



NEWCASTLEBRIDGE

The Newcastle Bridge Club Incorporated ABN 16 405 302 022

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

For meeting held Tuesday 10/03/2026



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COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Location:	Newcastle Bridge Club	Date:	10 March 2026
Chair:	Jeff Biddlecombe	Time:	1:30pm
1. Apologies: Effie Roach			
2. Minutes of previous meeting dated 10 February 2026			
3. Correspondence			
3.1. Invitation to participate in Australia wide Novice Pairs 25 – 31 May			
4. Financials			
4.1. P & L to February 2026 (circulated)			
4.2. Treasurer's report for March meeting (circulated)			
5. Business arising from correspondence and previous minutes			
5.1. Bridge NSW: New region-focused State Championships for 2026 – any response re running qualifying events on Sundays? (Ken)			
5.2. Tuesday night supervised session (Jenny)			
5.3. Wednesday morning session – start time (Jeff)			
5.4. NBC website – update (Ken)			
5.5. Update of Honour Boards / Restricted Pairs Honour Board (Jenny)			
5.6. Amendment to Championship Regulations (Peter)			
5.7. Report on Monday afternoon session experiment (Peter)			
5.8. Update on energy management (Jeff)			
6. New Business			
6.1. Table fee payment systems			
6.2. Tables in storage shed			
6.3. Hunter Bridge Association supervised sessions (online)			
7. General Business			
7.1. Suggestion box			
7.2. Notes for future meetings			
8. Next meeting: Tuesday 14/04/2026			



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COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: March 2026

Location:	Newcastle Bridge Club	Date:	10/03/2026
Chair:	Jeff Biddlecombe	Time:	1:30 pm
Attendees:	Jeff Biddlecombe, Jenny Bissett, Les Brien, Julie Butel (minute taker), Kathleen Drew, Ailsa Kearney, James Leitch, Peter Peterson, Ken Wilks.		

AGENDA ITEM
<p>1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</p> <p>Jeff opened the meeting at 1:25 pm. Apologies: Effie Roach.</p>
<p>2. MINUTES</p> <p>2.1. Minutes of the previous meeting (10/02/2026)</p> <p>Ailsa moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted and Peter 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>3.1. Invitation to participate in Australia-Wide Novice Pairs (25 – 31 May). This is an annual event for players with fewer than 100 masterpoints. The cost for a player to participate is \$5. It would be run as part of the Thursday session (25/05).</p> <p>Action: It was agreed that we will participate if there are enough Thursday players interested. Ken will raise it at the Thursday session.</p>
<p>4. FINANCIALS (Les)</p> <p>4.1. P & L to February 2026 (see attached)</p> <p>4.2. Treasurer’s report for February meeting (see attached)</p> <p>Les tabled his report for the 8 months to February 2026 noting a profit of \$1225 compared to a profit of \$6211 for the same period last year. The main reasons for the reduced profit were insurance (\$2471), cleaning (\$1463), non-playing director (\$3060) and depreciation and loss on disposal of assets (\$3014).</p> <p>Les advised that Lambourne Partners has insurance brokers and suggested that he brief them on our requirements and get a quote. All were in favour of Les doing this so he will report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>Table fees are up by 9%.</p> <p>Les advised that the new term deposit of \$5000 for 3 months with Greater Bank has been finalised.</p>

AGENDA ITEM

James asked if a monthly report is necessary or if a report every 3 months might be sufficient. The general consensus was that a monthly report is preferred, at least for the present.

Jenny moved that the P & L and Treasurer's report be accepted. This was seconded by Ken and agreed by all present.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE / PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

Ken advised that he has informed Bridge NSW of how we intend to run our qualifying events. While he has not received confirmation that our plans have been accepted, receipt of the forms submitted was acknowledged. The qualifier details are as follows:

Pairs:

Club Pairs Championship on Sunday 23/08 (Open and Under Grand categories)
Thursday Pairs 6/08 (Under National category)

Teams:

Club Teams Championship on Sunday 12/07 (Open and Under Grand categories)
Thursday Teams 19/08 (Under National category)

Entry costs (charged to the club):

\$2.50 per player per session for Club Selection events

\$50.00 for each club representative pair playing in the Regional Final

\$100.00 for each club representative team playing in the Regional Final

It was agreed that we would sponsor 2 pairs and 2 teams to the Regional Finals for each of the three categories. It was noted that we will still get red masterpoints even if we don't send anyone to the Regional Finals (unlike previous years).

