

Minutes of Wells City Bridge Club AGM held at St Thomas Church Hall on 23rd April 2026

1. Welcome and Apologies: The Annual General Meeting of the WCBC was held on 23rd April 2026 at St Thomas Church Hall at 6.00 pm with 36 members in attendance

Charlie opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking everyone for attending.

Apologies were offered from: Richard Holmes, Nick and Sue Watts, Ruth Anglinetta, Gordon McBride, Jo Lightfoot, Joanna Pinching, Veronica Lee, Paul Hole, Francis Floyd, Ann Margaret Drew, Angela Crocker, Jane Waller, Libby and Derek Bellews.

2. Minutes of the last AGM: The minutes of the 2025 AGM were approved and accepted. Proposed by Dick Crane, seconded by Sheena Loveday.

3. Matters Arising from AGM 2025: Table Placing: This was reviewed by the Committee after members gave their opinions following the trial period. There was a strong majority in favour of continuing and that is what the committee recommended with the proviso that the Director makes sure the system is not manipulated. Members with mobility needs request a N/S or E/W table.

There were no other matters arising.

4. Election of Officers: The present officers and committee members of Chair, Charlie Sutton: Treasurer, Ruth Anglinetta: Secretary & Website, Carol Baron: Partner Liaison, Rosie Shaljean: Deputy Chair, Dick Crane: Members, Lyndsay Hewitt and Janette Norris are all willing to remain in post for this coming year, there being no further volunteers or nominations the committee were duly elected.

5. Reports:

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's statement was made by Janette on behalf of Ruth.

"Treasurer Ruth gives her apologies as she is unable to be here tonight. It falls to me to present the year end accounts which Roy Rowe has kindly audited – our thanks to Roy for doing this for the club The 2025-26 end of year balance sheet has been emailed to all members and I have distributed some this evening.

Income (subscriptions, table money and charity donations) was £5301.14

Expenditure was £4997.39

Net surplus income is £303.75

Bank Balance at year end was £5113.23

Comparing with last year - The Net surplus this year is £292.62 more than last year, BUT there have been no major technical expenditures this year.

To itemise a few expenses figures:

Hall Hire is over £2177 which is about half of the income.

The Club members have generously given £915.14 to Charities.

The Club has funded 4 'free' Thursday evenings

The recommendation is that table money remains at £3 and subscriptions at £5.

This will ensure that the club sustains reserve funds to meet any increases in hall fee or venue, equipment or other unforeseen expenses.”

5a) The acceptance and approval of the accounts was proposed by David Maxwell, seconded by Andrew Bond.

5b) The agreement of subscriptions and table money was proposed by David Maxwell, seconded by Phil Collins.

Chairman’s Report:

“I make no apologies for lifting a part of what I said last year about the ethos we try and maintain at the club, which is that we try and achieve a balance between 3 elements as to how the club should operate

- Firstly, providing a club with competitive play (but without being too cut-throat about it!).
- Secondly a relaxed friendly atmosphere so newcomers feel welcomed and made to feel at home quickly (but without being too noisy during the evening - a very difficult balance for directors to achieve).
- Finally, an ethos which encourages all members to improve their bridge, either by encouraging people to have lessons with Caroline, and to attend days like the Andrew Robson day. Also to help less experienced players during the evening - again a difficult balancing act so as not to interrupt the flow of the evening or distract other tables.

I think we manage those three things pretty well most of the time, which is what I feel makes us a happy and successful club.

Because we were successful in attracting new members, some of whom were not that experienced, we decided to put a hold on membership to give new members a chance to feel ‘at home’ here. We’ve now decided to open up to members again but will always keep it under review. Part of this success has meant that table numbers are up again on last year which means again that we are able to cover our costs now, and if and when, the hall fees increase. Or, have some money to help us relocate if the decision is taken by the church to demolish and rebuild the hall - watch this space!

Since last year’s AGM we’ve had our summer social/charity evening and our New Year social event both of which were successful in terms of the money raised for Heads Up and enjoying fun bridge at New Year. We also had our Autumn charity evening raising funds for Save The Children.

