



The Newcastle Bridge Club Incorporated ABN 16 405 302 022

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

For meeting held Tuesday 10/02/2026



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COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Location:	Newcastle Bridge Club	Date:	10 February 2026
Chair:	Jeff Biddlecombe	Time:	1:30pm
1. Apologies: Kathleen Drew, James Leitch			
2. Minutes of previous meeting dated 13 January 2026			
3. Correspondence 3.1.			
4. Financials 4.1. P & L to January 2026 (circulate) 4.2. Treasurer's report for February meeting (circulated)			
5. Business arising from correspondence and previous minutes 5.1. Suggestions received at AGM – follow up 5.2. Teaching Sub-committee update (ref Minutes circulated) 5.3. Tuesday night supervised session 5.4. Events promotion role 5.5. March Congress – update (Ailsa) 5.6. Catering for weekend events 5.7. Bridge NSW: New region-focused State Championships for 2026 – update (refer email from James re his contact with Bridge NSW)			
6. New Business 6.1. June Congress - priorities 6.2. Heartsine Defibrillator Recall (Ailsa) 6.3. Club Presidents' Day – report (Jeff) 6.4. Latest Newsletter – NBC website (Jenny)			
7. General Business 7.1. Suggestion box 7.2. Petition re community notice board (“to broaden the use of our existing notice board so it can display members non- bridge activities and events”) (Jenny / Effie)			
8. Next meeting: Tuesday 10/03/2026			

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: February 2026

Location:	Newcastle Bridge Club	Date:	10/02/2026
Chair:	Jeff Biddlecombe	Time:	1:30 pm
Attendees:	Jeff Biddlecombe, Jenny Bissett, Les Brien, Julie Butel (minute taker), Ailsa Kearney, Peter Peterson, Effie Roach, Ken Wilks.		

AGENDA ITEM
<p>1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</p> <p>Jeff opened the meeting at 1:30 pm.</p> <p>Apologies: Kathleen Drew, James Leitch.</p>
<p>2. MINUTES</p> <p>2.1. Minutes of the previous meeting (13/01/2026)</p> <p>Ken moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted and Ailsa seconded the motion which was agreed by all. Jeff then signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.</p>
<p>3. CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>No correspondence that needed tabling was received since the last meeting.</p>
<p>4. FINANCIALS (Les)</p> <p>4.1. P & L to January 2026 (see attached)</p> <p>4.2. Treasurer's report for January meeting (see attached)</p> <p>Les tabled his report for the 7 months to January 2026 noting a loss of \$1971 compared to a profit of \$2744 for the same period of the previous year. The main reasons for the turnaround were insurance (\$2389), reduced interest (\$2262), masterpoints (\$791) and Pianola (\$600), with the latter two probably due to timing.</p> <p>Table fees are up by 9%.</p> <p>Les advised that a new term deposit of \$5000 for a period of 3 months is being set up with Greater Bank. Approximately half of this amount is from the online saver account which was earning no interest. If the funds in this new Term Deposit are needed before maturity, Les advised that we will be no worse off as the penalty for early withdrawal is a reduction in the interest payable.</p> <p>Les moved that the P & L and his report be accepted. This was seconded by Jenny and agreed by all present.</p>

AGENDA ITEM

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE / PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1. Follow up on suggestions received at the AGM

Jenny advised that she had contacted Chris Dibley re the concept of Teams of 3 as a way of attracting more members to the Monday afternoon Bridge session, which is in bad shape. Currently, there are not enough players in the session (if it runs at all) to organise a Teams session. Peter suggested running a “Mad March” campaign – free Bridge on Monday afternoons for the month of March. Given that there were no other ideas, It was agreed to give this a go, and if numbers improve, try Teams of 3 in April

Action: Jenny offered to send an email, prepare a poster and do a general spruik to promote the event.

5.2. Teaching Sub-committee update (minutes of Feb meeting circulated and attached).

- **Details of upcoming lessons and planned lessons** are included in the attached meeting minutes.
- **Tuesday evening Supervised session:** The Sub-committee has strongly recommended that contrary to the email that was circulated advising the session would not run if less than 12 players registered, it was important for the session to run irrespective of the numbers. The rationale is that beginners need a night session and that new things take a while to bed down. This was understood and agreed by all.

Action: Ken to determine if the website can be modified to reflect this decision.