5.2. Tuesday night supervised session

The Tuesday night supervised session started 2 weeks ago; the response has been disappointing - **Week 1: 3 tables; Week 2: 2 tables** (Jeff decided it would not be scored due to the low numbers on this night).

It was agreed that we would aim to keep the session going until the Wednesday night lessons finish. In the meantime, **Julie will send an email urging support.** The future of the session will be reviewed at the June Committee meeting.

5.3. Wednesday morning session start time

Jeff advised that he had spoken to the regular players and the decision was made not to change the starting time so it remains at 10:00am.

To avoid a reoccurrence of the carparking / traffic chaos recently experienced when the morning session finished late, the start time for the Wednesday afternoon supervised play session has been pushed back to 2:15pm.

5.4. NBC Website

Ken advised that a rewrite of the website is required, not just an update. He has requested a proposal to do the work but to date has not yet received anything. He will chase it up.

AGENDA ITEM

5.5. Update of Honour Boards (including New Restricted Pairs Honour Board)

Jenny advised that she had briefed Purnell on 12/02 and chased the job up 3 weeks later when she was told that the update of the existing boards was no. 41 on the job queue (the invoice of \$370 has been paid). We estimate therefore that the work may be completed within a 1-2 months' time frame from now.

The invoice for the installation and creation of the new Restricted Pairs Honour Board has not yet been received so the timeframe for it will be longer.

5.6. Amendments to Championship Regulations

Peter reported that upon reviewing the Regulations to make the changes agreed at the last meeting, he found that many other things needed to be updated. He therefore proposed that he review the entire document and bring the recommended changes to the April meeting for approval, which was agreed.

5.7. Report on Monday afternoon sessions experiment (Mad March)

Peter reported that Mad March Monday has been run twice so it's too early to draw any conclusions, and the session is still free. However, attendance has been pleasing, with 9 full tables the first week and 11 in the second week. Most of the regulars have continued to come with the additional players being those who usually play on Tuesday, Thursday and Monday mornings. In general, participants appear to be enjoying the session.

Peter reported that he has been giving a little speech at the beginning of the session, encouraging everyone to feel welcome and for the regular players to "be nice".

It was agreed not to introduce any further initiatives for the session until we've had a chance to see if the increased participation continues beyond the free sessions in March.

Jenny congratulated Peter on his encouraging words and for suggesting the concept in the first place as a possible way to attract more players to the struggling session.

5.8. Update on energy management (see report attached)

Jeff presented an overview of the learnings from when our smart meter was upgraded. This upgrade was done to facilitate Amber's management of our energy usage, with the overall objective being to reduce our energy usage.

In summary:

- Our battery had zero capacity at times at the start of the day
- Our practice of running the A/C system with all the doors and windows open was causing the stored energy to be drained from the battery during the morning sessions, with the solar panels generally not fully operating until late morning / early afternoon when the sun hit. Moreover, our A/C system was unable to operate as a proper A/C system as it was essentially "cooling the world" and in doing so, using more energy than the solar panels could generate, thus resulting in the need to import energy from the grid.

As a consequence of these findings, measures have been put in place to improve the efficiency (cost and environmental) of both our A/C system and our newly installed solar panels and battery, as follows:

AGENDA ITEM

- **All windows and doors (including the front hallway door) are to be closed whenever the A/C is on**
- **On cooler days, the windows and doors may be opened BUT the A/C is to be OFF with just the fan running.**

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Table Fee payment

James queried if a system of monthly (or other) payment for table fees could be introduced which could allow an unlimited number of sessions.

After discussion, it was agreed that it may be something that could be considered in the future, but that significant system changes would be necessary to manage it.

