



NEWCASTLEBRIDGE

The Newcastle Bridge Club Incorporated ABN 16 405 302 022

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

For meeting held Tuesday 14/04/2026



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COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Location:	Newcastle Bridge Club	Date:	14 April 2026
Chair:	Jeff Biddlecombe	Time:	1:30pm
1. Apologies:			
2. Minutes of previous meeting dated 10 March 2026			
3. Correspondence			
3.1. Ian van Altena – fold up tables used for catering			
3.2. Email from Tony di Stefano re allocation of token prize money (circulated)			
3.3. Email from Bridge NSW: Is NBC interested in featuring in Club Profile in May issue of Bridging NSW Newsletter?			
4. Financials			
4.1. P & L to March 2026 (circulated)			
4.2. Treasurer's report for April meeting (circulated)			
5. Business arising from correspondence and previous minutes			
5.1. Novice / Restricted Congress report			
5.2. NBC website – update (Ken)			
5.3. Honour Boards / Restricted Pairs Honour Board – any update?			
5.4. Amendment to Championship Regulations (Peter) (circulated)			
5.5. Energy management – anything to report?			
5.6. Report on Monday afternoon session experiment (March Madness)(Peter)			
5.7. Australia-Wide Novice Pairs (25 – 31 May). Entries close 1 st May			
6. New Business			
6.1. Mixed Pairs Championship Sunday 19 th April			
7. General Business			
7.1. Suggestion box			
7.2. Notes for future meetings -			
8. Next meeting: Tuesday 12/05/2026			



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COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: April 2026

Location:	Newcastle Bridge Club	Date:	14/04/2026
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, Effie Roach, Ken Wilks.		

AGENDA ITEM
<p>1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</p> <p>Jeff opened the meeting at 1:30 pm. There were no apologies.</p>
<p>2. MINUTES</p> <p>2.1. Minutes of the previous meeting (10/03/2026)</p> <p>Jenny 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. Email from Ian van Altena re fold up tables used for catering.</p> <p>Ian reported that one of the fold up tables is broken in several place and the second one is not in good shape. He recommended that both tables be replaced. It was agreed that, given the age of the tables, we would replace them.</p> <p>Action: Jeff agreed to buy replacement tables before the June Congress. Kathleen offered to help with transportation if necessary.</p> <p>3.2. Email from Tony di Stefano re allocation of token prize money (circulated)</p> <p>Tony's concern was that it appeared that the same prizes are given with no regard to the participation level, which in his view was not equitable across the club. He requested the matter be considered for equality and fairness.</p> <p>Ken explained that the allocation of events with prizes and red point events is based on the % income that each session generates. Tuesdays and Thursdays together contribute just over 50% of the income. Accordingly, Tuesdays and Thursdays are allocated approximately 50% of 4 week events, 50% of one day pairs events and 50% of red point events. Moreover, the regulations state that 4 week events averaging 16 tables have double prizes, and that if there are more than 12 eligible pairs, 4th place will be awarded.</p> <p>Based on this, it was agreed that Tuesday and Thursday sessions are treated equitably compared to other sessions and therefore, there is no reason to make any adjustments.</p>

AGENDA ITEM

Ken also advised that due to an oversight, the prizes for 2 recent events held on a Tuesday and Thursday were not calculated correctly (i.e. double the prizes due to the number of tables). Ken recommended that the additional prizes be awarded retrospectively, which was agreed by all.

Action: Ken will communicate the decision to Tony, including an explanation of how prizes are allocated across the sessions.

3.3. Email from Bridge NSW asking if NBC is interested in featuring in the Club Profile section in the May issue of the Bridging NSW newsletter.

It was agreed that this would provide good exposure for the Club.

Action: Ailsa to advise Bridge NSW of our decision; Jenny agreed to provide the information for the article

4. FINANCIALS (Les)

4.1. P & L to March 2026 (see attached)

4.2. Treasurer's report for March meeting (see attached)

Les tabled his report for the 9 months to March 2026 noting a loss of \$9128 compared to a profit of \$219 for the same period last year. The underlying reason for the unfavourable result is that expenses are up but income is not increasing at the same rate. Major increases in expenses include insurance (\$2471), cleaning (\$1463), non-playing director (\$3420), and depreciation and loss on disposal of assets (\$3391). Les commented that while we are seeing increases in table fees, the participation rate is still lower than pre-COVID - i.e. 78 tables/week in 2018 compared with 66 at present.

It was noted that \$1995 has been banked in April for entry fees for the March Congress but most of the expenses were incurred in March. Last year the Congress was held in April.

Table fees are up by 7%. Of particular note is that the Monday Supervised Session now ranks 3rd in overall Table Fee contribution.

