DRAFT MINUTES OF THE SBC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 11TH., 2026 AT 7PM.

All members were present – CC, WK, LC, ML, BC, PC, LL, PR, JS, RW and RW.

1) Hence no apologies.
2) The minutes of the previous meeting on 2/6/26 were accepted as a true record, proposed by Wanda K. and seconded by Jenny S.
3) Matters arising – members wishing to record DNR could do so on the membership renewal slip. The Treasurer would ensure that any repair to the roof was adequately covered within the terms of the guarantee by arranging a routine roof inspection. Catherine C. stated that the AGM would be asked to accept our nomination of a fourth trustee to fill the vacancy.
4) President's report. She welcomed the progress which had been made with regard to the kitchen refurbishment. Also dates had been agreed for the Directors' course at a cost of £81 a day per place. It was now known that the course would be limited to two days and would involve continuous assessment. It was believed that SBC would qualify for two free places. Catherine C., Wanda K., Paul R., Rod W. and Roger Harrison were interested in taking the course. Rod W. stated that each participant would require copies of the blue book and the white book. On another matter, the President reported that the attendance at the Wednesday evening sessions continued to be satisfactory.
5) The Secretary urged members to be prepared to progress the various constitutional changes which would be brought before the AGM. There was the issue of the modernization of the pronouns used in the constitution, which would be proposed by Paul R. and seconded by Rita W. It was hoped that all members would see this as merely a procedural change to bring us in line with the accepted approaches adopted nowadays and not a matter for debate. Less obvious would be the proposal from Lawrie C., seconded by Penny C. that the committee be asked to investigate and consider the possibility of members absent from an AGM being allowed to cast votes for officers and committee members. The Secretary emphasized that to date the committee had not formed an opinion on this matter and unless urged by the AGM to do so – would not have to even consider the matter.
6) Treasurer's Report. The net current assets remained at about £30,000 for the year ending June 30th., 2026. During this year, the club made a small loss of £964. It was agreed that we needed either one or two more authorized signatories for cheques, but this matter was left to be progressed by the new committee. Although there was some support for increasing table fees, it was decided to recommend to the AGM that the annual subscription should be increased from £15 to £25.
7) Building. Lawrie C. expressed concern that he feared major expenditure might be incurred in order to keep the premises open in the near future. He did not identify the nature of the possible problem but was particularly worried about the plumbing. Several issues had arisen lately during times in which the facilities were under pressure. It was difficult to prevent further problems because by the time a plumber could be persuaded to attend, the facilities were no longer under pressure and no faults could be identified.
8) House/bar. It was hoped that the club could continue to operate with the minimum of inconvenience to members during the refurbishment of the kitchen early in September. One issue, however, was clear in that only cold drinks would be available. One of the conditions of receiving the grant of £12,500 from North Lincolnshire Council was that public facing contacts would acknowledge the Council's support.
9) County matters. Officers and committee were unchanged. The county now had their own boards and dealing equipment, but will continue to hire bridgemates from the club. In future all county events would start at 11am.
10) Teaching. Some students had expressed interest in playing on Thursday evenings. It was hoped that interest in attending the lessons would be generated by the club participating in a community event on 15/8/26 organized by UCNL.

11) Jennifer S. proposed that there was a need for ceiling fans in the teaching rooms. It was agreed to obtain a quotation from Gary Bowness who had recently done electrical work for the club.
12) An amended calendar for 2026/7 from Roy Brixton was accepted with the addition of the Christmas Party on 5th. December and the Bridge Holiday from 4/4/27 to 8/4/27.
13) It was agreed that the club would consult further with the family of the late Brenda and Ted Goodacre along the lines of a trophy being made available for the Thursday evening session.
14) Wanda K. reported that she had done substantial work on the existing constitution and would raise certain issues at the AGM. In particular she saw the need at several points to change "Secretary" to "Membership Secretary" as the latter actually did the work in question. She further asked the meeting to approve notices she had prepared which asked members to propose people to stand for election as officers or committee members for the coming year.
15) Wanda K. stated that the signage outside the club had become shabby and could be replaced at a cost of £360 + VAT. It was decided to delay a decision on this on account of our agreement with NLC. However, it emerged later that it had already been established that we need not include a reference to North Lincolnshire Council in this signage.
16) Under AOB, Paul R. checked that the appointment of honorary members of the club was a matter for the committee. He also referred to the continuing need to keep the premises secure. Finally, it would be important to mark in a positive way the fact that 2027 would be the 50th. anniversary of SADBA.

    The meeting closed at 9.43pm.

    No date was arranged for the next committee meeting because this would be a matter for the new committee.