6.2. Tables in storage shed

Jenny advised that Charlestown Bridge Club may be interested in some of the spare tables currently being stored in the shed. They have been asked to consider if they have a need for them and to raise it with us if they are interested.

6.3. Hunter Bridge Association online supervised sessions

Peter Clarke (Secretary, Hunter Bridge Association) has discussed the Supervised Play sessions that are run online at 4pm on Sundays by Bridge NSW, with Jenny. Peter reported that the sessions are not popular and that he believes this is because clubs aren't promoting them. Jenny advised that she has discussed the sessions at Supervised Play sessions.

It was agreed that this is the appropriate way for us to promote the online session.

6.4. Succession planning

The issue of succession planning for key roles was discussed. No decisions or actions were agreed.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS:

7.1. Suggestion Box: No suggestions were received since the last Committee meeting.

7.2. Notes for future meetings: Review Tuesday night Supervised Play session (June meeting); review Community Notice Board trial (June meeting)

8. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 14/04 commencing at 1:30pm.

9. MEETING CLOSE: The meeting concluded at 2:30 pm

CONFIRMED TO BE A TRUE RECORD OF THE MEETING:

Moved by:	
Seconded by:	
Signed by:	
Date:	

Newcastle Bridge Club				
12 Young Road Broadmeadow 2292				
Profit & Loss [With Last Year]				
July 2025 To February 2026				
	This Year		Last Year	TY - LY
	TY		LY	
Income				
Competitions				
Congress	\$315.00		\$120.00	\$195.00
Weekend Club Events	\$920.00		\$938.00	(\$18.00)
Hosting Events	\$470.00		\$470.00	\$0.00
Memberships				
Subscriptions	\$12,880.00		\$10,580.00	\$2,300.00
Table Fees				
Monday Supervised Play	\$7,776.00		\$6,498.00	\$1,278.00
Monday Afternoon	\$4,570.00		\$6,556.00	(\$1,986.00)
Tuesday Morning	\$17,152.00		\$15,064.00	\$2,088.00
Tuesday Night	\$5,140.00		\$5,702.00	(\$562.00)
Tuesday Night Supervised	\$82.00		\$0.00	\$82.00
Wednesday	\$4,898.00		\$4,324.00	\$574.00
Wednesday Supervised Play	\$4,898.00		\$0.00	\$4,898.00
Thursday Supervised Play	\$0.00		\$428.00	(\$428.00)
Thursday Morning	\$14,758.00		\$14,230.00	\$528.00
Friday	\$7,282.00		\$7,474.00	(\$192.00)
Saturday	\$7,484.00		\$7,930.00	(\$446.00)
Total Table Fees	\$74,040.00		\$68,206.00	\$5,834.00
Board Dealing	\$2,184.00		\$1,425.00	\$759.00
Hall Hire	\$30.00		\$0.00	\$30.00
Lessons	\$834.30		\$100.00	\$734.30
Sundry Receipts	\$14.09		\$680.00	(\$665.91)
Total Income	\$91,687.39		\$82,519.00	\$9,168.39
Expenses				
Accounting Fees	\$990.00		\$935.00	\$55.00
Card Dealing	\$1,384.00		\$1,176.00	\$208.00
Cleaning	\$11,220.00		\$9,757.00	\$1,463.00
Consumables	\$4,482.59		\$4,643.10	(\$160.51)
Insurance	\$10,028.85		\$7,557.00	\$2,471.85
General Expense	\$57.00		\$136.00	(\$79.00)
Printing, Stationery & Postage	\$3,361.50		\$3,231.41	\$130.09
Prize Money	\$2,495.77		\$3,100.00	(\$604.23)
Refreshments	\$3,327.31		\$2,989.74	\$337.57
Socials	\$2,132.48		\$2,049.71	\$82.77
Competitions				
Congress	\$136.62		\$110.86	\$25.76
Other Competitions	\$1,887.40		\$2,034.81	(\$147.41)
Employment Expenses				
Wages				
Office Staff	\$9,104.25		\$8,335.09	\$769.16
Superannuation	\$1,858.58		\$1,375.62	\$482.96
Non Playing Director	\$10,200.00		\$7,140.00	\$3,060.00
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

