NEWCASTLEBRIDGE

The Newcastle Bridge Club Inc ABN 16 405 302 022

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held Saturday 25/10/2025

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2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Location:	THE Newcastle Bridge Club 12 Young Road Broadmeadow NSW	**Date:**	25/10/2025
Chair:	Jeff Biddlecombe	**Time:**	11:30 am

AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting dated 28/09/2024**
3. **Business arising from the 2024 AGM Minutes**
4. **President's Report**
5. **Business arising from the President's Report**
6. **Treasurer's Report for FY ending 30/06/2025**
7. **Business arising from the Treasurer's Report**
8. **Appointment of Lambourne Partners to prepare the accounts**
9. **General Business**
10. **Election of Office Bearers**
11. **Next Meeting**
12. **Close**

Schedule 1: ATTENDEES AND APOLOGIES

ATTENDEES - 30

Ailsa Kearney	Julie Butel
Allan Charlesworth	Kathleen Drew
Andrew Walker	Ken Wilks
Anna Phillips	Lee Roberts Thomson
Bernard Adcock	Les Brien
Brigitta Kuegler	Margaret Mangold
Chris Dibley	Margaret Vale
Colleen Wilson	Marion Smith
Cynthia Roberts	Mary Mahoric
Effie Roach	Neil McMaster
Ian Van Altena	Norma Keith
Jan Nicol	Pamela Robinson
Jeff Biddlecombe	Peter Peterson
Jennifer Bissett	Stewart Roach
Jenny Fowler	Trish Gleeson

APOLOGIES - 71

Ali Shah	Jan Davidson	Michael Seldon
Alison Lea	Jan Maddern	Neil Best
Andrea Bissett	Jan Rowan	Pamela Dibb
Anil Shah	Janet Hill	Paul McGrath
Barry Knowles	Jeanette Swanson	Pauline Parr-Wilson
Bernie Atkins	Jill Achurch	Pauline Priest
Bob Cass	Jo Michel	Peter Goodwin
Caroline Carey	Judy Atkins	Peter Stanmore
Cathy Chalmers	Judy Halliday	Phillip Halliday
Cec Thompson	June Boyd	Prue Haydon
Charles Bowen Thomas	Kate Cafe	Rocco Gallucci
Christine Chandler	Kath Chapman	Rosalie Broughton
Christo Moskovsky	Kath Daniel	Ross Wilson
Di Bradbury	Kay Deacon	Roy Hardy
Diann Miller	Kerrie Forrester	Roy Parekh
Dianne Cass	Kevin Wilson	Sandra Morris
Dianne Vaughan	Lesley Bowen Thomas	Sue McConnell
Enza Di Stefano	Linda Thomas	Susan Reading
Frances Klumpes	Lorraine Cowling	Sylvia Young
George Hatherall	Margaret Pearson	Tony Di Stefano
Giles Martin	Margaret Sylow	Vincia Martin
Graham Rummey	Marise Wilson	Wendy Baker
Greg Archbold	Mark Tobin	Zol Mahoric
Howard Bridgman	Michael Deacon	

AGENDA ITEM

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Jeff welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the AGM.

As a quorum had been reached, the meeting was declared open at 11:30am.

Apologies were received from 71 members (refer to Schedule 1 on the previous page for the list).

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM DATED 28/09/2024

Jeff Biddlecombe asked if there were any comments regarding the Minutes from the previous AGM. As there were none, Jeff Biddlecombe moved that the Minutes be accepted, Chris Dibley and Pam Robinson seconded the motion, which was approved by all. The Minutes had previously been signed by Jeff Biddlecombe at the Committee meeting on 08/10/2024, subject to approval by members at this AGM.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE 2024 AGM MINUTES

There was no business arising from the 2024 AGM Minutes.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Jeff Biddlecombe)

Jeff thanked everyone for coming to the AGM, then proceeded to give his report for the year (copy included at the end of the Minutes).