- **Enrolments for the Beginners lessons** commencing 12th February (Thursday afternoon) and 18th February (Wednesday evening) are encouraging at 52 and 19 respectively, with some yet to be confirmed. This means that the mentoring program will need to be ramped up.

5.3. Tuesday night supervised session

Refer to comments in 5.2 above

5.4. Events promotion role

Jeff advised that he has spoken to Caroline Carey, who is happy to continue doing the role but that we should seek out someone else who may be interested.

5.5. March Congress Update

Ailsa advised that 11 tables have now registered and planning is well underway.

Ken agreed to advise details of direct bank deposit payments on a weekly basis so that the entries can be marked ‘paid’.

5.6. Catering for weekend events

Details and forms are on the noticeboard and the process seems to be working OK.

5.7. Bridge NSW: New region-focused State Championships for 2026 – update

James contacted Bridge NSW after the last meeting to seek clarification if we could run qualifying events on Sunday. Below is a summary of his conversation with David Havyatt (Tournament Organiser):

AGENDA ITEM

- *The rationale behind obliging the club to play the qualifying events on a regular advertised session (i.e. not Sunday) is to prevent conflict with red point events at neighbouring clubs. The supplementary draft regulations will be going to their committee soon and if approved they will allow playing at another time if approval is granted by the Bridge NSW calendar coordinator.*
- *Each club can send as many pairs as they like to the regional finals in each division limited only by the number of pairs playing in the club event. So not exactly a selection event. In teams you can send half the number of teams that took part.*
- *He understands the difficulty of hosting the regional finals - he is exploring holding each division at different clubs. He is also emailing the clubs to try and get an idea of how many pairs and teams they intend to send to the regional finals.*

Ken advised that he has sent an email requesting approval to run our qualifying events on Sunday. He has not had a response to date, but is hopeful it will be OK.

5.8. Restricted Pairs Honours Board

It was agreed to introduce a new Honours Board for the Restricted Pairs Champions (part of our Pairs Championship) at a Committee meeting in 2025. To date this has not been organised.

There was discussion about the 2025 Restricted Pairs Champions. James Leitch and Pravin Nahar (Restricted players) were the overall winners on the day and were named the Open Pairs Champions, with the Restricted Pairs Champion award going to Graham Woods and Grant Gamage (the next best Restricted Pair).

Peter proposed that the Championship Regulations be amended to include the principle that if a Restricted pair (or team) win the overall competition, they are declared the Open Champions and the next highest Restricted pair (or team) become the Restricted Champions. This was agreed by all present.

Action agreed: Peter to amend the Championship Regulations; Jenny to follow up getting the new board organised with Vincia.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. June Congress

The changes compared to last year's event were noted and agreed.

Action: Julie to set the Congress up in MyABF; Ken to follow up TBIB re sponsorship (once this is confirmed, Julie to liaise with Caroline re the brochure).

6.2. Heartsine Defibrillator Recall

Ailsa reported that a defect has been found in some Heartsine Defibrillator models, including ours. It will be replaced once stock is available. In the meantime, there is of any issues arising from the defect.

6.3. Club Presidents' Day – report

Jeff, Jenny and Peter attended the Presidents' Day at Maitland Bridge Club on 27/1/26. Jenny reported that the day was well attended.

AGENDA ITEM

Key points covered:

- Background – Sydney Bridge Club becomes one entity, Bridge NSW another
- Improving communication between clubs and club engagement with Bridge NSW. The idea of reintroducing the Hunter Interclub Challenge was floated (but not a lot of enthusiasm)
- Website: Significant improvements, including club resources pages
- Request to include a link from club websites to Bridge NSW Newsletter
- Lessons information and support
- Directing: encouragement for directors and the resources available. There was a suggestion to regularly display directing slides, and that directors hold monthly meetings and focus on one topic
- Marketing: To grow the sport via 2NUR, notices at the front of club premises, community noticeboards
- An ABF update is coming (and is needed)

Discussion / action: Jenny proposed that we include a link from our homepage to the Bridge NSW Newsletter via the 'Latest Newsletter' link that is there currently. The link was previously used when we had regular Newsletters but the current link is to a December 2022 Newsletter. 5 present were in favour of doing this; Ken was unsure if this was possible.

Agreed: Ken to see if it can be done and if not remove the link altogether.