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. Novice / Restricted Congress: Report

Ailsa reported that in general the feedback was positive, but noted a few issues:

- Entry fee payments (some people paid twice so the refund process in MyABF had to be navigated).
- Insufficient booklets were printed (only 1 per table) so more had to be printed and collated on the day before the start of play. Ailsa asked if 1 scoring booklet per pair is considered sufficient. There was no reaction recorded to this question.

Note: Comments received after the meeting indicated that the norm is to have 1 booklet available for each player. Action: Discuss and agree at the May meeting

- Some of the newer novice players were not familiar with the Teams competition process (booklets, scoring, etc.) Perhaps we can do something to address this for next year's event.

AGENDA ITEM

- Arranging standby players and teams. This was considered to be the most stressful issue of all to deal with.
- Catering: It was agreed that the Convenor should not be involved with catering arrangements, especially on the day of competition.
- Not displaying the results of each match on the website as the match is scored throughout the Congress which happens for the Open Congress (Ken). Peter commented that he didn't know how to do this.

Action: Ken to check with Ronnie Ng re to set this up.

Comment: *it became apparent after the meeting that some participants thought that the point raised by Ken referred to displaying the results on the monitor so that they were visible to participants throughout the session (which happens during the Open Congress). The comments suggested that players would like this to happen during the Novice / Restricted Congress.*

Action: Discuss at the May meeting.

Both Jenny and Jeff congratulated Ailsa on doing a wonderful job of convening the Congress, especially as it was her first time. This was agreed by all.

5.2. Newcastle Bridge Website – update

Ken reported that Redback has advised that they're probably not the best fit to provide what we need and recommended that we talk to other service providers.

Action: Ken will brief 2 alternative providers to get a quote for the update needed.

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

Jenny advised that the update of our existing boards is now No 3 on Purnell's job list. However, Purnell needed another reminder about the request for the new board and then provided a quote for \$1288. Jenny will get back to them to confirm our requirements and agree a price.

5.4. Amendments to Championship Regulations

Prior to the meeting, Peter had circulated the proposed amendments. Several amendments are needed:

- Changes due to the change of name for NSW BA to Bridge NSW as well as Bridge NSW's new competition regulations
- Changes due to how we run multi week events (i.e. over 4 sessions, not 3)
- Graded Pairs need to be removed as they are no longer an event
- Changes due to the need to specify the different grades for Pairs and Teams for the State finals

A few additional changes were identified after Peter circulated his proposed changes – the need to add double prizes for 4 week events if there are more than 16 tables and the inclusion of 4th place prize if there are more than 12 eligible pairs in the event.

Action: The changes were all agreed, so the document will be updated and published.

5.5. Energy Management (graph attached)

Jeff reported that Amber is now doing what it should be doing and we are now starting to see significant benefits in energy management / costs. The benefits are expected to be less during the winter months.

AGENDA ITEM

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

The experiment has now finished. Participation during March was good, but no income was generated. As agreed, the competition that was originally scheduled for March was moved back to April.

Attendance since the beginning of April is slightly better than it was leading up to the experiment (6 tables on Monday 6/4 which was Easter Monday and 5 tables on 13/4). However, there are no new players, just the regulars who are probably now coming more often.

The bottom line: The experiment didn't achieve the objective of attracting other players to the session. It is therefore not considered worth repeating the exercise for the Wednesday morning session, which is also struggling.

5.7. Australia-Wide Novice Pairs (25-31 May). Entries close 1st May

Ken has advised the Thursday morning players of the event. There is a form at the front desk for those who are interested in participating. We will only register to participate if enough players are interested.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Mixed Pairs Championship Sunday 19th April

An email was sent to all members re the event. Currently, there are 9 pairs registered. There are also a few ladies looking for a partner.

It was agreed that hot food is not required after the event. However, Ailsa agreed to provide a cheese plate to accompany the drinks.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS:

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

7.2. Notes for future meetings:

May meeting:

- Discuss / agree number of scoring booklets to be available at congresses
- Discuss use of monitor during congresses

June meeting:

- Review Tuesday night Supervised Play session
- Review Community Notice Board trial

8. **NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 12/05/26 commencing at 1:30pm.** James advised that he will be an apology.

The meeting concluded at 2:35pm

CONFIRMED TO BE A TRUE RECORD OF THE MEETING:

Moved by:	Les Brien	
Seconded by:	Ailsa Kearney	
Signed by:	K. W. White	Date: 12/5/26

Newcastle Bridge Club

12 Young Road Broadmeadow 2292

Profit & Loss [With Last Year]

