



The Newcastle Bridge Club Incorporated ABN 16 405 302 022

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

For meeting held Tuesday 08/09/2026



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COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: September 2026

Location:	Newcastle Bridge Club	Date:	8/9/2025
Chair:	Jeff Biddlecombe	Time:	1:30 pm
Attendees:	Jeff Biddlecombe, Jenny Bissett (minute taker), Les Brien, Ailsa Kearney & Ken Wilks.		

AGENDA ITEM

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Jeff opened the meeting at 1:30 pm..

Apologies: Kathleen Drew, Julie Butel, Effie Roach & Peter Peterson.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (11/11/2025)

Ken moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted and Jenny seconded the motion which was agreed by all. Jeff then signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

3.1 BridgeNSW invited all clubs to host State Championships in 2027. Ken proposed we not take up this invitation. Jenny seconded. All agreed.

3.2 Australian Bridge invited us to participate in the BridgeNSW Under 100 MP Pairs (UHMP). Ken proposed we participate and the Club pay the entry fees as these members don't usually get much back in terms of prizes etc. Jenny seconded and all agreed. (Action item: Ken to determine date and organise entries).

3.4 Paul Dalley (an Australian international player) wrote seeking interest for his teaching website bridgechampions.com He suggest we put a short piece in a newsletter to members and he could offer a free month or a discount to members if interested. Ken suggested this was for Paul's financial gain and general consensus was that members could be advised of the websites during lessons but it was also noted that members usually discuss with each other beneficial websites and apps for learning. (Action item: Jenny to investigate website and report back).

3.5 Lovely email from Anthony Rich (Kay's son) advised of Kay's death on 15 Aug 2026 and wanted our members to know how important the Club was to Kay, the social life and card play were one of her greatest pleasures. No funeral or memorial was to be held.

3.6 Suggestion from Alison Bencke to introduce a grandparent/guardian - grandchild day. All agree worth trialling. (Action item: Jeff to discuss and organise with Alison for a day in the School holidays).

3.7 Muswellbrook Congress Invitation - Displayed at Club

3.8 Charlestown Bridge Clubs 50th Anniversary Invitation - Displayed at Club

4. FINANCIALS (Les)

4.1. Financial Statements FY2026. Les circulated Lambourne Partners Financial Statements via email to the Committee prior to the meeting. No feedback, questions or issues were raised.

4.2. Treasurers Report for FY2026 tabled. Key points:

- Loss for the year was \$739 compared to a profit of \$5,144 last year.
- Table fees were up by 6.3%
- Club is financially sound - bank accounts of \$8,479 and term deposits of \$166,876
- A continual improvement in participation at Bridge sessions will be necessary to cover the ongoing increase in operating costs.
- Les reminded committee that last year it was agreed to increase membership fees to cover the Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) capitation fee and NSWBA affiliation fee. The ABF will increase the capitation fees for 2027. Les suggests that we will need to increase our membership fees to cover this and proposed that general membership be increased from \$45 to \$50 and pensioners from \$35 to \$40 with no change to associate memberships as capitation and affiliation fees do not apply. Jenny seconded. All agreed. moved the Statements be accepted. Ken seconded. All agreed. (Action item: Les to present at AGM)

4.3. Treasurer's Report Les circulated his August 2026 report via email to the committee. The cash balance remains healthy with a total of \$178,497 on hand most of which is held in term deposits.

The average number of tables per week is still below the target of 70 (the number need to achieve a break even profit results after depreciation).

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE / PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1. Email to members - Events Promotion (Caroline Carey)Christmas Lunch

Following last meeting Jenny emailed Caroline asking for an outline of her role. Caroline has provided this and Jenny has only recently forwarded this onto Julie. (Action item: Julie to prepare email on her return)

5.2. Club Pairs Championships

Hold over until next meeting as Peter absent.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Christmas Party

Date for Christmas Party was proposed to be 12 December 2026. All agreed.

6.2. Planning for AGM

All agreed email could go out in the month before the AGM, when Julie gets back. Further planning at next meeting.

6.3. Update - Christo's Lesson

Jenny advised 54 people in total attended over the two sessions. It was well received.

6.4. Dates for future lessons

Jenny advised Christo is preparing a lesson on Opening Leads and plans to run this in the first half of October 2026 (Action Jenny to prepare change to website).

Ken is preparing a lesson on bidding slams. Ken will determine date to run it. Jenny will run the 4 lessons which are extension to the Beginner's Course following completion of the Beginner's Lessons.

6.5. Repairs completed

The repairs to the Ladies and Mens Toilets are complete. And the repairs to the sensor lighting are complete. During the meeting Purnell Trophies installed the Honour Board for the Restricted Pairs Champions. Although noted they failed to update other boards as requested (Action item: Jenny to follow up).

7. GENERAL BUSINESS:

7.1. Suggestion Box

No suggestions have been received since the last meeting

8. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 13/10 commencing at 1:30pm.

9. MEETING CLOSE: The meeting concluded at 2:25 pm

CONFIRMED TO BE A TRUE RECORD OF THE MEETING:

Moved by:	Ken Wilks
Seconded by:	Ailsa Kearney
Signed by:	Jenny [Signature]
Date:	13.10.26