players attending.
3. Also included in the increase is **£670** for pre-payment of table money.
4. The other large contributor to the increase in income was from the Monday lessons totalling **£2846**. From this figure Hall rental and refreshments need to be deducted so the final contribution was circa **£2000**.
5. The extra income of **£13266** from the successful Worthing Trip was all paid out to the Hotel.
6. We also hold **£3493** in our account in advance payments for the 75th Anniversary gathering in September. This will cover the majority of the costs but we may need to subsidise the event a little but expect the extra to be nominal.
7. Bank interest increased by **£100** to reflect the higher income.
8. Also, there were 79 hosts over the year equating to **£312** in account credits.

Outgoings have also increased by **£18797**. However, if you deduct the Worthing Trip, the actual increase in outgoings was **£5531**. The reasons being:

1. Hall rent went up 21% or just over **£1500**, mainly due to the extra Monday lesson sessions of 2 hours. However, the rental rate also increased by 7.5% from £13 per hour to £14 per hour. No further increases are currently expected.

2. Refreshments only increased by **£250** which is remarkable as included in the increase is **£100** for the purchase of 2 new kettles and 2 new dispensing flasks! Wendy continues to defy inflation!
3. The other major expenses were **£800** for the purchase of 480 new packs of cards and also **£3300** for a new up to date dealing machine. We have 2 new volunteers to do the dealing, James Foster and Brian Hogg, and the task is quite substantial with 3 sessions per week. Many thanks to them both for volunteering and also to Mike Penney for all his hard work doing the dealing for many years.
4. Miscellaneous includes the cost of flowers, new table cloths made by Fiona Sinclair and the vouchers for the Swiss Pairs event in September.

The Christmas party was attended by 45 people, 17 fewer than last year. 80% of the cost was covered by attendees and the raffle, leaving a deficit of **£288**.

I would also like to thank Richard Anscombe for auditing the accounts once again this year and also to all those who have volunteered in many different roles assisting with the running of the club in recent years.

John Hunt, Treasurer (outgoing)

Richard Anscombe, Independent examiner of accounts had previously approved the accounts for year end 2026.

John also reported on the Committee's decision to change bank from HSBC. Some passwords and other information were set up when the account was opened and no one has access to this information. HSBC threatened to close our account by today, 19th August and block any transactions. John spent some time on various phone calls and also went into branch where the staff were understanding and called the relevant team without success. To that end, the Committee has removed all funds from HSBC into a temporary account, and started the process of opening a new account at NatWest. This should be up and running by mid September. Members were previously emailed to request all payments should be held until this time.

7. Election of independent examiner of accounts

John Hunt accepted this role for the coming year.

Approved

8. AOB

1. Christmas party: It was agreed that we play bridge as usual but with wine and mince pies.
2. Reserve funds: It was noted we will need to replace the old dealing machine
3. Competitions: Members discussed the problem of non-members taking part in member-only competitions and whether to turn them away. Although a vote was 'yes', we then agreed that the club should appear more friendly and the committee would review some of these competitions going forward. There was also the question of ladies / mens / mixed pairs where members arrive with a partner that does not work within the specified competition. This is also a problem for Directors and Scorers and further discussion took place as to whether a) it should be allowed and b) whether their score should count. It was agreed they cannot win but the Club/Committee needs to decide whether they should be playing within non relevant competitions. It was suggested that members should check the calendar and be aware of which competitions specify entrant types.
4. Ladies and Gentlemen's pairs: In the last competition year, there were far more male than female pairs and the director tried running one movement rather than two divisions. It was agreed that no matter how many pairs of each ladies/mens, it should be run as two individual movements.
5. Charles Scott reminded members of the amount of hard work put in by the committee.
6. Kim Romanski thanked Chris Clegg for his amazing work during his 3yrs as Chairman.

9. Presentation of trophies

Congratulations to trophy winners as follows:

Boxwell Cup - Championship Pairs

John Hemington & John Amor (2025)

Smith Cup - Teams of 4 Championship:

David Hudson, Colin Game, John Erdos, Bob Manser

De Winter Cup - Ladies Pairs

Jean O'Doherty & Rajinder Sehmi

Hitch Cup - Mens Pairs

John Erdos & Roger Pechey

Burton Pryor Cup

Stephen Brown, Michael Collins, John Hemington, John Amor

Hopper Cup - Cut in Teams

Leila Williams, Richard Anscombe, Tony Conway, Bob Kendall

Poole Flitch - Mixed Pairs

Sue Parkins & Brendan Doolan

Rayner Trophy - Mixed Pairs Runners Up

Mary Kendall & Bob Kendall

Jackson Cup - First Wednesday Trophy

Bob Kendall

Rayner Cup - Jackson Cup Runner-up

Tony Conway

Friday Cup - Friday Pairs

Mike Penney & Tom Smith

Friday Ladder

Norman Inniss & Chris Clegg

Friday Ladder - NGS

Moya Nesom & Don Mitchell

Lines Trophy - Most Master Points gained

Bob Kendall

Lillian Martin Bowl - Friday cut in Teams

Mary Kendall & Bob Kendall

Hampton Shield - Highest average score after adjusted Handicap

Mike Penney

Haycocks Cup - Beckenham v Farnborough

Not played

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Kim Romanski
Honorary Secretary