Affiliation to the EBU (English Bridge Union)

The EBU provides the framework to support and develop the playing of Bridge in England.

We have been trialing affiliation to the EBU for about 6 months. The EBU has waived all fees and charges for the trial period.

The Committee has reviewed the options following the trial and strongly recommends full affiliation from January 2027. Members will consider this recommendation at a Special General Meeting on 25 November.

This paper summarises the case for affiliation and sets out the expected financial and administrative implications.

Motion: That Wotton-under-Edge Bridge Club should affiliate fully to the English Bridge Union from January 2027.

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1 Benefits of Affiliation

1.1 Benefits to the Club

Affiliation offers several practical and financial benefits:

- Running a bridge club
  - Every bridge club that plays duplicate bridge needs Directors who are qualified to run duplicate events. Through its partner organisation EBED (English Bridge Education and Development), training is provided for Directors, together with supporting materials and guidance. Discounts are available for affiliated clubs.
  - The scoring software, EBUScore, is provided free of charge to all affiliated clubs. Advice and guidance is available should a problem arise.
  - New members will feel welcome at a club that follows the EBU's guidance on Best Behaviour at Bridge etiquette.
  - Forums are available on the EBU website for advice on any relevant topic.
  - The Club's Constitution is based on a pro-forma provided by the EBU.
- Teaching
  - EBED provides teacher-training courses to help new teachers. A free training course is provided every two years.
  - EBED supplies help and materials to assist with the teaching process.
  - Note that **over half** of the current membership of WUE Bridge Club have joined as a result of our teaching. The future health of the Club is dependent on its teaching offering.
  - Half of this year's Beginners class contacted us as a result of a new EBU initiative on social media, providing links to affiliated teachers.
- Access to discounts
  - Lower prices for equipment and supplies such as books, boards, cards, travellers, scorecards.
  - Reduced cost public liability insurance.

1.2 Benefits to Individual Members

All members will receive the following benefits:

- Participation in the National Grading scheme and the opportunity to gain Masterpoints.
- A quarterly *English Bridge* magazine and an EBU diary.
- Eligibility to enter EBU and GCBA competitions.
- Eligibility to represent Gloucestershire at county level.

1.3 Benefit to the wider bridge community.

Affiliation contributes to the development and sustainability of bridge more broadly:

- The EBU is a non-profit organisation supported by volunteers and a small professional staff.
- Member contributions support events at County and International level, including helping to fund presence in international competitions.
- Member contributions help the EBU's youth development program (GCBA are currently undertaking a program to try and get bridge taught in schools in some way and are seeking help from clubs with schools in the area.)
- The EBU partner charity, EBED provides teacher and director training courses and helps to revise laws, regulations and ethics and the framework for running duplicate bridge.

2 The Cost of Affiliation

- Every Club pays an affiliation fee of £32 each year.
- Members of affiliated clubs, in Gloucestershire, also pay a *Universal Membership* fee of 49p for each session they play (48p goes to the EBU, 1p to GCBA). This charge would be added to the Club's existing table fee, increasing the total fee to £1 for online sessions and £2.50 for face-to-face sessions.
- The revised fees are still very low costs for an excellent evening's entertainment.

3 Additional Administration

- Affiliated clubs are required to submit session results and manage membership data in line with EBU procedures.
- There would be some additional administration required to collect the Universal Membership Charge and make payments to the EBU.
- A named individual would need to be identified to act as the Club's EBU Liaison Officer.
