

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF SCUNTHORPE BRIDGE CLUB HELD ON TUESDAY, 22ND. SEPTEMBER, 2026 AT 7PM.

Before officially opening the meeting and working to the agenda, the President welcomed members to the committee and urged us to follow the standard procedure at business meetings, which includes indicating the wish to speak by raising a hand and addressing him in particular, despite speaking to the meeting as a whole.

DRAFT MINUTES.

- 1) Apologies were received from Helen Clapham, who followed the proceedings by 'phone and contributed to the discussions. All other members were present, namely Roy Brixton, Paul Readhead, Lawrie Chapman, Mike Llewellyn, Catherine Caldow, Brian Camm, Wanda Kotowska, Louise Lewis, Jenny Selby and Rod Williams.
- 2) The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11/8/26 were accepted as a true record, proposed by Paul R. and seconded by Brian C.
- 3) Matters arising from these minutes – it was recognized that we had not reached a decision regarding the annual subscription for beginners and improvers. It was agreed unanimously that the beginners should stay at £10 and the improvers should pay the full £25.
- 4) President's Report.
Roy B. reported that in addition to his ongoing work to facilitate the playing of bridge, he had, in the short time since the AGM, worked to ensure that we were GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) compliant especially with regard to the need to give a 'phone number on the membership application form.
- 5) Secretary's Report.
 - (a) The minutes of the AGM had been written and vetted by the then President, Catherine C. They were now with the present President for further consideration and eventual publication on the website.
 - (b) In response to one of the motions passed at the AGM, Lawrie C. proposed and gave details of a system of "postal" voting based on the procedure adopted in civic and parliamentary elections which would allow our members to cast votes for officers and committee members despite being unable or unwilling to attend the AGM.

The procedure he suggested would essentially involve the use of two envelopes with the president of the day taking responsibility for ensuring that the absentee member did not vote twice. The two envelope method as used nationally preserved anonymity and with a minimum of fuss we could adapt it to achieve the same result. This simple suggestion was not well received by the meeting especially because it was felt that absentee electors might not have time to work the process. Lawrie C. did not argue the case – mainly because he did not expect any opposition and was not prepared for it. Roy B. suggested that a better option might be to allow proxy voting. Paul R. agreed to put the case for voting by proxy at our next meeting, having examined the matter in consultation with Roy.

6) Treasurer's Report

- (a) No quarterly report as it was too soon after the AGM. The kitchen units were paid for and the remaining labour expenses were being paid off when cleared by Jenny S. and (Penny Couling) with the Council. The total cost would be in excess of £15,000 with 90% coming from NLC.
- (b) It was agreed two new signatories – Roy Brixton and Paul Readhead should join the existing signatories who are Mike L. and Wanda K.

7) It was agreed that we should take special responsibilities for 2026/7 as follows:-

Bridge Roy Brixton, Paul Readhead;
Admin/support Lawrie Chapman, Wanda Kotowska;
Membership Rod Williams, Wanda Kotowska;
Website/IT Roy Brixton, Louise Lewis;
Finance Mike Llewellyn with Paul Readhead in case of an emergency situation arising, (Keith Stewart) as independent examiner;
County Mike Llewellyn (County Treasurer), Louise Lewis(Club Representative on the county committee);
Teaching Louise Lewis, Brian Camm and (Peter Adams);
Building Lawrie Chapman, Brian Camm (especially to liaise with the cleaners), Paul Readhead (fire safety and alarms);
House/bar Jenny Selby, Helen Clapham;

It was also noted that valuable work was done by the card dealing group consisting of Paul Readhead, Helen Clapham, Wanda Kotowska, Sheila Dixon and Lorraine Yeadon. It was further noted that Helen C. would be responsible for the trophies.

- 8) Pressing matters regarding various responsibilities were brought to the attention of the committee and some details regarding responsibilities were discussed.

Lawrie C. asked the committee to accept the quotation from Bowness Electrical in the sum of £561.60 (including VAT) for supplying and fitting three ceiling fans in the teaching rooms. The fans would be fairly basic, costing about £80 each. Gary Bowness had done satisfactory work for the club in the past. Proposed by Paul R. and seconded by Mike L. that the quotation be accepted and passed unanimously.

There was some discussion about the floor and the decoration in the renovated kitchen area. It was agreed that painting was needed and Helen C. thought she could recommend somebody.

Rod W. would continue to monitor the programming of the boiler, allowing one hour of operation before play began.

It was expected that (Rita Watson) would continue to see to the honours boards and it was noted that Alan Davies' name had been spelled incorrectly on one of the boards and it was hoped that this could be remedied when the boards are next updated. In future Helen C. would be responsible for keeping the trophy book up to date.

Catherine C. would try to help find partners for any visitors, but did not want her 'phone number to be widely circulated.

Brian Camm would see the cleaners face to face to tackle them about hours worked and the standard of their work.

When questioned by Roy B., Lawrie C. stated that records such as for servicing fire extinguishers did exist but they were not kept in an orderly manner.

Roy then stated that a proper log book of such records should be kept. On this theme, Mike L. stated that the examination of the electrical circuits is carried out every five years. Such as this needs to be properly logged. Mike L. also stated that there was a need to check the state of the repaired roof from time to time to ensure that the guarantee remains in force and that perhaps

an evaluation of the whole property might be needed. However, this could be expensive and insurance generally included a grossly inflated value for the cost of re-building.

Jenny S. would invite (Penny Couling) and committee members to form an ad hoc sub-committee to arrange the details of the Christmas party. When the work on the kitchen is complete, Jenny would invite the leader of NLC, Rob Waltham to attend for photographs with us gathered around a small plaque recording North Lincolnshire Council's support.

9) Any Other Business.

- a) No progress had yet been made in obtaining from (Gloria Elwick) a copy of Glynn's death certificate. Wanda would contact Gloria about this.
- b) Rod W. again raised the matter of card payments because some members had approached him about this. Mike L. stated that it might be too complicated but he was aware that some payments are easily made without using cash e.g. for the bridge holiday. Roy B. to look into the possibility of electronic payments.
- c) A number of members had complained about the poor quality of the boiling water delivered by the equipment in the kitchen. This probably stems from the recent water problem in the area leading to the boiler silting up. The boiler had gone wrong last year when Lawrie C. was not available on account of his employment. Rod W. had stepped in and successfully negotiated a deal at an annual cost of £237 including VAT, which covered servicing. We probably need to call in this servicing.
- d) The county teams event for the Charles Heward trophy has been moved from 8/11/26 to 15/11/26.
- e) Catherine C. reported that we had five members lined up to take the directors' course in November and that she understood that we were entitled to a further free place. Roy B. commented that the blue and white books used in the course were available online and so need not be bought.
- f) There is some evidence that there is still a problem with the ladies' toilets, as suspected by Lawrie C. Lawrie took the opportunity of again plugging the need to increase income by steadily increasing the table money. This was again countered by the claim that some

members resent paying more. Lawrie regards this as irresponsible at a time of rampant inflation, but was again out gunned and so will let it rest.

- g) Lawrie C. was again defeated in his attempt to get Catherine C.'s brief tenure as President marked by hanging her photograph in the hall. Catherine herself was against it and made the valid point that there was relevant precedent in that when a president was installed mid term following a resignation, no photograph was hung.

The date of the next meeting was fixed as 10/11/26.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.