July 2025 To February 2026			
	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	\$823.65	\$322.83
R&M Grounds	\$297.00	\$363.00	(\$66.00)
Utilities			
Electricity	\$1,350.45	\$1,180.00	\$170.45
Rates - Land / Water	\$9,762.35	\$9,604.49	\$157.86
Telecommunications	\$2,375.34	\$2,327.82	\$47.52
Computer Systems			
Events Calendar	\$170.50	\$170.50	\$0.00
Microsoft 365	\$179.00	\$179.00	\$0.00
MYOB Eentials	\$96.00	\$96.00	\$0.00
Pianola	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
Depreciation	\$6,000.00	\$3,852.00	\$2,148.00
Loss on disposal of NC assets	\$2,000.00	\$1,133.33	\$866.67
Total Expenses	\$95,515.09	\$82,222.44	\$13,292.65
Operating Profit	\$3,827.70	\$296.56	\$4,124.26
Other Income			
Interest Income	\$5,053.11	\$5,915.33	(\$862.22)
Total Other Income	\$5,053.11	\$5,915.33	(\$862.22)
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$1,225.41	\$6,211.89	\$4,986.48

Table fees to -		Weeks to	Wkly Avege	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	74040.00	35	2115	110002
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 March 2026 meeting

P&L for 8 months to February 2026 shows a result of \$1225 profit compared to a profit of \$6211 last year. See excel file P&L months of 26 year, sheet FEBRUARY 26. The major variations over last year are cleaning (1463); insurance (\$2471); non playing director (\$3060); and depreciation and loss on disposal of NC assets (\$3014).

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 February:

Cheque account \$9861

Online saver account \$25

Greater Bank business access account \$792.

A term deposit of \$5000 from the cheque account with the Greater for 3 months at 3.75% pa. has been arranged.

Greater Bank Deposit \$64642 for 6 months at 4.15% pa (matures 10th July 2026); \$95217 for 6 months at 4.15% pa (matures 29th June 2026); and \$5000 for 3 months at 3.75% pa (matures 26th May 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. Accordingly, there will be less cash to deal with on the day and a lesser involvement of the ABF.

ENERGY MANAGEMENT Report (Jeff)

With the installation of the solar panels and battery system, NBC has signed up with Amber (an energy supplier) to control the storage, energy usage and export excess energy back into grid. To enable this, Amber required NBC to change to an appropriate smart meter. This has been done and NBC are awaiting Amber to take control.

In the process of changing over the meters, NBC needed to have enough battery storage to do the changeover. In setting this up, the following issues were found:

NBC's battery at times was at zero capacity at start of day

NBC had to manually charge up battery from grid to get correct storage for outage

NBC's practice of running the air conditioner continually during sessions with many windows and one or both doors open was extremely inefficient economically and environmentally in the use of having solar panels and a battery

As the solar panels generally did not fully operate until the sun hit them usually late morning and afternoon, the A/C unit was using more than what the solar panels produced, resulting in importing from the grid (complete opposite of what the intention of the solar system was supposed to do!)

With Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday having two or three sessions due to supervised sessions, evening sessions and evening lessons, NBC needed to be more efficient in the use of the A/C

During COVID 2019-2020, NBC ran the A/C with the back window and two cross windows open to try and input some fresh air and NBC was willing to run the A/C in this position. However, since then, the practice has morphed into the position where more windows and both doors were open

Consequently, with COVID not the huge problem it was, the A/C usage going forward is to run the A/C with all windows shut along with the front hallway door closed. So far this has brought the use of the A/C to where it cycles on and off as it should

When the days are cooler, then windows and doors may be opened BUT with the A/C off and only the fan running. In other words it will be an either/or practice

Temperature measurements are indicating a 0.5 to 1 degree difference between front and rear area (again within correct operating limits)

With the correct running of the A/C, when Amber take control, they will be able to give NBC the appropriate control needed for both economic and environmental benefits.