Key points covered were as follows:

- Jeff thanked the Committee for their work, including Ken Wilks (Masterpoint Secretary) and Peter Peterson (Tournament Director). Jeff advised that Vincia Martin and Christine Chandler had decided not to re-stand for the Committee. Jeff thanked Vincia for her work in convening our Congresses, in championing Potluck Sunday and for her Bridge experience. He thanked Christine for her valuable contribution of her knowledge and experience of Bridge play, competitions and etiquette.
- Jeff expressed appreciation to the members who volunteer to help the Club, including the dealers, Tuesday night supervisors and helpers, standby players, scorers and playing Directors. He also thanked Jenny Bissett for her work in setting up a mentoring program for supervised players, and for the mentors who had participated.
- Jeff commented on the Beginners Lessons and acknowledged the efforts of Greg Archbold and Neil Best for delivering of the lessons, which had received very positive feedback.
- Jeff explained that the volunteer Tuesday night Director roster had recently been disbanded. The session is now run in the same way as Monday, Wednesday and Saturday sessions.

AGENDA ITEM

- Table numbers overall have still not returned to the pre-COVID level. Monday afternoon, Wednesday and Friday morning sessions continue to lose numbers. Jeff welcomed any suggestions to improve this situation.
- The solar panel installation has recently been upgraded with new panels and a battery. The battery will enable us to export excess power to the grid, and run night sessions from the energy generated and stored in the battery during sunny days. We anticipate that our energy cost will be reduced significantly as a result of this investment. The bollards in front of the battery were damaged in the first week after installation when a member reversed into them. Jeff emphasized the need to take care, especially when reversing.
- Jeff commented on an item in the Suggestion Box re the slow but steady decline in table numbers in the Monday afternoon session. A number of members who used to play in this session are now playing at Wests, with a common explanation being that it is a more relaxed and less serious environment.
  Jeff spoke about the different groups of Bridge players (Senior / serious; Beginners and / or Social players and Supervised Players). Each of these groups have different needs and tendencies, with the senior / serious players tending to be more focused on the rules, systems and protocols of Bridge, while the Social / Beginner players generally prefer to play in a more relaxed, less serious environment.
  Jeff stressed the importance of tolerance and harmony at the Bridge table, especially at the sessions where these different groups interact as opponents. He asked that we all treat other players with respect, courtesy and empathy, and be nice!
- Jeff concluded by wishing everyone a happy time during the approaching festive season.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jeff asked if there were any issues arising from his report.

As there was no business arising from the President's report, Jeff moved that the report be accepted, which was seconded by Jenny Bissett and Ken Wilks, then accepted by all.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT for FY ending 30/06/2025 (Les Brien).

Les commenced by saying that the notice of the AGM emailed to members on 26th September had included the Financial Reports prepared by Lambourne Partners as well as his Treasurer's Report (copy included at the end of these Minutes), and an invitation to submit any questions prior to the AGM. Les advised that as no questions or comments had been received, he would not go through the reports in detail at the meeting but mentioned the following:

- The Club made a small profit for the year. Being a Not for Profit organisation, there are no profit targets or KPIs, with the aim being to achieve as close as possible to a break even result.

AGENDA ITEM

- The Club is in a good financial position with funds available if and when the need arises.
- ABF increased its capitation fee from $20 to $23.30 per home member in 2025, while BridgeNSW increased its affiliation fee from $10 to $20 per home member. Hence, our home club member subscription of $40 did not cover the combined ABF and BridgeNSW fees, and ABF has advised further increases for the next 2 years. Accordingly, the Committee resolved at its meeting on 23/09/2025 to increase our home club member subscription from $40 to $45, and full pensioner home club member subscriptions from $30 to $35, when they fall due at the end of the year. There will be no change in subscription fees for associate members.

As there were no questions or objections to his report, Les moved that the reports be accepted, which was seconded by Jeff Biddlecombe, then unanimously supported by all.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT

There was no business arising from the Treasurer's report.

8. APPOINTMENT OF LAMBOURNE PARTNERS AS ACCOUNTANTS

Les moved that Lambourne Partners' appointment as accountants to the Club be continued and as such that they will continue to prepare the Financial Statements and advise on regulatory matters as required. Ailsa Kearney and Ken Wilks seconded the motion which was accepted by all.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

Jeff Biddlecombe then asked members if there were any matters of general business to discuss.

Effie Roach suggested that a token be given to the overall winners at each session as an incentive.

Chris Dibley commented that he was not keen on this idea as it was likely that the same people would be the winners. Moreover, the number of players at some sessions was low. He suggested that an incentive for members who play often might be an option.

Jenny Bissett asked if experienced players might pair up with less experienced players, maybe monthly. Chris Dibley suggested offering a ballot once per month for a player who hasn't played at the Monday afternoon session before, to be paired with an experienced player.

