GLOUCESTER BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of the Committee Meeting
held at 1100 on 15th September 2026 at Coffee House 43, Hucclecote

1. Present

Jon Nicholls (Chair), Tim Burton, Jeff Chaplin, Stewart Harrison, Gill Hitchings, Ken Morritt, John Stirrup, Wynne Watts, Carol Wheeler. Apologies from Carol Neale.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 14th July 2026 were approved.

3. Matters Arising from the Previous Committee Meeting

a) Review of website. Ongoing, Jeff & Jon.
b) GDPR policy update. Ongoing, Jeff.
c) Thursday development. As agreed at the previous meeting, various discussions, led by Tim and Stewart, have been held on how to transition players to normal sessions and, from 1st October, a development section of 2 tables is to be set up in the hall. Scoring: both sections combined for the Club and just the normal section for EBU. Tim is to arrange some experienced player support for the development section. This arrangement was supported by the Committee. Jon will inform regular Thursday players.
d) 50-year Members. Carol W confirmed only Enid C. To be marked at the Party.
e) Flyers to advertise our Club. Superseded by Taster Session.
f) High temperatures and fans. Ken confirmed no fans are provided by Elmscroft.
g) Safeguarding. Jeff has a copy of the original from Ro. Jon to resolve and provide to Committee Members.
h) Lessons. Members emailed 21st July. Closed.
i) GCBA visit. Alan S (for GCBA) given dates when they can attend a Committee Meeting.
j) Taster free place. Superseded by events, closed.
k) Taster Session in the Blue Room 7-9pm on September 23rd. Feedback from the equivalent Churchdown session was given by Carol W, who was there, and from Alan S via Jon (email to Committee 13th September). It had been successful with 10 attendees supported by 4 Churchdown members. Alan S is providing some materials and GCBA and EBU are helping to advertise. The supporters for our session will be Jeff, Jon, Pat A, Stewart and Terry B. Jon will co-ordinate.

4. Treasurer's Report

a) Ken handed out a monthly summary up to 4th September. Little change. Noted.
b) Move to online banking. Ongoing, Ken.
c) Charitable status. Ken handed out EBU guidance; their website has a 45 minute video; Ken to send links. All to review and give their views to Ken. If accepted, the next step will be to revise our Constitution. Carol W asked about financial benefit – expected to be of the order of £200 p.a.
d) Membership renewal. To commence on 1st October, remain at £10.

5. Captain's Report

a) 2026-27 Programme. John handed out the final draft, the only outstanding issue being Cheltenham's agreement to date of the H&S. John will issue this week, and the calendar on the website can be updated – Jeff. It was agreed that we would not identify Cross-Imps or Teams on the programme, but leave to Stewart as Director to choose.
b) SIM Pairs. EBED SIM Pairs held last week. Julia C & Gill came 4th nationally (17 clubs).

6. Correspondence

GCBA have asked what assistance they can provide.

On 6th September GCBA had sent the Cheltenham Bridge Development Programme, which is open to all, to all EBU members. John thought that some of our Members may not have opened this email as it came from the County association. Jon will forward it out to all our Members.

7. Premises

Ken has asked that the heating be switched on.

8. Any Other Business

a) New Member's Pack. Tim's proposal circulated 7th August – all agreed this was a good idea. Tim will produce a draft pack for comment.
b) Anti-Bullying Policy. Gill & Tim's joint proposal circulated 7th August. An extensive discussion, recognising the need to raise awareness, and the difficulty of raising and dealing with bullying or other unwelcome behaviour. Jeff suggested including Safeguarding in the policy. Tim will produce a draft policy for comment.
c) Realbridge Development Session. Alan S runs Wednesday evening 1+ hour development sessions on Realbridge, which are subsidised equally by Churchdown and ourselves. The Committee confirmed their support in principle for this (relatively inexpensive) approach to player development. Can we provide support to Alan as directors of the sessions? John suggested we should review the benefits of these sessions in, say, 4 months. Stewart suggested all attendees should at least be members of one of the clubs. Jon will discuss all this with Alan.

9. Date and Time of Next Meetings

- 11am on 17th November at Coffee House 43 (booked).
- 11am on 19th January 2027 at Coffee House 43 (to be booked).

10. The meeting closed at 12:10

Circulated 16/9/2026