

GLOUCESTER BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of the Committee Meeting
held at 1100 on 17th March 2026 at Coffee House 43, Hucclecote

1. Present

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

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 20th January 2026 were approved.

3. Matters Arising from the Previous Committee Meeting

- a) Third set of keys. Received.
- b) Trophy policy. Jon had circulated a note, reflecting earlier discussions (11/24, 5/25). It was agreed that lists of competition winners would be handed out at the AGM, the Most Improved Player shield would be engraved and presented at the AGM, but no other trophies (unless thought expedient). Jon will issue certificates, as previously. Unused trophies would be recycled once all information on them is captured, and website Rolls of Honour would be completed.
- c) Website. Jeff can now operate the website. Jeff and Jon will review the layout of the website and add any Club documentation, eg. the website instructions.
- d) Membership Renewal – Carol N confirmed Robert Champion has renewed.
- e) New Year Party Notes – Agreed note to be added to website (as per (c) above).
- f) Phil – now back.
- g) Tuesday start time – earlier start (arrive by 1:15, start 1:30) successfully in operation.
- h) Breaks – advice included in email to all Members on 26th January.
- i) Gentle session for Louise Keeling – Louise contacted, no requirement at the moment.

4. Treasurer's Report

- Ken handed out a summary and report to year end (31st March) based on anticipated transactions; no significant change over the last year.
- Recommends no change in table money/subscription for 2026/7 – all agreed. Prior to the AGM, Ken will email final accounts to Committee members.
- £240 was raised from the March charity simultaneous pairs, which will all be sent off, together with £100 donation for the Bridgemates from Eckington. The Club will pay the administrative charges.
- Move to online banking – Ken, will be active shortly.
- Charitable status – Ken, ongoing. It may 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 10th & 12th – Tuesday: 3 in top 13; Thursday: Jon & Jeff second nationally.
- 2 Gloucester teams played in the Rank Xerox and 2 pairs played in the Cotswold Cup.
- Cross-imp scoring ("teams scoring for pairs") trialed on Thursday 26th February, but not included for NGS – Stewart to resolve with EBU. See also discussion under AOB 8(c).

6. Correspondence

Alan has provided a flyer for Café Bridge at Stroud. Agreed to add to noticeboard.

7. Premises

- Ken has updated Tuesday booking times to reflect new start times.
- A projector is being fitted in the hall on 24th March and may cause disturbance – noted.

8. Any Other Business

- a) AGM on Tuesday 12th May. Start time agreed as 1:00. Jon to produce nomination forms, notifications, etc. Ken suggested handouts for tables to speed up the AGM. All of the Committee would serve again if requested.
- b) Need to update Club data protection (GDPR) policy. Jeff to review the existing policy and, if necessary, produce an update. There may be issues if we become a charity.
- c) Cross-imps and Teams (see also 5 above).
 - i. Stewart to select dates for iv. and vi. below for this summer.
 - ii. Jon to provide table handouts on Teams / Cross-Imps tactics.
 - iii. Teams – on the day, select top and lowest rated pairs as a team, and so on.
 - iv. Teams – hold one session on a Tuesday (July 14th?) and a Thursday (July 16th?) this summer. If odd number of pairs, postpone to next even number session.
 - v. Teams – based on experience this summer, programme one winter and one summer teams events for both Tuesday and Thursday.
 - vi. Cross-Imps – hold one session per month for both Tuesday and Thursday through the summer, and if successful hold one session per month next season.
 - vii. Cross-Imps – can we show both MPs and IMPs on results? Stewart to investigate.
- d) Thursday evening support for new learners/improvers. After Alan's last Bridge training (26th April) there is likely to be new players who could only attend evenings. It was agreed that we should support this on Thursdays by having an extra table(s) at one end of the hall with at-shoulder support. Volunteers for such support would minimize disruption to normal play. New players to be charged £3 table money and be encouraged to join the Club. Jon is liaising with the players.
- e) Ken to attend Director's course. Carol N stated that Liz McWalter is a qualified director.

9. Date and Time of Next Meetings

- AGM at 1pm on 12th May at Elmscroft.
- 11am on 19th May at Coffee House 43 for the new committee (booked).
- 11am on 14th July at Coffee House 43 (booked).

10. The meeting closed at 12:00