

GLOUCESTER BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 1100 on 16th September 2025 at Coffee House 43, Hucclecote

1. Present

Jon Nicholls (Chair), Elizabeth Bourne, Jeff Chaplin, Stewart Harrison, Ken Morritt, Carol Neale, John Stirrup, Wynne Watts, Carol Wheeler.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 15th July 2025 were approved.

3. Matters Arising from the Previous Committee Meeting

- a) Additional Directors. Ken will attend in due course. Stewart has provided notes on use of the computer.
- b) Programme for 2025/26:
 - John has finalised and printed programme, to be handed out at next sessions.
 - Hannaford & Smyth on 11th November. No Bridge at Elmscroft, Ken to cancel booking. Jon to clarify on website – done.
- c) Third set of keys. Awaited from Community Association.
- d) Complaints process. As agreed at the last meeting, Jon emailed Members on 25 July. Stewart asked All Committee Members to be aware of any bad behaviour, including excessive discussion/unauthorized information, and report to the Director.
- e) Bridgemates from the closed Eckington Bridge Club – £100 donation at next charity pairs. Jon to inform Eckington.
- f) GCBA request for feedback – nothing additional identified.
- g) Trophy policy. Action on Jon from 15th July ongoing.
- h) Card holders. Ken has purchased 4 – very useful.
- i) Risks. Action on Jon to prepare instructions on the website for Jeff – ongoing.

4. Treasurer's Report

- Ken handed out an account summary; small reduction from last year, balance > £3000.
- Move to online banking – set up, not yet used.
- Consider charitable status? Ken to draft a short briefing note – ongoing.

5. Captain's Report

Nothing to report.

6. Correspondence

Jon viewed the recent EBU webinar on training and development. Dates issued for director and teacher training.

7. Premises

Nothing to report.

8. Any Other Business

- a) Tuesday Player Development. Jon had circulated a note on 9th September, proposing that some “Bid and Natter” sessions are held for a table or two of players in parallel with normal play; Jon would run it but might need another helper. After discussion it was agreed that the following would be trialed:
 - Once a month, Jon would offer “Bid and Natter” sessions to up to 8 players in the Green Room.
 - John and Jeff both volunteered to help if required.
 - Hands from the previous Thursday session would be used – random or selected.
 - As players bid, others at the table state / discuss what they understand from the bids, the Declarer then outlines how they would play the hand, and the outcome is compared to the Thursday results. Discussion held as needed.
 - Jon to propose date, liaise with Ken on room booking, and organise.
 - John’s suggestion that some players could have mentoring support was discussed.
Jon will discuss with Alan Stanfield.
- b) New Learners – Gloucester & Churchdown. About 11 learners will complete training on 12th October, and some may attend our Tuesday sessions.
- c) Membership Renewal. To starts in October. Jon to email Members beforehand.
- d) Speed of Play. John raised the issue of speed of play on Thursdays. After discussion, it was agreed that the Director would display a clock and take away a board if it wasn’t started by the appropriate time. Action Stewart. NB: Tuesdays is “Gentle Bridge” and we don’t intend to be as strict on timings.
- e) Bridge Results on Bridgemates. Carol N had been approached by a Member requesting that the “show results to date” option be reinstated on the Bridgemates. Stewart explained that the reason behind not using this option was that Members viewing and discussing the results adds about a minute per hand and that we already have difficulties completing 18 boards in the time available. The Committee agreed that, whilst many would like to see the results, it wasn’t practicable due to time constraints. Stewart to explain this to Members at the next sessions.
- f) Bridgemates Issue. A national Bridgemates software issue had required manual scoring on Thursday 11th September. Stewart has since applied a fix from EBU.

9. Date and Time of Next Meetings

- 11am on 25th November at Coffee House 43 (booked)
- 11am on 20th January 2026 at Coffee House 43 (booked)

10. The meeting closed at 12:10