

WEST SUSSEX BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting of the West Sussex Bridge Club
held on Tuesday 6th May 2025 at The Old School, Cuckfield

Present: Neil Watts, Chairman
Chris Jago, Secretary
Rob Harris, Treasurer
+ 26 Club Members

1. Welcome by the Chairman

The Meeting was called to order at 7pm and the Chairman welcomed all members in attendance.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from: Peter Bates, Alison Barkley, Jackie Ellis, Chris and Suzy Gray, Alan Gardiner, Mary Guy-Jones, Jill Hatley, Jo Jewson, Jane Lawrence, Joy Mayall, Rob Parris, Andrew and Iris Pettit, and Paul Rutter.

3. Approval of Minutes of 46th AGM

The Minutes were approved with no matters arising (proposed by Carol Watson and seconded by Norman Hardy).

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented his report which had been previously circulated, the highlights of which were:

- Sadly, five members died during the past year - Robert Hirst, Ann Calverley, Iris Field, Bill Nicolle and Angela Burgess.
- Our Deputy Secretary, Jane Lawrence, had moved to Somerset with husband Craig but she has kindly agreed to remain on the Committee for the time being.
- Membership at year end had shown a significant drop from 151 a year ago to 127, mainly due to inactive members failing to renew.
- There had been no developments regarding new premises.
- In June 2024, the Bridgemates were replaced by tablets which have been generally well received.
- On Thursday afternoons we returned to using paper travellers with the hope of attracting more Directors, saving them from having to use the computer, but without success.
- For the second year in a row, we only mustered enough players for one Division of the Pairs League and it was hoped there would be greater support next time.
- Very pleasing involvement in Charity events during the year including the EBU's "Bridge – It's a Big Deal" raising money for Cancer Research; the Jeff Hayton Parkinson event organised by Mid Sussex B.C.; Children in Need Sim Pairs; SCCBA Charity Sim Pairs; and the Jackie Clinton Venture Pairs for MNDA.
- The winners of the competition for best performances over the year were Hazel Beveridge and Jane Lawrence (ladies); Mike Allen and Philip Hunt (men); Joan Hootman and David Galpin (mixed) and John Rix and Richard Haynes (under 5000 mps).

- The 7th annual mini-break in Bournemouth jointly organised with Horsham B.C. was again successful and we filled the whole hotel. After attendee feedback, it will be held again at The Miramar from 8th – 11th February next year.
- The New Year Party was again seen as a success, with a memorable buffet provided by members and organised by Mary Guy-Jones and Ed Barter, and a super quiz presented by Jane Lawrence who it was hoped would be able to do so again in 2026.
- Thanks given to all members who support the Club in any capacity

5. Treasurer's Report and Independently Examined Accounts

These were accepted with the only comment being a request for the Committee to review whether the Constitution allowed investing in bonds and gilts.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2025/6 Accounts

Robin Parris will be asked to perform this task again.

7. Annual Subscription

The Meeting confirmed the Committee's recommendation that the annual subscription would continue to be £15, reduced to £10 if paid by 30th June.

8. Election of Officers and Committee

The following were elected unopposed:

Chairman	Colin Mallows
Secretary	Neil Watts
Treasurer	Rob Harris

Committee: Alison Barkley; Ed Barter; Brian Cutler; Mark Darby; Mary Guy-Jones; Jill Hatley; Jane Lawrence.

Colin Mallows then took the Chair and thanked Neil for everything he had done for the Club during his two terms as Chairman.

9. Approval of Revised List of Trustees

Colin Mallows, Rob Harris and Neil Watts were approved as Trustees until further notice.

10. Club Sessions

The new Chairman said he was very keen to attract more attendance on Tuesday evenings since it had dropped off recently. The future of Thursday afternoons would be reviewed at the end of June. It was suggested that numbers may be higher if the day was changed and the Committee will review this.

11. Any Other Business

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7.40 pm and was followed by 28 members playing 21 boards of bridge.