

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE SBC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17/3/26.

- 1) Following the death of the President, it was unanimously decided that the Vice President, Catherine C. should chair this meeting.
- 2) Apologies were received from Rod W. All other members were present, namely Catherine C., Lawrie C., Mike L., Brian C., Penny C., Wanda K., Louise L., Jenny S. and Rita W.
- 3) The minutes of the previous meeting on 18/11/25 were received and accepted with these amendments – the late Peter Cooke’s name needed to include the letter e and the reason that the minuting of the meeting being transferred from Lawrie C. to Wanda K. needed to be shortened. With these amendments, it was agreed to accept the minutes, proposed by Jenny S. and seconded by Penny C.
- 4) Matters arising from these minutes. It was noted that Rod W. had seen to the rapid repair of the instant hot water for drinks facility and that a service agreement was now in place. Brian C. reported that the issue involving the cleaners had been resolved. It was agreed that the matter concerning the methods of payment of table fees would be returned to at a future meeting when Rod W. would be present.
- 5) After the Vice President, Catherine C. indicated that she would be willing to serve as President for the remainder of the year, it was agreed unanimously that we would take the option allowed within clause 6.4 of the constitution to elect one of our number to fill the vacancy. It was further agreed unanimously that Catherine C. should be President until the normal AGM in September, 2026.
- 6) It then followed that clause 6.2 of the constitution caused there to be a vacancy in the office of Vice President. It was further agreed unanimously that Wanda K. should be Vice President for the remainder of the year. This then left a vacancy for the position of a committee member and clause 7.2 of the constitution allows the committee to co-opt a member in such a case. It was agreed that the President would approach some of those who gave service to the club to ascertain whether or not they wished to be co-opted.
- 7) Progress has been made with regard to the refurbishment of the kitchen. Two of the three quotations required by North Lincolnshire Council had been obtained – these being necessary for the Council to consider giving a grant of 90% of the cost. Jenny S. and Penny C. are working towards obtaining this third quotation. It was noted that many trades people are reluctant to spend time preparing quotations. Should the refurbishment be possible, it would cause some disruption to the activities of the club and would probably require complete closure for at least one week.
- 8) Secretary’s Report. Margaret McLeod had asked the committee to spread the word regarding the health of Glynn Elwick. Glynn was currently being treated at Hull Royal Infirmary and had two toes amputated and a third might follow. This on account of diabetes. It was agreed that Wanda K. should send a card. It was further reported that Roy Brixton was encountering difficulty in dealing with EBU in that they were well established in using Windows 11 whilst our computer was still on Windows 10 and an upgrade was scarcely feasible. Windows 10 is no longer supported and action was now well overdue. It was decided by a substantial majority that we would purchase a new PC and printer at a cost currently of £729. The new equipment would be sited in the office and would be used by Roy Brixton, Lou L., directors and the card dealing team. The old equipment would be moved to the teaching area where Lou L. might be able to put it to good use.
- 9) The treasurer presented figures for income and expenditure for the six months to 31/12/25 which showed a very small deficit of £567. The finances are basically sound. The very small deficit could be attributed to a variety of causes with one of the more obvious ones being the expense incurred in repairs and decorating being somewhat over estimate. Mike L. also mentioned the matter of the bank mandate. Only two of the four signatories are currently available – however, it was felt that this matter could wait until the AGM. Wanda K. agreed to inform the EBU about our changes of officers.
- 10) Building. Lawrie C. reported that Paul Holland had been somewhat tardy in attending to the small matters that he himself had highlighted in his annual inspection. Further there was some

discussion as to whether or not we needed to appoint a Fire Officer. It was decided that we were very satisfied with the work done by Rita W. in her role as Fire Monitor and that Lawrie C. would continue to communicate with Paul Holland and there was no need for more formality. However, to be completely safe, Jenny S. would seek to find out what the EBU's view was on this. Finally it was confirmed that the committee was at ease with the officers' decision to engage Gary Bowness at a cost of £314.40 to install further flood lighting in the car park. The haste in this matter was occasioned by a member falling in the car park due to insufficient lighting. No great harm was done but the incident could have had very serious consequences. Once again the attempt by Lawrie C. to expedite matters was thwarted by unexpected delay beyond his control.

- 11) House/bar. The issue mainly addressed here was the ongoing problem with the heating being either too hot or too cold and also with there being two separate areas which need heating at times. It was reiterated that the heating should not be tampered with and that it should be left on auto at the end of each session. This vexatious matter was also discussed at length during the section on the treasurer's report. On a positive note, it was recorded that the Christmas Party had been a great success.
- 12) County matters. Mike L. and Lou L. noted that there was a good turnout for the Garden Cities and we hoped to enter a further team in the future. There would be a teams Championship later in the month for which the four players could come from anywhere in the county. The County intended to upgrade their Bridgemates.
- 13) Teaching. Lou L. reported that currently there were three beginners and six improvers and she had already had two enquiries for next year. There was some discussion about possible ways of advertising the opportunities available. It was felt that advertising at the market could be productive. The Open Evening would be on 3/9/26 with classes starting on 17/9/26.
- 14) Table money. Following on from the previous meeting, it was confirmed that the only way to substantially improve our income was to increase the table money. The problem is that any annual increase in line with inflation would lead to silly sums being collected such as £3.15. Lawrie C. implored members to seriously consider how this problem could be solved. Further discussion could be linked to Rod W.'s concern about whether we could accept bank transfers. What we have done in the past is to go for massive % increases after a space of several years. This is clearly unsatisfactory, but is there any other way? In discussion, it was also made clear that not all members saw the need for more income. This is a thorny area. Nobody would wish to deter people playing for money reasons and already those who play several times a week pay substantial amounts.
- 15) AOB. Members are still finding it difficult to make progress with EBU regarding directors' courses. It was felt that we should leave the cleaners to make moves if they felt that they needed more pay in the light of the ever increasing minimum wage. It was confirmed that we were content to spend about £100 in order to increase the space available to record the names of the winners of the Peter Cooke trophy.
- 16) The date of the next meeting was fixed as 2/6/26 and we were reminded that the AGM will be on 8/9/26.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.