

Minutes

Hearts of Sussex Bridge Club AGM 2025

Meeting held 18 November 2025 & 6.30 pm at Age Concern, Hassocks

Attended by: Adrian Alexander, Brian Drabble (secretary), Liz McConachie, Margaret Watson, Barbara Hepher, Enid Scott, Vincent L'Estrange, Sue Cottrell, Stephen Parnell, David Jaggar, John Drake, Jackie Drake, Jenny Morgan, Ken Morgan, Anmie Edie, Margaret Drake, Len North (Treasurer), Lynda McBeth (membership secretary), Peter Knight (chair), Roger Hartless, Roger Brindley, Liz Brindley, Mo Etherington, Sally Mead, Ann Brooks, Larry Tweedie, Martin Wheatley, Stephen Royle, Valerie Dickens

1. Welcome by Chairperson

Peter welcomed everyone to the fifth AGM of the Hearts of Sussex Bridge Club.

2. Apologies for Absence

Gwen Knight, Jeanette Grant, Jill Standen, Ray Medhurst, Graham Medhurst, Brian Bowen, Tony Chaitow (website Mgr).

3. Minutes of the 4th AGM

Held 10 November 2024 were accepted unanimously.

4. Chairman's Report

Peter thought the last year had been one of the quietest he could remember with Tuesday numbers down to about 6 tables and Monday evenings also declining.

Peter asked for any feedback from members to help pinpoint reasons for lower numbers.

Peter then thanked the work done by the committee: Brian as secretary, Len as treasurer, Lynda as membership secretary and Tony for his behind the scene web managing.

The away day was a success and it is hoped to get enough support for another away day in the Spring of 2026.

5. Secretary's Report

Brian gave some statistics regarding members.

	This year	Last year
Total Registered Members (club status = member)	64	90
Members with BBO username	53	72
F2F Members (paid membership)	50	51
Since 01 January number of members played at least once	73	66

Brian thanked Lynda for her efforts as membership secretary and Tony for organising Thursday casual games and helping run the website.

Thursday evening Casual Bridge continues to provide a platform for those wishing to play online but prefer an informal evenings play, or like to play with the Club more than once a week.

New Casual players would be very welcome even if not on a regular basis.

The website is well used - we have had 28,600 hits on our webpages this year.

The club is running well but we would welcome a few more players to any of our games: we have averaged 4.3 tables (4.7 last year) on Mondays and 6.5 tables (6.1 last year) on Tuesday over the past 6 months.

Thanks to Peter, Vincent, Sue and Margaret for regularly directing on Tuesdays, also for Larry and Chris for covering Mondays whenever I've not been able to Direct on BBO.

Thanks also to all members who help setting up tables or staying and tidying up after play finishes.

6.Treasurer's Report

Len first said thank you to the Committee and our membership for their support.

It is good to report that our finances are in good shape.

We have seen a revenue increase in Face to Face, with average attendance just below 27 members each evening; which is encouraging, and just up on last year. Our F2F membership was also good.

Our On-line income, however, was down about 10%. Some of this can be explained by foreign exchange, Pound to Dollar, not working in our favour, but we are also down on numbers. It is a good source of income for our Club, but unfortunately does show a decline. If attendance stays roughly the same I see no issue with 2026 finances, but it is something we will need to keep an eye on.

The use of table vouchers continues to work well. My thanks to Lynda McBeth for the collection of table money and vouchers, and the subsequent payment of monies into the bank. I would ask members, where possible, to pay for vouchers on-line as it does reduce the handling of money and potential cost: we will be charged for paying cash into our account.

With a strong financial reserve we took the option of some expenditure.

We have purchased 12 mini tablets, which we are now using. The larger screens are better for clarity and we have received good feed-back. We have also purchased a Duplimator. This is taking computer set hands and down loading them into boards. It works well and is fascinating to watch as it fills the boards.

Collectively the members of our Club have made a good contribution to charities. This year we supported the Air Ambulance.

The Bridge away day, has proved popular. It is intended to financially support the next one, hopefully in the Spring.

Going forward our surplus (or deficit) for the 2025/26 will depend on:

- 1 The number of members playing each week at this venue.
- 2 The number of members playing on-line and the £ to \$ Exchange rate affecting our monthly commission.

- 3 Any inflation cost relating to our expenditure.
- 4 The use of Bank Transfer for payment of vouchers is encouraged.

I feel confident that our Club is on a sound financial footing, as we continue to have sufficient numbers playing on Monday & Tuesday, together with a good reserve in the bank.

Any change in Membership fee or table money is not envisaged or recommended for this coming year.

The accounts were adopted without comment.

7. Constitution changes

Peter and Brian explained the reason behind the change: young people could be supervised playing face to face but the Director can not provide supervision on line. The club could therefore be held liable should anything untoward happen online.

The resolution was universally accepted.

8. Election of Committee for 2024/25

- a) *Chairman*
- b) *Secretary*
- c) *Treasurer*
- d) *Co-opt Membership Secretary*
- e) *Co-opt Website Manager*

The three officers (Peter Knight, Len North, Brian Drabble) were unanimously elected unopposed.

Lynda Mcbeth (membership secretary) and Tony Chaitow (website manager) were co-opted.

9. Elect Account examiner for coming year

Vincent L'Estrange was willing to undertake this again and was universally approved.

10. Any Other Business

There was none

11. Closure

The meeting closed at 6.41pm.