

GLOUCESTER BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of the Committee Meeting
held at 1100 on 20th January 2026 at Coffee House 43, Hucclecote

1. Present

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

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 25th November 2025 were approved.

3. Matters Arising from the Previous Committee Meeting

- a) Third set of keys. Awaited from Community Association.
- b) Trophy policy. Action on Jon from 15th July ongoing.
- c) Risks. Action on Jon to prepare instructions on the website for Jeff – ongoing.
- d) Membership Renewal – 71 renewed to date [Post-Meeting Note – 60 stated in error, plus 1 more renewed since]. 6 did not renew, now “Visitors” on Members’ list. Carol N to contact Robert Champion as we were unsure whether he had renewed.
- e) Speed of play – no further action required. Closed.
- f) New Year Party Feedback – We received 12 responses to our email requesting feedback on the party held on 13th January, verbatim extracts of which have been circulated to the Committee – all were complimentary – the Committee thanked Carol N, Carol W, Jeff and Stewart for their efforts. From the feedback, Jon highlighted two lines to access food, drinks by the door, take names as people arrive, and disorganised ending to the session. The various contributors passed receipts to Ken – about £220 in total? The following principles were agreed:
 - To be held at the second Tuesday session of the year.
 - Start time to be 1:00, Bridge 1:40, Bridge finish ~3.50, quiz, prizes ~4.05.
 - Club provides food and drink, no charge to attendees.
 - Jon, to liaise with Carol N, Carol W, Jeff and Stewart, to produce a note on organisation of the party, to be kept on the website for future reference.

4. Treasurer's Report

[Bridgemates from Eckington – to donate £100 at 10/12 March charity pairs.]

- The current balance is ~£3800; Ken to provide written update.
- Move to online banking – will be active shortly.
- Charitable status – Ken confirmed that as we had a turnover of over between £5-10k, we should register as a charity, but would not need to submit accounts. It was agreed that Ken should register us as a charity. It is likely that this will require a change to our Constitution – Jon to consider once we are registered.

5. Captain's Report

- Charity Sim Pairs (Mind & McMillan Cancer Support) March 10 & 12 – Jon to register our two sessions. [Post-Meeting Note – entered, files being sent to John.]
- Rank Xerox teams of 4, Saturday 21 February – possibly Glenn, Elizabeth, Jeff and Ken. John to confirm and register this team.
- Cotswold Cup Charity Pairs, Sunday 1 March – any pair entering is paired with an expert pair.

- John to provide a handout for the Bridge tables about the Rank Xerox and Cotswold Cup, to determine if anyone else wishes to take part. Jon to add details to website.

6. Correspondence

GCBA is running a Director's Workshop on 14th February. Stewart is aware.

Alan Stanfield had written (1st December) to the Club with three items. [Post-Meeting Note – Jon discussed with, and emailed, Alan as below.]

- We agreed to share the cost of Alan's Wednesday Realbridge sessions with Churchdown BC, typically £9 every 2 months.
- We agreed to holding friendly matches against Churchdown for (say) NGS 4 or below.
- The pros and cons of whether Gloucester and Churchdown clubs should merge was discussed – the meeting did not consider this would be of sufficient benefit. Stewart mentioned the possible future redevelopment of Elmscroft might influence this.

7. Premises

Nothing to report.

8. Any Other Business

- a) Ken and Jon attended the funeral of John Cairns, one of our Members.
- b) Carol N has contacted Phil Rattenbury who was due back yesterday to the UK after being taken ill in Spain. Rosiah is back home. John will talk to Phil.
- c) Tuesday Session Start Time. The results of the consultation were discussed. It was agreed that we should start at 1:30 (15 minutes earlier than currently), requiring people to attend by 1:20, giving time for a few more boards. This would start on 3rd February, Jon to email Members. Carol W suggested we should "lock the doors" at 1:20, only allowing in afterwards anyone who had let us know, eg. due to bad traffic.
- d) Breaks. An email from a Member during the above consultation highlighted the potential health issues of sitting for several hours without a break. The experience of Committee members was that a "short break" tended to disrupt play for up to 30 minutes! On this basis, it was agreed that:
 - breaks would not be introduced, Members should bring drinks as at present
 - anyone that found this a particular problem should opt for a non-sitting seat, or could stretch their legs at times
 - Jon will email Members on this topic.
- e) Carol N stated that Louise Keeling from Churchdown BC has asked whether we could run a very gentle section on a Tuesday afternoon for her (~6) new Bridge players to experience a Bridge session. Carol N to give her Stewart's phone number, so that Louise and Stewart could discuss and agree a date and format.

9. Date and Time of Next Meetings

- 11am on 17th March at Coffee House 43 (booked).
- AGM to be held on 12th May, two weeks earlier than previously programmed. [Post-Meeting Note – Jon has updated the programme on the website.]
- 11am on 19th May at Coffee House 43 for the new committee (Jon to book).

10. The meeting closed at 12:20