

Braunton Bridge Club
AGM 7th May 2025 at 6.30pm

Attendees

Eamon Rogers, chair; Jacqui Munns, secretary; committee members; Susan Hunt (co-opted), and the following members of Braunton Bridge Club; Alan Cooke, Andrew Craddock, Barbara Rennie, Brenda Martin, Carol Ritzen, Christine Burnard, David Bowen, David Hurrell, David Meek, Dena Sells, Jane Keatley, Janet Pollard, John Parr, Julie Rotchell, Karen Rogers, Kate Ross, Lee Bristow, Lela Daniel, Les Ellis, Liz Martin, Marion Smoldon, Mike Dixon, Neil Marsden, Nic Long, Paul Hide, Peter Clough, Roger Gowland, Sandra Robertshaw, Serena Kirkman, Steph Long, Terry Pollard.

Apologies

Alison Pollok, Chris Bray, Nicky Sandom, Richard McLaughlin.

Agenda

1. Minutes of the last AGM dated 15th May 2024.

The minutes have been available on the website for two weeks.

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Barbara Rennie, seconded by Dena Sells, and agreed by all with no matters arising.

2. Chairman's Report

This year has been my first as Chair of Braunton Bridge Club and has proven to be quite an experience. My particular thanks go to Jacqui Munns who has guided me along the way. Thanks, are also extended to the rest of the committee as this club could not exist without them.

In addition, I would also like to thank the extended membership who have helped with the setting up of the tables each club night, as well as those who have provided refreshments, TD'ing, scoring and helped putting things away at the end.

Every little bit helps.

I'm sorry that the period of providing cakes and biscuits from Costa has not been continued but all good things must come to an end.

The dynamics of the club inevitably mean that we lose members who have passed away. Sadly, we lost John Wintle back in January. He, along with Jacqui, was part of the backbone of the club in his role as Treasurer. We also lost Roger Luckham, another character who will be fondly remembered. Nora Ellis has also passed away as did David Purdy.

The Christmas Party continues to be a success. Thanks also to David Meek for his continued supply of champagne to kick off the afternoon. In addition, I'd also like to thank the caterers, David again for the quiz and Alan Cooke for his unique style in selling off the table decorations.

The club has continued to run three events for which a trophy was presented: The Brenda Martin Trophy was won by Alan Cooke and John Wintle, the Pairs Ladder won by Julie Rotchell and Roger Gowland and the Blackwell Cup for the Masterpoints competition was also won by Roger.

The success of any club is based around its membership and I ask that new players are encouraged to join us for an evening of Bridge. Braunton Bridge Club continues to be a vibrant club; let's keep it going.

3. Secretary's Report

First of all, I'm sure you would all like to join me in thanking Eamon for being our Chair, a role I am delighted to say that he is happy to continue.

So, I read through my report from last year and what I want to say hasn't really changed. We need more help to run the club.

First the good news. Since last year, Sue has joined the committee and will take on the treasurer role (for a limited time only), which is great. Ideally, we will need one other person to be a signatory on the bank account with a view to assisting in the treasurer role as necessary.

Andrew has also agreed to join the committee and has offered to help with the website and the scoring.

I'd also like to thank Nic, who already does the scoring while I'm away. However, at the moment, when we are both away at the same time, the paper travellers come out! I'd like to thank Roger for stepping in and scoring for us when that happens. However, another one or two scorers would lighten the load for all and training is available.

TD'ing is another area where we are thin on the ground with just myself and Roger now that Catherine has left. Trust me, TD'ing can be fun, but not if you do it every week! All playing TDs will tell you that the role really detracts from your playing enjoyment, even with minimal distractions, and it is not fair that this role falls to just one or two people. Training to be a TD is available and free and will help you learn more about running a Bridge evening as well as the rules of the game.

Many of you will know that in the last year, I have started teaching Bridge with the sole aim of increasing numbers at our clubs. This is a long, time-consuming process but I believe it is the most important thing I can do for the future of Braunton Bridge Club, as getting new players to join will also mean eventually, getting new people to help run the club.

However, the additional time I am spending on this, as well as all my other Bridge roles, means that something has to give and I am therefore giving notice that, by this time next year, I want to have stepped down from all my roles at Braunton. I am not planning on leaving the club and will always be happy to provide support and step in occasionally as required. I am giving a year's notice as this should be ample time to support others to learn, so please step forward.

And finally, can I remind everyone that we are ALL responsible for ensuring that play moves along at a reasonable pace. This requires ALL players to collectively make sure that they are playing at the right table, in the correct orientation, and with the expected opposition at the beginning of every round. Seven minutes a board should be ample time and if you have a tricky slam board to bid and play, make sure you get on with the next board as soon as possible. Also, please play the lead card and put the dummy on the table before recording the contract on your card. Can I also suggest that whoever is operating the Bridgetabs puts the contract and the result in together once the hand is played, rather than waking it up twice. These are all little things that speed up the process without requiring you to hurry the playing of the hand.

4. Treasurer's Report

As you know, when John passed away unexpectedly in January, I took over the treasurer's role temporarily and prepared the accounts for the year to March 31, 2025. These have been on the website for a few weeks and are self-explanatory. These accounts are yet to be scrutinized but I would like to thank Roger in advance for doing this. It's worth saying for those that know about these things, that these are strictly cash basis accounts, unlike the proper accounts that John had prepared and therefore some income and expenditure relates to the present (new) financial year.

So, you will notice that income is a little lower than last year, mostly due to a reduction in table money. Expenditure was also lower, mostly due to lower expenses relating to refreshments and the Xmas Party. The money owed to the club is John's subs of £15 and £6 cash and we have written that off.

