

MINUTES

Nottingham Bridge Club 26th April 2025

PRESENT:

President Andrew Scott
Chairman Phil Gross
Treasurer Paul Goodwin
Secretary Jean Mckee
Trustees Stefka Samus, Sue Hollins, Dave Crowch, Margaret Litchfield,
Sue Hollins, Gerry McCormack, Amanda Knight, Dave Treharne

1 **Apologies:** Marc Gaudart

2 **Minutes** of the meeting held on 8th February 2025. Accepted with minor revision.

3 **Matters arising**

Sue Hollins is contacting the agents regarding the flats - the upgrading and the out of work tenant. Also required is the need for a Gas safety certificate .

Gerry is dealing with the council about the car park. It was proposed to pay the outstanding amount up to the 23rd June 2024. More investigations are needed. A renegotiation of contract will be necessary when the situation is finally rectified.

4 **Decisions taken by email**

The County has permission to use the club premises for a meeting to discuss uptake of bridge within the county.

5 **Chairmans Report**

Phil Gross welcomed new officers and Trustees. New blood is the club's lifeblood and is needed to drive the club forward.

He has started repairing the relationship with the County.

The club may consider restarting a Saturday evening drive either on line or face to face, Phil will mention it in the next newsletter and there will be a notice in the club.

6 **Health and Safety**

There may be a possibility to have defibrillator training. Phil will investigate.

7 **Bridge/Teaching**

Andrew's successful Wednesday lessons are nearing the end and hopefully some of these will move on to play in the drives. Beginner lessons will start again in September. He is also teaching mini-bridge in various locations.

David Dunford is considering more advanced improver lessons after Dave Natrass's sessions.

- 8 Flats /Premises**
The roof is being attended to and then decoration of the bar area will take place.
The Gas safety certificate is in hand.
No smoking signs are in place. Some maintenance work has taken place on the flats.
More work is necessary to bring them up to Government specification.
- 9 Treasurers report**
Funds currently stand at £63,000. With the income from the flats, membership and player fees and the bar there is a steady slow increase in reserve.
- 10 Membership**
Presently 244, 11 are life or honorary members and there is one student (also free), 23 are free (new members from the latest class).
- 11 Suggestions Book**
- Members now need to put their names in the book with their comments.
 - 4 new stools will be purchased for boards but these could only be used if there are more than 3 boards. Otherwise they should remain on the table.
 - It is not possible to employ someone to man the bar Thursday and Friday.
 - Trustees disagree that the hand dryer in the ladies toilets is too slow.
 - Discussion of tablet scores should only occur quietly when time allows.
- 12 Competitions**
- Phil proposes to encourage new members and players to progress with the initiation of a new trophy – The Scott/ Brindley trophy - to recognise the work done by these 2 members. This could be for pairs with an NGS of below a certain value. Phil will look at gradings to see where this best falls.
 - Garden Cities. A team has been entered to represent the Club.
 - To qualify for a Competition from 2026 members should have played at least 6 sessions over the last year. This will be notified on the Website.
- 13 Any other Business**
- Phil Gross has contacted the EBU re declarer play. The recommended way to call for a card is eg. High/low. This seems to generally have been well received. Further EBU discussions ongoing.
 - Petty Cash. The cleaner will buy what she needs.
 - David Dunford continues to ensure cashless payments are working well. The process is being run very well by David. The incoming payments by members would in future be credited more quickly, so that the statements sent to members at the start of each month will accurately reflect their current balance, thus removing some confusion. Noted that club members purchasing supplies or sundry items for the club (and providing associated receipts) have a choice of either requesting reimbursement directly into their bank account (leave details in the treasurer drawer in the office or email treasurer@nottinghambridge.club) or have the amount credited to their cashless table fees account (leave details on the envelope used for host slips in the tray in the office).
 - David Dunford has also set up new 'official' addresses for Club emails.

- Paul Wicks is now part of the Bar committee.
- The Honours Boards will be updated on 22nd/23rd May.
- To clarify issues from AGM. Rules are separate from our Constitution. Rules are what the Bridge Club decides and have to be set at the AGM. Trustees supported the outcome of the following discussions that took place at the AGM in March:
- The rules of Nottingham Bridge Club are able to be altered by a decision of the members (at the AGM) without additional approval of, or notification to, the EBU, the County Association or the Charity Commission provided they do not contradict the requirements of those bodies or our own Constitution.
- The questions raised about the eligibility, and subsequently about the competence, of our independent external examiner had been robustly quashed. Attendees had voted to renew the appointment of the same examiner for the next year.

- A question raised about the presentation of the accounts had been similar to the points raised at the previous year's AGM, when the decision had been made to change to the Receipts and Payments format as recommended by the Charity Commission. A specific point about the visibility of assets and their annual depreciation was agreed to be not valid and indeed not permissible in the Receipts and Payments format. It was acknowledged and appreciated that the member making these suggestions had a finance background, but in this specific point was incorrect in her assumptions. The Trustees were assured that the value of the club's assets would continue to be visible and accurately evaluated. It was noted that in recent years a valuation had been sought on the Mansfield Road property, to explore the possibility of selling and relocating the club to a building with a better layout.

**Date of the next meeting
Saturday 6th September 2pm**