

## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup>. SEPTEMBER, 2026 AT 7PM.

- 1) 25 members were present at the meeting and apologies were received from 10 members.
- 2) The minutes of the previous AGM, held on 2/9/2025 were accepted as a true record; proposed by Wanda Kotowska and seconded by Roy Brixton.
- 3) There were no matters arising from these minutes.
- 4) President's address.

I would like to open this address by asking you all to remember that this is a vice president's address and I will do my best to deputise, with very little experience, as I have been doing for the last 7 months since Val's untimely passing. Both her death and that of many members, both former and current, have hit the club hard this year. Nevertheless, we have had to pick ourselves up and carry on; the bridge club cogs never stop turning.

I need to thank all members and, particularly, the committee for their unwavering support whilst I have been acting president. Turns out I didn't truly appreciate the huge amount of work that goes on in the background to ensure the smooth running of the club. Not just from people on the committee, but to mention just a few examples, we have the dealing group keeping us in cards all week, various members undertaking assorted odd jobs, and Roy Brixton who by and large runs all aspects of 'bridge', especially the competitions. Moving forward, we currently have 5 members arranged to attend a Directors course in mid-November, after which some of that 'daily' workload can be shared further.

In amongst much sadness this year, there have been many successes and highlights which I would like to summarise, demonstrating what talent we have at this Club.

A generously supported Charity event last September which raised £575 and was split between Cancer Research and the Macmillan Nurses.

This was followed by a successful trip to Scarborough in October, with Scunthorpe retaining the interclub trophy. I understand this is a biennial event so would hope the incoming committee will arrange for us to host this coming year.

The Ghost pairs at the County, won by Mike and Megan, followed by Roy Brixton and others from elsewhere winning the Random Seeded Pairs.

Scunthorpe was well represented fielding 3 out of 5 teams at the Charles Heward Trophy, unfortunately not returning with the trophy this time, but please let's get as many if not more teams there this year!

Mike and Megan were equal third in the County mixed pairs event.

The Christmas party in December was enjoyed by lots of members. Please remember to save the date for Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December this year and support the sub-committee if you wish to get involved with organising.

The Masters Pairs in February was a national competition hosted at Scunthorpe. The best placed Scunthorpe pair were Steve Travis and Sandy Rushworth coming in 5<sup>th</sup> nationally which is very commendable.

April was an amazing month.

A team containing Mike Llewellyn, Keith Stewart and Chris Taylor won the Championships Team qualifier, finishing a credible equal 2<sup>nd</sup> in the final. Mike and Megan also won the Championship Pairs Qualifier later in April, and another 1<sup>st</sup> place finish for Chris Taylor and her partner in the County SIM pairs. Along with an excellent bridge holiday to Dudley, which was well supported by members and is set to be repeated next year, let's hope those County results do the same!

More success for Mike and Megan in May and June with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Swiss pairs and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Veterans Cup. Not sure you both qualify for that?!

Finally, a national 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish for Louise Lewis and Peter Adams in the EBU Sim Pairs in July.

There was a seemingly successful Community day in August, held at the local University Campus and aimed at recruiting new, and dare I say it, younger members. We await to see if that transfers to bums on seats come the open evening on the 24<sup>th</sup> September, followed by lessons on the 1<sup>st</sup> October. Please do continue to share flyers in your local communities and online if you are able.

The brilliant results I have mentioned, and apologies for any I may have overlooked, firmly put Scunthorpe on the bridge map, and which I hope can be an inspiration to new and up and coming players.

I must also mention the kitchen refurbishment, due to start tomorrow, and should, fingers crossed, be complete for the open evening. There has been significant work from the house committee, Jenny and Penny, to secure a substantial grant from North Lincs Council to largely fund the refurbishment. This really feels like a legacy to Val, with the quotations starting well over a year before her death. I am sure we will all be pleased with the end finish, and we thank you for your patience in the meantime whilst we navigate some disruption.

