

GLoucester BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of the Committee Meeting
held at 1100 on 25th November 2025 at Coffee House 43, Hucclecote

1. Present

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

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 16th September 2025 were approved.

3. Matters Arising from the Previous Committee Meeting

- a) Hannaford & Smyth – moved to today at request of Cheltenham.
- b) Third set of keys. Awaited from Community Association.
- c) Bridgemates from the closed Eckington Bridge Club – Eckington informed that we will donate £100 at next charity pairs (left in Minutes as a reminder).
- d) Trophy policy. Action on Jon from 15th July ongoing.
- e) Risks. Action on Jon to prepare instructions on the website for Jeff – ongoing.
- f) Bid & Natter – successful first session, 4 tables, held 28 October by Jon and John. Next session 9 December.
- g) Mentoring – Jon discussed with Alan, not to be pursued.
- h) Membership Renewal – Ken handed out list, 67 renewed to date, update at next meeting.
- i) Speed of play – not yet implemented. See also under Item 6 below.
- j) Bridge Results on Bridgemates – Stewart explained to members, closed.

4. Treasurer's Report

- Ken handed out an account summary; small increase since last year, balance ~£3600.
- Move to online banking – set up, not yet used.
- Consider charitable status? Ken to draft a short briefing note – ongoing.

It was agreed that the Director should not be charged Table Money.

[Note for the record: We also do not charge those who (i) the Committee recognise as regularly attending to “make up the numbers” at Tuesday sessions; or (ii) make themselves available to be called in to “make up the numbers” at either session.]

5. Captain's Report

Hannaford & Smyth being played this afternoon. [Post-Meeting Note: 24 Gloucester Members played in this friendly event at Cheltenham, both trophies being won by them. Well organised by Steve B for Cheltenham and John for us.]

John pointed out that the GCBA Everett Cup is being held on Saturday 6th December.

6. Correspondence

Jon summarised a video by Yorkshire CBA on use of tablets for scoring. Bridgemates III are 7” tablets replacing the current hand-held devices – cost ~£2600 for 10 tablet set, no ongoing

cost. Or can buy own 7" tablets for about £1000 for 10 tablets and supporting equipment, no ongoing costs (for the EBU supplied software option). Jon to circulate link to the video [Post-Meeting Note: Circulated November 26th.] One option on the tablets is to activate the clock option, which displays on each device - it seems more acceptable to have a device increasing speed of play rather than a Director! All agreed they would be clearer and easier to use, but noted that the current Bridgemates remain adequate. Would be useful to see tablets in action at a club. Can discuss further at next meeting. [Post-Meeting Note: John checked with Cheltenham, they have no current plans to go down the tablet route.]

7. Premises

Nothing to report.

8. Any Other Business

- a) Christmas/New Year Party Tuesday 13th January 2026. Jon read out details from the email about the 2025 party – food and drink was brought by Member, then 9 tables played 15 boards. Carol W pointed out we had a lot of food left over and we would probably have more attendees this year. Catering was discussed in detail, and it was agreed that:
- There would be no charge to Members (neither Table Money nor food and drink).
 - The Club would provide the food and drink – 50 attendees as an initial assumption.
 - Jeff would look at food and drink provided by the Club in previous years.
 - Jeff and Carol W would liaise over food.
 - Carol N would provide the drink, liaising with Ken, who will talk to the Community Association, noting that our Hire Agreement says "Alcoholic drinks are not permitted ... unless purchased from our [Community Association's] licensed bar."
 - Jon to email Members with arrangements at the appropriate time.
- b) Tuesday Session Start Time. Ken pointed out that players are generally ready to play by 1:30, so should we start at 1:30 and play 20 or 21 boards rather than 18? Generally supported by the Committee. All to consider further and discuss with Stewart or Jon.

9. Date and Time of Next Meetings

- 11am on 20th January at Coffee House 43 (booked)
- 11am on 17th March at Coffee House 43 (to be booked, 24th as an alternative).

10. The meeting closed at 12:00