6.4. "Latest Newsletter" link on NBC website – refer 6.3

7. GENERAL BUSINESS:

7.1. Suggestion Box

No suggestions have been received since the last meeting

Note: Les Brien left the meeting at this point due to another commitment.

7.2. Wednesday Session

Jeff reported that the last Wednesday morning session finished after 1:30 pm, resulting in chaos in the carpark and on the street as the Wednesday afternoon session players were arriving. This was an unacceptably dangerous situation.

The session director suggested it may be possible for the session to commence at 9:30am to prevent the situation from reoccurring.

Action: Jeff to confirm with director and the new start time to commence in March. Once agreed, Ken to update the website.

7.3. Petition from members re use of Notice Board

A petition was received with signatures from 51 members:

"The people whose names and signatures appear below, petition the Committee of the Newcastle Bridge Club as follows:

We, members of the Newcastle Bridge Club, respectfully petition to broaden the use of our existing notice board so it may also display members' non-bridge activities and events. Allowing this would strengthen our community, increase member interaction and make the Club a more welcoming, lively place – benefits that ultimately support stronger participation in Club events. We believe this small change would enrich the Club's social atmosphere and help members feel more connected.

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Note to people signing this petition:

If you support the above proposal, please add your name and signature to sign this petition. If you have any questions, please ask Pam Kyte or Howard Bridgman.”

Two Committee members spoke against the Petition with concerns about management of the board (tidiness, appropriateness, etc), consistency with previous deliberations on the issue albeit without a formal policy, and limitation of space.

A suggestion was made that the notice board adjacent to the results display board be made available for a trial period of 3 months with the following criteria to apply:

- **Notices must:**
 - Be of general interest to club members
 - Be non-commercial, non-political, non-racist, non-religious, non-advocacy
 - NOT promote businesses, paid services or activities resulting in personal gain
- The Committee reserves the right to remove notices that breach the criteria, are out of date and / or cause complaints or congestion.

All except for one person were in favour of allowing the trial to proceed.

7.4. NBC Website

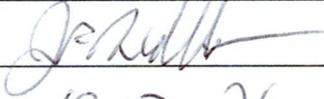
Ken advised that our website is currently running on PHP v7.4, but the latest version is 8.3 which is creating issues. It may be a problem to update our website because of its age. Ken proposed that he investigate what's involved in updating the website, the benefit of doing so and the cost.

All agreed.

8. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 10/03 commencing at 1:30pm.

9. MEETING CLOSE: The meeting concluded at 3:00 pm

CONFIRMED TO BE A TRUE RECORD OF THE MEETING:

Moved by:	A. Kearney
Seconded by:	P. Paterson
Signed by:	
Date:	10-3-26

Newcastle Bridge Club
12 Young Road, Broadmeadow 2292
Profit & Loss [With Last Year]