July 2025 To March 2026

	This Year	Last Year	TY - LY
	TY	LY	
Income			
Competitions			
Congress	\$665.00	\$710.00	(\$45.00)
Weekend Club Events	\$920.00	\$1,154.00	(\$234.00)
Hosting Events	\$470.00	\$470.00	\$0.00
Memberships			
Subscriptions	\$13,160.00	\$11,040.00	\$2,120.00
Table Fees			
Monday Supervised Play	\$8,676.00	\$7,390.00	\$1,286.00
Monday Afternoon	\$4,570.00	\$7,270.00	(\$2,700.00)
Tuesday Morning	\$19,280.00	\$16,974.00	\$2,306.00
Tuesday Night	\$5,662.00	\$6,404.00	(\$742.00)
Tuesday Night Supervised	\$174.00	\$0.00	\$174.00
Wednesday	\$5,418.00	\$4,948.00	\$470.00
Wednesday Supervised Play	\$5,386.00	\$438.00	\$4,948.00
Thursday Supervised Play	\$0.00	\$428.00	(\$428.00)
Thursday Morning	\$16,622.00	\$16,060.00	\$562.00
Friday	\$8,086.00	\$8,404.00	(\$318.00)
Saturday	\$8,424.00	\$8,812.00	(\$388.00)
Total Table Fees	\$82,298.00	\$77,128.00	\$5,170.00
Board Dealing	\$2,476.00	\$1,597.00	\$879.00
Hall Hire	\$30.00	\$160.00	(\$130.00)
Lessons	\$834.30	\$100.00	\$734.30
Sundry Receipts	\$14.09	\$680.00	(\$665.91)
Total Income	\$100,867.39	\$93,039.00	\$7,828.39
Expenses			
Accounting Fees	\$990.00	\$935.00	\$55.00
Card Dealing	\$1,512.00	\$1,336.00	\$176.00
Cleaning	\$12,870.00	\$11,407.00	\$1,463.00
Consumables	\$5,165.43	\$5,066.28	\$99.15
Insurance	\$10,028.85	\$7,557.00	\$2,471.85
General Expense	\$57.00	\$136.00	(\$79.00)
Printing, Stationery & Postage	\$5,134.50	\$4,169.05	\$965.45
Prize Money	\$3,151.77	\$4,284.00	(\$1,132.23)
Refreshments	\$3,729.52	\$3,561.59	\$167.93
Socials	\$2,208.38	\$2,238.06	(\$29.68)
Competitions			
Congress	\$1,959.93	\$222.91	\$1,737.02
Other Competitions	\$1,887.40	\$2,034.81	(\$147.41)
Employment Expenses			
Wages			
Office Staff	\$10,176.49	\$9,446.06	\$730.43
Superannuation	\$1,858.58	\$1,375.62	\$482.96
Non Playing Director	\$11,400.00	\$7,980.00	\$3,420.00
Fees & Levies			
Affiliation (NSWBA)	\$5,720.00	\$5,300.00	\$420.00

July 2025 To March 2026			
	This Year	Last Year	TY - LY
	TY	LY	
Capitation (ABF)	\$7,538.55	\$6,245.10	\$1,293.45
Masterpoints	\$2,912.75	\$2,166.85	\$745.90
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	\$1,124.77	\$21.71
R&M Grounds	\$330.00	\$496.00	(\$166.00)
Utilities			
Electricity	\$1,415.77	\$1,893.95	(\$478.18)
Rates - Land / Water	\$10,282.12	\$10,178.55	\$103.57
Telecommunications	\$2,498.24	\$2,445.31	\$52.93
Computer Systems			
Events Calendar	\$170.50	\$170.50	\$0.00
Microsoft 365	\$179.00	\$179.00	\$0.00
MYOB Eentials	\$111.00	\$108.00	\$3.00
Pianola	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
Depreciation	\$6,750.00	\$4,333.50	\$2,416.50
Loss on disposal of NC assets	\$2,250.00	\$1,275.00	\$975.00
Total Expenses	\$115,049.26	\$98,749.49	\$16,299.77
Operating Profit/(Loss)	\$14,181.87	\$5,710.49	\$8,471.38
Other Income			
Interest Income	\$5,053.11	\$5,929.54	(\$876.43)
Total Other Income	\$5,053.11	\$5,929.54	(\$876.43)
Net Profit/(Loss)	(\$9,128.76)	\$219.05	(\$9,347.81)

Table fees to -	Weeks to	Wkly Avge	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	82298.00	39	2110	109731
April				
May				
June				
NB Total table fees for the year ended 30th June 2025				104159

Membership at	March 26	June 2025	April 2024
Home members	278	274	255
Alternate members	37	33	38
Total	315	307	293

June 2025 includes 6 life members

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

P&L for 9 months to March 2026 shows a result of \$9128 loss compared to a profit of \$219 last year. See excel file P&L months of 26 year, sheet MARCH 26. In relation to expenses, the major increases over last year are cleaning (\$1463); insurance (\$2471); non playing director (\$3420); depreciation and loss on disposal of NC assets (\$3391); and decreases are prize money (\$1144) and electricity (\$478). \$1995 has been banked in April for the March congress. Last year’s Restricted/ Novice congress was held in April.

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 7%.

Funds at end of March – cheque account \$7885 Online saver account \$25
Greater Bank business access account \$734.

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).

Amber Electricity - Net Charges per Month

