

Minutes of Warrington Bridge Club Committee Meeting Sat 22nd November 2025, 0930hrs, on Zoom

1. **Apologies**
Brenda Newton, Janine Curwell
2. **Minutes of previous Committee meeting**, held 13th September 2025.
The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted. There were no matters arising not on today's agenda.
3. **On-Line Bridge**
Friday evenings attendances are still poor, around 4 tables, so it's loss making, with the TD cost. Tuesday evening attendances are also mediocre, but we have some improvers who might be interested in attending. It is important that this session does not run on too late, say finishing at the latest by 930, and usually by 910 or 915pm. We agreed Jim will email all members to encourage more attendance. **ACTION Jim**
4. **Finances**
 - a. Overview: no issues
 - b. Choice of charity for 2026: we have continued supporting Walton Lea in 2025. We agreed to discuss and agree our 2026 charity at our next meeting. Committee Members will provide their suggestions, either at the meeting, or preferably beforehand by email. **ACTION All**
 - c. We agreed that the Christmas buffet and Improvers night will not be a charity event. We have already held our 6 designated Charity/Improvers nights in 2025 (27 Jan, 24 Mar, 12 May, 14 Jul, 8 Sep and 10 Nov).
 - d. Billing: there is a lot of hassle for Janet in chasing up late payers or non-payers. We agreed that after issuing the bills, Janet would, after some suitable time (eg a week to 10 days) email the Committee members with a list of those who had not yet paid, for us all to assist in chasing up. We also agreed that Jim would email all members at the year end, to ask people to pay promptly. **ACTION Jim** The next bills will include the 2026 subscriptions.
 - e. Auditor: Brian Drinkwater is happy to do this for the present year, ie 2025, but we will need to find a new auditor for 2026 onwards. We already have some suggested names of qualified people, to follow up. **ACTION Mike/Jim/Janet**
 - f. Membership: we continue to attract new members, so we are growing steadily. Our list is currently 145. Our low point was 59 in 2018.
5. **Calendar 2026**
We discussed and agreed our calendar of activities for 2026. A concise format version will be posted on the website and noticeboard. **ACTION Jim** (now done)
6. **Expenditure items**
We agreed to purchase two additional Bridgemates. We have 15 at present, and nearly reached needing them all at our last Chairty/Improvers night on 10th November. **ACTION Mike**
7. **Publicity**
 - a. Local GP surgeries/ Primary Care facilities (standing item): Mike will continue to see if there is mileage in following this up, separately from what u3a are doing. **ACTION Mike.**
 - b. Essential Guide: Ian confirmed that this is still working OK. He will keep an eye, in case our entry gets dropped- as sometimes happens. **ACTION Ian**
 - c. Photo opportunity with Walton Lea: no joy re publicity from Walton Lea, after they did turn up for a photo with large cheque. Jim will post an item in our website anyway. **ACTION Jim**
 - d. EBU webinars: the EBU is now running monthly on-line sessions for bridge clubs to discuss their ideas for growing the game. Around 50 to 60 people typically attend, from clubs all over the country. Jim has been attending on our behalf. The next one is Tuesday 27th January 10am, but Jim will be away and unable to attend. He will sent the details, nearer the time so that an alternative person can attend. **ACTION Jim**

8. Operations

- a. Hosting: For Charity/Improvers nights, Malcom Roberts has volunteered to be host, and will sort out a stand-in if he is unavailable. We discussed hosting for regular Monday sessions, but agreed we would rely on the WhatsApp group for finding a partner. We will also ask Brenda if she'd be happy to act as a coordinator for partners, especially for our less experienced players.
- b. Rota/cover for Mondays when Jim and Mike are both away. This remains an ongoing problem. The main issue is opening up the store cupboard, unlocking the wheely box padlock, and moving the wheely box into the bridge room. Setting everything out after that is reasonably straightforward, and most members will help. If there is no milk, someone can go next door and buy it- it only takes a couple of minutes. Physically moving the wheely box is the biggest issue, and either requires an able bodied man, or two people. We also need whoever is doing it to be there by 640 at the latest, preferably 630.
- c. Club Strategy: we had a discussion on some ideas to take the Club forward. We still need a draft strategy update. ACTION Mike
- d. SIM pairs: we don't have a SIM pairs event, now we have opted out of Children in Need. Jim will discuss with Keith what options we have. ACTION Jim
- e. Christmas Social: preparation by Mike and Janine. We will cater for 52. We will include non-alcoholic wine, not just orange juice for those who are driving.

9. Succession/ Resilience /Resource planning (Standing agenda item)

- a. We discussed various options, in particular proactively seeking people to join the Committee at the AGM next March. Ian and Malcolm would approach the likely people we thought might be good candidates. ACTION Ian, Malcolm
- b. Venue: we are very happy with Alford Hall, but should consider contingency should this become unavailable to us in the future.

10. Education/Teaching

- a. Training for bridge teaching (standing item) Jim and Ian will continue to keep a look out for suitable training (venue, timing) ACTION Jim/Ian
- b. TD training: Adam Wiseberg has offered to run a course, over 4 dates. We have yet to sort out suitable dates. There are some people who already do directing, eg at Antrobus or online, or who have done it before: Hilary, Jim, Mike, and Malcolm Strange. Some people at Croft might also want to join in. Ian confirmed they would have up to three. ACTION Mike to arrange with AW. We have a few people who could already be TD (Jim, Mike, Hilary, Malcolm Strange), so we should get them some experience by doing it when supported by an existing TD.

11. AOB

- a. Run a mini-bridge session: the idea is to make members familiar with using mini-bridge as a teaching/learning tool, so that they might use it with eg grandchildren to introduce them to bridge. We will look to doing this one afternoon next summer.
- b. Inter-club evenings: possibly a summer activity, as people will be more reluctant to drive on dark wintry nights. We might try a session with Croft, possibly a teams of 4 evening?
- c. Café bridge: some clubs have tried this and found it very successful. We might consider running an event, say in Stockton Heath, next summer. Jim will circulate links to material which explains it and how it works. ACTION Jim (now done)

12. Date of Next Meeting:

Saturday 17th January, 0930 hrs, on Zoom