I hope everyone agrees the club has continued to run harmoniously this year and long may that continue. I wish the incoming officers and changing committee every success. To Rita Watson and Penny Couling, who are standing down from the committee, thank you for your dedicated service; you leave big shoes to fill.

Thank you all very much.

5) Secretary's report.

Lawrie Chapman reported that he had been present at all the meetings during the year and had recorded the proceedings to the best of his ability. He then stated that the membership function had continued to be discharged by Wanda Kotowska and Rod Williams and that the President had given permission for a membership report to be given after the Secretary's report and that Rod was content for Wanda to speak on their behalf. Lawrie went on to explain that it was customary for officers and committee members to take responsibility for some particular area and that in his case it was the actual building. He went on to state that he had overseen further work on the lighting in the car park and various plumbing work. Most of this work had been satisfactory but he feared that it was possible that more substantial work might be needed in the near future and that we should be prepared to fund this when the need arose. It was now something like 25 years since we moved into the premises and the years had taken their toll. Lawrie went on to say that as an officer, it was incumbent on him to support the motion which would be put to the meeting regarding increasing the annual subscription. However, he would continue to encourage the committee to increase the table money.

Lawrie then thanked and congratulated our President, Catherine Caldow, for holding it all together following the sad loss of Val. I hope that the committee will encourage the addition of her photograph to those of past presidents in the entrance hall. A fitting tribute.

Finally, he said that he would like to confirm that 2026/7 is the last year in which he would seek re-election. We have been through turbulent times, but I am confident that we are heading for calmer water as I slowly make my way to the exit.

6) Wanda Kotowska reported that we had 133 members, of whom one was a life member. Further that she thought that efforts such as participation in the Community Day would bring in a few more. She would begin collecting subscriptions in the following week.

7) Treasurer's report.

The financial position was very similar to last year's with the current year recording a deficit of £964. As ever, minor but noticeable differences occurred from year to year, for example it had been necessary to replace playing cards after two years of service. Mike Llewellyn went on once again to thank Keith Stewart for his efficient examination of the accounts. The accounts were accepted unanimously and the Treasurer then proposed that the annual membership subscription should be increased for £15 to £25. Seconded by Paul Readhead and passed unanimously.

8) Paul Readhead then proposed that to be in line with current practice, all indication of masculinity by choice of pronoun in the constitution should be changed so as not to be gender specific. This was seconded by Rita Watson and passed unanimously.

9) Lawrie Chapman proposed that the committee be charged to bring forward some form of "postal" voting so that absentees from future AGM's could still vote with their votes being added to the votes cast by secret ballot at the actual meeting. This

was seconded by Penny Couling and was passed by there being 17 votes in favour and 2 against. This was a sufficient majority for a constitutional change.

- 10) Wanda Kotowska proposed that when the Subscription Secretary discharged certain functions which were mentioned in the constitution as being performed by the Secretary – the constitution should be changed accordingly. The motion was seconded by Lawrie Chapman and passed with nobody voting against it, which was sufficient for this constitutional change.
- 11) Following the death of Glynn Elwick, there is one vacant position as trustee of SADBA. It was proposed by Roy Brixton and seconded by Bill Brocklesby that Paul Readhead should be appointed to fill this vacancy. The other trustees remain as Mike Galey, Stuart Knox and Mike Llewellyn.
- 12) The nominations for the positions of officers and committee members matched the numbers needed and so no elections were necessary. For 2026/7 we have:-  
President Roy Brixton; Vice President Paul Readhead; Secretary Lawrie Chapman; Treasurer Mike Llewellyn and committee members Catherine Caldow, Brian Camm, Helen Clapham, Wanda Kotowska, Louise Lewis, Jenny Selby and Rod Williams.
- 13) Catherine read out the list of mayor trophy winners for 2025/6 and accepted the list of masterpoint trophy winners and runners up as at 31/8/26.

At the end of the meeting, Dave Morton expressed his gratitude to the members who had supported him during his recent illness.

The meeting closed at 7.43pm. with some members staying on for the free bridge session.

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