July 2025 To January 2026

	This Year		Last Year	TY - LY
	TY		LY	
Income				
Competitions				
Congress	\$105.00		\$0.00	\$105.00
Weekend Club Events	\$806.00		\$746.00	\$60.00
Hosting Events	\$470.00		\$470.00	\$0.00
Memberships				
Subscriptions	\$12,315.00		\$10,405.00	\$1,910.00
Table Fees				
Monday Supervised Play	\$6,696.00	10.3%	\$5,544.00	\$1,152.00
Monday Afternoon	\$4,178.00	6.4%	\$5,782.00	(\$1,604.00)
Tuesday Morning	\$14,934.00	22.9%	\$13,176.00	\$1,758.00
Tuesday Night	\$4,564.00	7.0%	\$5,086.00	(\$522.00)
Wednesday	\$4,266.00	6.5%	\$3,750.00	\$516.00
Wednesday Supervised Play	\$4,482.00	6.9%	\$0.00	\$4,482.00
Thursday Supervised Play	\$0.00	0.0%	\$428.00	(\$428.00)
Thursday Morning	\$12,960.00	19.9%	\$12,536.00	\$424.00
Friday	\$6,408.00	9.8%	\$6,632.00	(\$224.00)
Saturday	\$6,774.00	10.4%	\$6,918.00	(\$144.00)
Total Table Fees	\$65,262.00	100.0%	\$59,852.00	\$5,410.00
Board Dealing	\$1,928.00		\$1,253.00	\$675.00
Hall Hire	\$30.00		\$0.00	\$30.00
Lessons	\$670.30		\$100.00	\$570.30
Sundry Receipts	\$14.09		\$680.00	(\$665.91)
Total Income	\$81,600.39		\$73,506.00	\$8,094.39
Expenses				
Accounting Fees	\$990.00		\$935.00	\$55.00
Card Dealing	\$1,200.00		\$1,024.00	\$176.00
Cleaning	\$9,900.00		\$8,478.25	\$1,421.75
Consumables	\$3,720.07		\$3,985.32	(\$265.25)
Insurance	\$10,028.85		\$7,557.00	\$2,471.85
General Expense	\$57.00		\$56.00	\$1.00
Printing, Stationery & Postage	\$2,994.89		\$2,792.76	\$202.13
Prize Money	\$2,407.77		\$2,988.00	(\$580.23)
Refreshments	\$2,951.80		\$2,619.84	\$331.96
Socials	\$2,132.48		\$2,028.71	\$103.77
Competitions				
Congress	\$136.62		\$110.86	\$25.76
Other Competitions	\$1,752.40		\$2,034.81	(\$282.41)
Employment Expenses				
Wages				
Office Staff	\$8,090.50		\$7,638.38	\$452.12
Superannuation	\$1,858.58		\$1,375.62	\$482.96
Non Playing Director	\$9,000.00		\$6,370.00	\$2,630.00
Fees & Levies				
Affiliation (NSWBA)	\$5,720.00		\$5,300.00	\$420.00
Capitation (ABF)	\$124.15		\$30.00	\$94.15
Masterpoints	\$2,012.47		\$1,507.73	\$504.74

	This Year	Last Year	TY - LY
	TY	LY	
Repairs & Mtce			
R&M Air Conditioning	\$220.00	\$163.64	\$56.36
R&M Building	\$795.00	\$319.94	\$475.06
R&M Equipment	\$1,146.48	\$808.65	\$337.83
R&M Grounds	\$264.00	\$297.00	(\$33.00)
Utilities			
Electricity	\$1,252.24	\$1,213.94	\$38.30
Rates - Land / Water	\$9,762.35	\$9,604.49	\$157.86
Telecommunications	\$2,252.34	\$2,210.33	\$42.01
Computer Systems			
Events Calendar	\$170.50	\$170.50	\$0.00
MYOB Eentials	\$84.00	\$84.00	\$0.00
Pianola	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
Depreciation	\$5,250.00	\$3,370.50	\$1,879.50
Loss on disposal of NC assets	\$1,750.00	\$991.67	\$758.33
Total Expenses	\$88,624.49	\$76,666.94	\$11,957.55
Operating Profit	(\$7,024.10)	(\$3,160.94)	(\$3,863.16)
Other Income			
Interest Income	\$5,053.11	\$5,905.28	(\$852.17)
Total Other Income	\$5,053.11	\$5,905.28	(\$852.17)
Net Profit/(Loss)	(\$1,970.99)	\$2,744.34	(\$4,715.33)

Table fees to -	Weeks to	Wkly Ave	Est for Yr	
July	11014.00	5	2203	114546
August	20326.00	9	2258	117439
September	31384.00	13	2414	125536
October	39624.00	18	2201	114469
November	48310.00	22	2196	114187
December	57038.00	27	2113	109851
January	65262.00	31	2105	109472
February				
March				
April				
May				
June				
NB Total table fees for the year ended 30th June 2025				104159

Membership at	June 2025	April 2024	April 2023
Home members	274	255	247
Alternate members	33	38	28
Total	307	293	275
June 2025 includes 6 life members			

Newcastle Bridge Club – Treasurer’s Report for February 2026 meeting

P&L for 7 months to January 2026 shows a result of \$1971 loss compared to a profit of \$2744 last year. See excel file P&L months of 26 year, sheet JANUARY 26. Last month the result was \$601 better than the year before but this month it is \$4715 worse than the year before. This turnaround of \$5316 is detailed at cells Q35 to U79 in the JANUARY sheet. The major variations are insurance (\$2389); masterpoints (\$791); pianola (\$600); and interest income (\$2262). Masterpoints and pianola are probably timing differences and the interest variation arose because the amount received in January 2025 on the term deposit was \$3581 (12 months at 5.1%) compared to \$1330 (6 months at 4.15%).