A number of us attended the Andrew Robson day at Street which, as usual, was thoroughly entertaining with a lot of learning and head scratching involved. I would recommend any future days that I’m sure Somerset Bridge will put on to bridge players of all abilities.

Perhaps the highlight of the year for many was the weekend away at Paignton, so successful that a great many of us have already booked for next year, even though we haven’t formally opened bookings! Many, many, thanks must go to Carol who undertook organising all the arrangements for bookings and dealing with the hotel as well as sourcing some imaginative and inexpensive prizes. Hopefully this year will be a good deal easier for her. Also, thanks to Gordon and Glen who could remember how to do paper scoring (luckily we had taken Travellers with us), when the scoring system had a complete meltdown, and thank you to those who sorted it out so quickly when we got back.

I always finish by thanking on your behalf those who make the club operate so smoothly. This year I'm not going to name individuals as I'm sure to miss someone, but this is what it takes to have a successful club evening:

The boards being dealt and ensuring sure they're here.

The scoring tablets being recharged at home and the system being set up ready for an evening's bridge.

The tables and chairs put out and prepared.

The table money and the table placement cards collected.

The Directors who organise and control the bridge.

The refreshment team who ensure refreshments are always here and that there is a rota. Also the people who set up and serve refreshments each evening.

The scorer for the evening who is always the last person 'working'.

Those that stay and put away all the equipment/tables/chairs and check the hall.

As well as what is needed for an evening there are also wider roles during the year that enable the club to continue successfully, so thanks to the many who organise all elements of finance from collecting table money, subs, paying bills and running the club account.

Maintaining the club website so that it is kept up to date and keeping EBU membership and other records up to date.

Organising a rota for directors and scorers.

Organising our team in the County League.

The social and party evenings, the buffet, the prizes and quizzes etc.

The prep and running of the very necessary, but sometimes unpopular, AGM. including annual competitions, prize-winners and prizes.

And finally

Keeping on overview on all the above to make sure it happens"

County League Report: In Ruth's absence her report was read by Charlie.

"Once again we entered a team in the County League, My brilliant team, consisting of Valerie, Charlie, Mary, Rosie Cutbill, Keith, Pam and myself did very well and hauled ourselves up from the 4th slot to joint 2nd place. We lost 2 matches out of 6, but had 4 wins and one of these wins was against the overall winners, so a great result. I'm not sure whether this will push us up to the next division, we'll have to wait till next year for that, but a BIG Thank You to all who played, and I do hope you will be able to play again next year."

6. Other Matters:

Charity Evening/Social 2026. The local charities short listed for our social evening support in 2026 were: The Lawrence Centre, The Connect Centre, Wells Museum and Wells Cathedral Organ Fund. The Lawrence Centre was chosen by a vote by show of hands.

7. Any Other Business: No further items were brought forward for discussion.

8. Presentation of Annual Awards: Dick Crane presented the following awards.

WCBC Shield: For the pair with the highest overall average. At least 10 weeks of play is needed to qualify: **Charlie Sutton and Phil Collins**

Pairs Award for NGS 8 and below: For the pair with highest average and having NGS 8 or below. At least 10 weeks of play is needed to qualify: **Mike and Carol Baron.**

Pairs Award for NGS 5 and below: For the pair with highest average and having NGS 5 or below. At least 10 weeks of play is needed to qualify: **Lesley Middleton and Victoria Horn.**

Chairman's Attendance Prize: Presented by Charlie, for the best attendance of the year: **Don Tuff.**

The Simon Loveday Award made to a person or pair who contributes to the success and running of the club and at the same time successfully improves their bridge was introduced by Charlie and presented by Sheena Loveday to **Janette Norris.**

12. Vote of Thanks:

A vote of thanks to Charlie and the whole Committee was made by Anthea on behalf of the members of the club.

The meeting closed at 6.45 and was followed by refreshments and duplicate bridge with 10 tables in play.

CB: 24/4/2026