

# **Minutes of Harpenden Duplicate Bridge Club**

## **Held by Zoom 27 January 2026 at 7 pm**

There was a disappointing attendance this year.

### **Quick recap**

The meeting began with a discussion about recording the session and approval of last year's minutes, followed by updates on membership growth and session capacity concerns. Financial reports were presented, showing stable expenses and increased revenue with a healthy surplus, leading to a decision to maintain current membership and table money rates through 2026. The committee discussed venue rebooking for the Christmas party and confirmed the re-election of existing members, with gratitude expressed to Roger Senior for his contributions.

### **Next steps**

- Dave: Send out membership fee bills to members who have not yet paid, next week.
- Committee: Discuss and consider ways to return surplus to members (e.g., increased subsidy for Christmas party, other member benefits) at the next committee meeting.
- Committee: Rebook and ensure the Christmas party is scheduled for 14th December 2026 at the same venue (already actioned as of today, but noted as a future event to manage).

### **Summary**

#### **Club Growth and Session Updates**

The meeting began with a discussion about recording the session using AI, which was met with mixed reactions from the attendees. Richard mentioned that the meeting would be brief, and noted that some members had apologised for their absence. The group then approved last year's meeting minutes with a 100% vote. Richard reported that the club's membership had grown to 216, with another member expected to join soon. He also noted that the four sessions were running well, with Monday sessions approaching capacity, which might require a venue change or new system. The teaching programme was successful, with two sessions accommodating around 20 students each, and some former students considering joining the club's Friday or Wednesday morning sessions. It is hoped that more existing members will play on Wednesday mornings.

## **Club Financial Review and Projections**

Dave presented the club's financial accounts, noting that playing prices remained unchanged at £2 while table money income had increased by almost £800. He reported a healthy surplus from teaching activities, with expenses remaining stable year-on-year except for EBU costs which were increasing. The club's reserves stood at £12,000, and Dave proposed maintaining table money at £2 and annual membership subscription at £10 through 2026.

## **Club Financial Planning and Reserves**

The committee discussed the club's financial position, with Gill Burn suggesting that surplus funds could be used to reduce the cost of the Christmas party for members. Richard agreed this was a good idea and noted that the club had been deliberately aiming to make a loss in recent years, though Sarah advised maintaining 6-12 months of reserves. The committee also confirmed that membership would remain at £10 and table money at £2 per head, and Dave announced that membership bills would be sent out the following week.

## **Committee Re-election and Christmas Plans**

The meeting discussed the re-election of the existing committee members, with the exception of Roger Senior who has decided not to stand again. The committee members expressed their gratitude to Roger for his long-standing contributions. The group also confirmed the rebooking of the Christmas party venue for December 14th, following the success of previous events.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.