Overall, the club made a small surplus but continues to have a healthy bank balance. However, I think that while we could keep the subscription at £10 per year, now is the time to increase the table money to £4 per person to start with immediate effect. This would allow us to be generous again with subsidising the Christmas party and help us to cover any larger future expenses relating to the scoring equipment or tables, etc. that might arise going forward.

This was agreed with a show of hands.

5. Competitions

Our competitions year runs from September to August. In the year to August 2024, we ran our three trophy events; the Pairs Ladder, the Master Point championship and the Brenda Martin Handicap Trophy. In September, we took part in the EBU Simultaneous pairs, which was a charity event in aid of Cancer Research as part of the Bridge – It's a Big Deal Festival. We therefore did not take part in the Children in Need sim in November or play for the Margaret Curtis Charity Shield in March.

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that we would play in the CIN Sim in November but would not play for the Margaret Curtis Shield again.

6. Christmas Party 2025

The 2024 Christmas Party took place in January 2025 at the Georgeham Village Hall and unfortunately, I received quite a bit of negative feedback about the event. Added to that, we felt that the catering cost was quite high for what we received. We have therefore looked at a different venue for this year and propose a lunch at the Saunton Sands Golf Club on Saturday, December 13, 2025. The club have offered us a two-course meal with coffee and we should be able to play Bridge afterwards. This will cost £27 per head so we suggest charging £20 for members and £25 for their guests as last year, and we will put some wine on the table.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed to go ahead with this option although many said it would be a shame not to enjoy David Meek's hospitality beforehand as we have done in previous years. The possibility of a 'bring and share' summer party at the Georgeham Village Hall preceded by drinks at David's house was suggested and was a popular idea.

Paul Hide kindly offered to organise this event in collaboration with David.

7. Election of Officers

Nominees – Chair – Eamon Rogers, proposed by Brenda Martin, seconded by Jacqui Munns, and supported unanimously by all present.

Treasurer – Sue Hunt – proposed by Eamon Rogers, seconded by Dena Sells, and supported unanimously by all present.

Secretary – Jacqui Munns – proposed by Carol Ritzen, seconded by Karen Rogers, and supported unanimously by all present.

8. Election of Committee Members

Hilary Adams has not attended the club for a long time and is no longer on the committee.

Andrew Craddock is proposed by Jacqui Munns, seconded by Brenda Martin, and supported unanimously by all present.

9. Election of Scrutineer

Roger Gowland has kindly offered his services for this year and the next, and this was supported by all present.

10. AOB

The church is planning the future of the hall and I have been invited to a meeting to discuss their ideas and what improvements might help us as hall users. I will mention the possibility of internet access and would be happy to hear the views of other members.

Barbara thanked the committee for their hard work.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 18.55

Jacqui Munns,
Secretary,
Braunton Bridge Club

SEE BELOW FOR THE DRAFT ACCOUNTS

Braunton Bridge Club Income & Expenditure for the year to March 31, 2025		
2024		2025
	INCOME	
£610	Subscriptions	£590.00
£4,657	Table Money	£3,830.00
£761	Christmas Lunch	£930.00
£199	Charity Donations	£0.00
£6,227	TOTAL INCOME	£5,350.00
	EXPENDITURE	
£2,028	Hall Hire	£2,251
£585	Refreshments	£289
£773	EBU P2P & Affiliation Fee	£780
£129	Bridgetabs & ScoreBridge Licences	£124
£77	Insurance	£84
£48	Bridgewebs Website	£0
£65	Internet Security	£0
£57	Stationery & Small Equipment	£0
£1,353	Christmas Lunch	£1,282
£239	Trophies, Engraving & Prizes	£130
£416	Charitable Donations	£93
£0	Gifts	£100
£0	Bank Charges	£6
£30	Miscellaneous	£0
£6,227	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£5,137
£426	NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR*	£213
8.1	Average Tables	7.0
61	Paid up Members	59
Notes	Net cost of the Christmas Lunch was £352 compared to £592 last year	
	Charitable donation was to Devon Air Ambulance	
	Hall hire Includes approximately £300 for next year's hall fees	
	The gift was roses bought for Catherine Davey	
	Bridgewebs fee for the current year was paid last year and remains at £48	
	The club is owed £21 - £15 in unpaid table money & £6 petty cash	
	We ran 49 sessions in the year plus one open house session during the EBU Bridge Festival	
	*Balance BF = £2,383.53, income of £5,344.00, expenditure of £5,137.04, carried forward £2,590.49	

BRAUNTON BRIDGE CLUB. BALANCE SHEET. 31st MARCH 2024

DRAFT

2023

2024

FIXED ASSETS

50	TROPHIES (Estimated Value)	50
500	BRIDGETABS	500
64	LAPTOP COMPUTER AT COST	64
200	TABLES & SMALL EQUIPMENT(Estimated Value)	200
814		814

CURRENT ASSETS

1,712	CASH AT BANK	2,384
-	CASH IN HAND	-
205	AMOUNTS DUE FROM MEMBERS	81
294	UNBILLED TABLE MONEY (MARCH 2024)	294
	2024 SCOREBRIDGE PREPAID	48
2,211		2,807

3,025 TOTAL ASSETS

3,621

LESS:- LIABILITIES

138	CHJRIST CHURCH BRAUNTON	170
46	EBU (Pay to Play Charges)	49
	SUNDRY CREDITORS	135
184		354

2,841 NET ASSETS

3,267

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

2,081	Brought forward	2,841
760	Surplus/(Deficit for the Year	426
2,841	MEMBERS CAPITAL	3,267