



Hungerford Bridge Club

AGM

6.30pm on 21st January 2026 at The Royal British Legion, Hungerford

Chair's Report for 2025

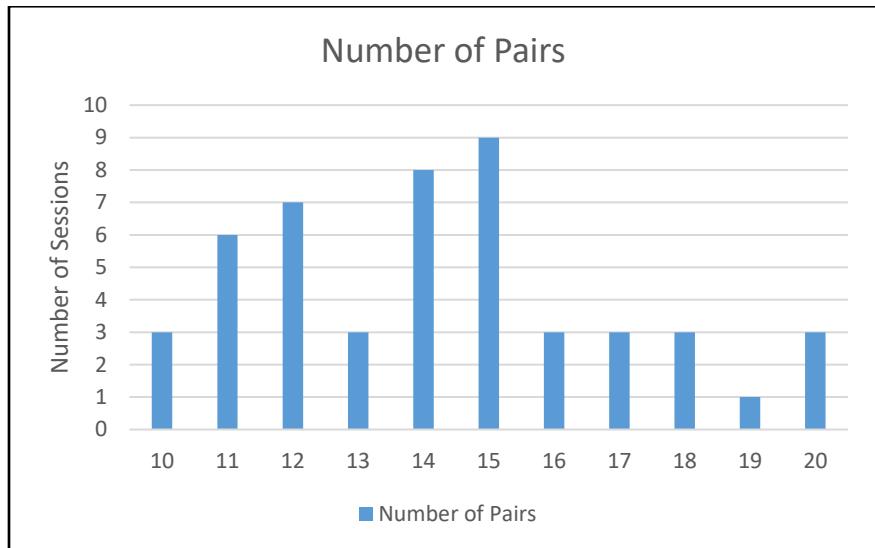
(Presented to the AGM in January 2026)

Last year was steady and uneventful in terms of our Bridge, with overall attendances similar to 2024. The health of our Club is very much indicated by attendance levels - during 2025 we played 49 times with an average of 14 pairs (seven tables) per session. This is summarised in the two diagrams below:

The attendance graph on the right shows the number of sessions over the course of 2025 where we had the specified number of pairs playing in that session.

The table on the right compares attendances in 2025 against 2024 and 2023. As can be seen, 2025 is very similar to 2024 – it is a positive sign that the lowest number of attendees (on three occasions) was 10 pairs as opposed to a low of 9 pairs in each of the previous two years.

The 49 sessions we played in 2025 is two fewer than both 2023 & 2024 – this is due to Christmas & New Year's Eve both being on a Wednesday, plus the first session of 2025 was cancelled due to bad weather



Year	Sessions	Pairs Playing			
		Total	Max	Min	Average
2023	51	826	22	9	16.2
2024	51	720	19	9	14.1
2025	49	698	20	10	14.2

We welcomed 10 new members to the Club during 2025 but, due to a number of members not renewing, our total membership only increased by two from 63 to 65.

During the year we were saddened to hear of the death of David Barratt, Liz Recaldin and Minty Clinch, as well as past members Colin Goldsmith and Sally James.

As noted in the Hon Treasurer's report, our financial position is very slightly better off than 2024 – this is due to the increase in table money for Sims, removing the unintended subsidy. The Committee are comfortable with the current situation, though we recognise that our financial security very much depends on healthy attendances. As such, we consider the reserves are suitable and sufficient to cover any

potential slight downturn in attendance levels during 2026 as well as maintaining cover for any potential future issues with the Club laptop; the bridgemates; and dilapidation of the tables and equipment.

In line with this the Committee recommend that the membership fee and table money remain as-is:

- a) 2026 Subscriptions (Membership Fee) should remain at £10.00
- b) Table money remain as follows:

Event	Table Money	
	Member	Visitor
Normal Club Evening	£2	£4
Sims	£5	£8
Christmas Party	Free	£10

As initially voted for at the AGM in January 2024, and further refined at the AGM last year, we now run six Sims in the year – four being ECats charity Sims (including Children in Need) and two being EBU Sims:

Date	Platform	Event	Pairs	Total	Clubs	Top HBC Pair	Position
29/01/2025	Ecats	January Charity Pairs - Unicef	12	114	8	Ann McMahon & Stephen Martin	8
12/03/2025	Ecats	Charity Challenge - Mind/McMillan	20	291	18	Ann McMahon & Sue Oliver	19
14/05/2025	EBU	EBED Spring Pairs	14	205	11	Liz Madeley and Evelyn Archer	12
09/07/2025	Ecats	Summer Charity Pairs - Kidney Res BHF	12	251	18	Evelyne Thomas & Lucy North	33
03/09/2025	EBU	EBED Autumn Pairs	12	269	14	Gill Weeks and Liz Madeley	1
12/11/2025	Ecats	Children In Need	16	1,192	76	Martin Davies & David De-Saxe	14

In line with most organisations, and initially driven by the imperatives of the Covid epidemic, we have moved to a cash-less regime. In support of this, please can I ask the membership to pay online if at all possible, as opposed to paying in cash, as this reduces the administration overhead for our Honorary Treasurer. Also, please only pay the amount requested, when it is requested – paying early, or rounding up your payment, also results in a large administrative overhead.

I wish to thank all those who have contributed to the smooth running of our Club and our bridge evenings: the Directors; the Scorers and the Committee members for all their efforts and invaluable assistance throughout the year:

- Our Club is reliant on this relatively small number of volunteers to run the Club – we actively solicit more.
- We especially ask if anyone would wish to serve on the Committee as an appropriate turnaround of Committee members provides a healthy and beneficial injection of new ideas.

Lastly, whilst there has been a noticeable improvement following my plea last year, it is still apparent that the group of members who arrive early to set up our sessions and/or stay later to help tidy up afterwards is often relatively small – I appreciate some members have unavoidable commitments or other valid reasons to be unable to help, but please can I ask that we all consider joining in and assisting in these activities. I ask that we all especially ensure our glasses and bottles are returned to the bar and not just abandoned in the hall.

Thank you.

Bill Russell
Chair