

Officers & Members Present

Neil Marsden (NM), chair & Barnstaple: Jacqui Munns (JM), secretary & Braunton: Stephen Rafferty (SR), treasurer: Richard Watkins (RW), Taw Vale.

John Wintle (JW) has stepped down from the committee with immediate effect. It was suggested that we should try and find another member.

1. Minutes of the meeting dated September 2, 2024

These were agreed and accepted as accurate with no matters arising that are not covered below.

2. Treasurer's Report

SR was temporarily unable to access the accounts but confirmed that, with 19 attendees, the beginners' classes will make a profit.

3. Seminar Review

On Tuesday, October 15, Brent gave another excellent seminar at the Barnstaple Library, but this was unfortunately attended by only eight people. The seminar will make a loss of approximately £50.

4. Bridge Classes for Beginners

The Bridge for Beginners classes started on Monday September 30, at Roundswell Community Centre with 15 students, 14 of whom were able to attend the first session. Numbers have since grown and we now have 19 students in total. NM & JM are leading the sessions with help from JW, SR, & RW at the table during play. Feedback has been very good. It was agreed that the person preparing and running each session should receive an honorarium of £10.

As ten lessons will not be enough to cover everything in the red book, it was agreed to continue after Christmas for a few weeks. Our students will then need further support while they transition from classroom to clubroom, and JM suggested that she could use the online facility on BBO to run some supported sessions.

It was also agreed that we should start another beginner's class in the spring on a Wednesday.

**Action** NM & JM to plan the content for the remaining lessons, decide on the number and content of the extra lessons in 2025, and the starting date for the next beginners' lessons.

5. Devon Competitions

Sign up for all Devon Bridge Association competitions has so far been low or zero. It was agreed that both Taw Vale and Braunton would enter a club team in the Devon Club Teams event on Sunday, February 23.

The recent No Fear Bridge Pairs in Exeter was a great success and a second event is planned for Sunday May 11, 2025.

Volunteers will be needed to run this event.

**Action** JM & RW to liaise re team members as there is considerable membership overlap between the clubs

6. Filleigh Swiss Teams for the North Devon Charity Cup

This event will take place on Sunday, November 17, and will follow the usual format. NM has confirmed the availability of Hospice helpers. JM will do the teams allocations and will buy the wine and the sandwiches; NM will buy the cakes & the crisps. Steve M will run the raffle and we will ask the Rogers to do the refreshments on arrival. Information and an entry form are now on the website with 18 pairs currently signed up.

7. North Devon Congress

We have had our first entry.

8. The Charity Teams for the Dartington Glass Trophy

The date for this event will be Sunday, March 23, 2025. It will follow the usual format of 36 boards played and players will enter as a team. NM has confirmed the hall booking.

9. AOB

JM asked for the committee to think of another storage solution and RW kindly offered to store equipment in his cellar. It was agreed that we could probably dispose of some equipment, particularly old bidding boxes.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next North Section meeting will be on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 10am, on Zoom.

Jacqui Munns, North Devon Section Secretary