

Annual General Meeting 2026

The Blackbourne Community Centre, Elmswell, 14:00 17th May 2026

Minutes

Present: Committee members – Nick Farr (Chairman), Mark Honess, Jo Harpur, Jackie Over, Glyn Button, Derek Brinkley, Chris Rickard, Tim Evans, Paul Rickard, Jeff Orton, Josh Clarke
PLUS - 50 members of the SCBA

Apologies: David Unwin (Treasurer), Amanda Roberts (Secretary), Helen Mason

1. Adoption of Minutes of the SCBA 2025 AGM

There were no questions and no matters arising.

Proposed Mark Honess, Seconded Jo Harpur. Adopted nem. con.

2. Chairman's Report of the activities of the SCBA

A relatively quiet year. Successes include the introduction of relaxed afternoon bridge by some clubs, Café Bridge which attracted 72 pairs making it the most successful event in SCBA history in terms of participants, generating funds for St. Nicholas Hospice (thanks to Derek Brinkley for this), and the Suffolk Online Teams League (thanks to Malcolm Pyor for this).

The full text of the Chairman's report is appended.

3. Treasurer's Report & statement of the SCBA's accounts for the year ending 31st March 2026

The Treasurer was not able to be present and sent apologies. Copies of his report and examined accounts were made available to attendees. The accounts show a modest loss for the year due mainly to planned investment supporting teaching programs (from funds bequeathed by clubs that had closed, and earmarked for such a purpose), and unexpected additional costs of the Café Bridge. Despite this loss, our financial position remains strong.

4. Adoption of the SCBA's accounts for the year ending 31st March 2026

Proposed Tim Evans, Seconded Sherri Barton. Adopted nem. con.

5. Proposal for the year commencing April 1st 2027 that:

The SCBA Pay-to-Play County component remain unchanged at 7p, and

The SCBA member and SCBA affiliated club subscription remain at zero

Proposed Chris Rickard, Seconded Paul Rickard. Adopted nem. con.

6. Proposal that Phil Peters be re-appointed as Examiner of the SCBA Accounts

Proposed Tim Evans, Seconded Dennis Valtisiaris. Adopted nem. con.

7. Proposal to elect Officers and Executive Committee members

Chris Rickard, Paul Rickard and Richard Evans are standing down from the committee (see also AOB). Jackie Over and Kate Chapman have applied to join. Derek Brinkley has been nominated as the new Vice Chairman. All other members are willing to remain in their respective rôles.

Proposed Will Pavry, Seconded John Garbutt. Adopted nem. con.

8. AOB

8.1. Chris Rickard, Paul Richard and Richard Evans are standing down at this AGM, after a combined 43 years' on the Executive Committee. Chris and Paul have, between them, fulfilled a number of rôles including Competitions Secretary, Event Manager, Chief Tournament Director, and Webmaster. Richard has been, amongst other things, Webmaster, Vice Chairman, Chairman and County co-Captain. The Chairman thanked them for their service, and presented them with gifts, on behalf of our Association, as a token of our gratitude.

8.2. The Chairman reminded members of two upcoming events in Suffolk:-

Clare Swiss Pairs, 11:00 Sunday 7th June, Lavenham Village Hall

Woodbridge Mid-Anglia Pairs, 11:00 Sunday 28th June, Woodbridge Community Centre

Details and entry forms for both on the SCBA website.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 14:12

Suffolk Contract Bridge Association

AGM 2026

Chairman's Report

I am pleased to give my first report as Chairman of SCBA for the year to 31 March 2026.

On the whole I would say that this has been a relatively quiet year for SCBA. Club bridge seems to have stabilised and whilst most clubs are not exactly thriving they all seem to be relatively stable in terms of numbers.

The real success stories in the county now seem to offer relaxed afternoon bridge and clubs such as Clare in Lavenham on a Friday afternoon seem to go from strength to strength. Allied to this SCBA has loaned some of its bridgemates to 3 unaffiliated clubs in the county and these 3 clubs, namely Langham, Cavendish and Harry Huson have now purchased their own sets to benefit from modern scoring technology. There are a number of unaffiliated clubs in Suffolk that we hope will one day join the EBU and SCBA.

County events have been relatively well supported during the year. Some events have been down on numbers and some up but it is good to see so many people here today for the AGM Pairs.

The biggest success story for Suffolk Bridge in the year was the Café Bridge event held in Bury St Edmunds in August. This attracted 72 pairs making it the most successful event in SCBA history in terms of participants. This attracted people from as far afield as Yorkshire and helped raise funds for the St. Nicholas Hospice. None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Derek Brinkley and so huge thanks to him.

Another major success has been the Suffolk Online Teams League which now has 5 active divisions. The county owes a huge debt to Malcom Pryor for running this league despite that he now lives in Devon!

I would like to thank the hard work and support from all the SCBA committee this year, making my job a lot easier. Special mention this year has to go to Richard Evans and Paul and Chris Rickard who are all stepping down from the committee this year having given many years of help and support to SCBA. There may be more on that later!

Here's to 2027.

Nick Farr

Chairman SCBA