An estimate has been made for depreciation at the rate of \$750 per month allowing for the new solar panels and battery installation and likely purchase of new chairs. An allowance has also been made for the loss on disposal of the old solar panels at the rate of \$250 per month. The actual amounts will be processed by the Accountants at year end. There are also some explanations noted in the spreadsheet.

Also see **Table Fees** exercise showing table fees to end of the month; a weekly average; and an estimate for the year. Table fees are up by 9%.

Funds at end of January – cheque account \$6969 Online saver account \$2875 Greater Bank business access account \$737. As no interest is being earned on the Online saver account I have arranged for \$2850 to be transferred from it to the cheque account. A term deposit of \$5000 from the cheque account with the Greater for 3 months at 3.75% pa.is being arranged.

Greater Bank Deposit \$64642 for 6 months at 4.15% pa(matures 10th July 2026), and \$95217 for 6 months at 4.15% pa(matures 29th June 2026).

When promoting the March Congress to our members I recommend that they be encouraged to pay by direct deposit to the club’s bank account. As a result there will be less cash to deal with on the day and a lesser involvement of the ABF.



The Newcastle Bridge Club Incorporated ABN 16 405 302 022

TEACHING SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES: Feb 2026

Location:	Newcastle Bridge Club	Date:	1/07/2025
Chair:	Jenny Bissett	Time:	1:15 pm
Attendees:	Greg Archbold (GA), Neil Best (NB), Kathleen Drew (KD) Jenny Bissett, (JB) - minute taker.		
Apologies:	Nil		

AGENDA ITEM

1. Set dates for lessons

- **1:30 pm Tuesday 24 February 2026** - The Magic of the Takeout Double by Christo Moskovsky. Intermediate level.
- **Thursday afternoons 14, 21 & 28 May 2026 & Wednesday evenings 20, 27 May & 3 June** - Suit Play by Ken Wilks. Intermediate level.
- **Thursday 30 July 2026 (start date)**- Beginner's Course
- **1:30 pm Tuesdays 9, 16, 23 & 30 June 2026 (TBC)** - weak 2s, strong bids & basic card play (extension of beginner's lessons) - by Vincia Martin & Jennifer Bissett.

Action: JB to advise Committee, request update to Calendar & Website - Lesson drop down to include Beginners & Intermediate tab with links to upcoming events.

2. Prioritisation of Topics

In response to email of 5 Nov 2026 sent to all members requesting feedback on topics of interest, there were 9 emails received and 3 personal approaches (12). Priorities identified:

- Multi 2s/Bergen raises
- Forcing/Non Forcing
- Interventions over NT
- Signals & opening leads
- Slam bidding
- Scoring - sacrificing or passing
- Everything (7 respondents)

JB sought opinion of teachers (NB & GA) with regard to priorities. They identified we need to run sessions onn weak 2s and strong bids for beginners who have completed the Lessons. GA mentioned that slam bidding was still difficult for players. NB mentioned that basic card play principles such as counting losers & winners was also required but at a basic level. It was agreed that we need to hold the Weak 2s and Strong bids modules in June and that an additional two weeks could be added to this to incorporate very basic card play.

Note - after the meeting JB discussed with Vincia Martin who agreed to assist and determined the dates outlined above in Agenda item 1, last dot point.

AGENDA ITEM

3. Anything else

Tuesday Night Supervised: Discussion regarding Tuesday night supervised. Consensus was that where there wasn't enough tables, that it was important for the session to still run. That people could just play hands without being scored and be given additional tuition. There was strong agreement that the session needed to continue to run to ensure there was somewhere for the beginners to go. It is expected that it will take many months for this session to be worthwhile but without Beginners having a time to play it is thought that it will be difficult to grow membership of new members.

Upcoming Beginner Lessons: GA & NB reported that there were at least 52 (confirmed participants) and possibly 60 (8 unconfirmed) for the Thursday afternoon lessons. And that there were approximately 19 for the Wednesday evenings. Given the number it was noted that the Mentoring Program will need to be run again after the conclusion of the lessons.

Action: JB to raise with Committee comments regarding Tuesday night session.

8. NEXT MEETING: TBA

9. MEETING CLOSE: The meeting concluded at 2:45pm

Etiquette:

East west stand up move it there left.

Most misunderstood rules -

Dummy's role:

* tell declarer their turned