Chris also suggested the concept of Teams of 3, where an experienced player would play in a team event with 3 less experienced players. He suggested targeting one of the sessions that are in decline, perhaps Wednesday. At the end of each round, the experienced player could then go through the scores with the team. This would give the less experienced players an idea of the impact of an extra trick on the scores.

It was agreed that the suggestions would be taken to the first meeting of the newly elected Committee for discussion.

AGENDA ITEM
As there were no further comments or questions, the meeting proceeded to election of office bearers and Committee members.

10. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jeff advised that the nominations for the various positions on the committee had been received. As no positions were contested, the following members were duly elected to serve as the next Committee:

President:	Jeffrey Biddlecombe	**Ordinary Members**
Vice President:	Jennifer Lee Bissett	Ailsa Kearney
Treasurer:	Leslie Allan Brien	Kathleen Drew
Secretary:	Julie Anne Butel	James Leitch

Following the election, Jennifer Bissett asked if there was anyone in attendance who was interested in joining the Committee. Effie Roach indicated that she was, so she was nominated by Jennifer Bissett and seconded by Jeff Biddlecombe. As no objections were received, Effie Roach was duly elected as a Committee member.

The roles of Masterpoint Secretary and Tournament Director will be confirmed at the next committee meeting.

11. NEXT MEETING

The date for the next AGM will be left for the incoming Committee to determine but it will most likely be in September / October 2026.

12. MEETING CLOSE: The meeting concluded at 11:55am.

CONFIRMED TO BE A TRUE RECORD OF THE MEETING

Moved by:	LES BRIEN
Seconded by:	AILSA KEARNEY
Signed by:	
Date:	11.11.25

Newcastle Bridge Club

Annual General Meeting 25th October 2025

President's Report

Thanks to everybody for turning up to our 2025 AGM.

There are a lot of acknowledgements to go through. Firstly, I would like to thank the committee (Vincia Martin, Julie Butel, Les Brien, Ailsa Kearney, Jennifer Bissett and Christine Chandler) for their continual good work. Having a good committee makes the job of President a doddle. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution to the club by our Masterpoint Secretary, Ken Wilks and our Tournament Director, Peter Peterson. Sadly, we are losing the services of Vincia and Christine off the Committee. I would like to thank Vincia for her assistance as Vice President, her congress convenor work for both the Restricted and Novice Congress, and our normal Congress, her running of the Potluck sessions and her experience in bridge matters. I would like to thank Christine for her valuable contributions of her knowledge and experience of bridge play, competitions and etiquette.

Any club cannot survive well without the input from volunteers, and I would like to highlight and thank the following:

Our dealers: Gary Banauch, Graham Woods, Bernie Adcock, Ken Wilks, Rosalie Broughton, Peter Stanmore, Ian Van Altena and Christo Moskovsky

Our Tuesday night supervisors and helpers: Ken Wilks, Janet Hill, Bernie Adcock, Vincia Martin, Judy Halliday, Rodney Bell., Peter Goodwin, Neil Best, Greg Archbold and Julie Butel.

Our standby players who assist in giving members the opportunity to get that extra game

Our Scorers and playing Directors.

We are disbanding the volunteer Tuesday Director roster and making the Tuesday night session similar to the running of Monday, Wednesday and Saturday sessions. The above people will become standby personnel only.

I would like to make a special acknowledgement again to our secretary, Julie Butel. Julie has done an admirable job once again, not only in the secretarial duties but filling in for Ken's banking in his absence and generally her devotion to the Club in many unrelated activities. Thanks very much, Julie!

Special thanks to our newest member, Jennifer Bissett, who has set up a mentor program that is delivering results for our supervised players. Thanks to all the mentors she recruited.

Neil Best and Greg Archbold have again delivered two sets of lessons this year with good roll ups and the feedback has been very positive. Hopefully our numbers will improve even more as we have already seen an increase in our Monday morning supervised session. We have also introduced a Wednesday afternoon supervised session which is starting to become more popular.

We still have not recovered our numbers from before COVID and Monday afternoon, Wednesday and Friday morning sessions are losing numbers. I would like to have suggestions on how to improve this situation.

Just recently, we have replaced our solar system with one that incorporates a battery. It is early days yet, but whenever the sun is shining, we will be exporting to the grid, and we will be running any nighttime sessions from our battery storage.This should reduce the cost of our electricity significantly.

On another matter that has been raised through our suggestion box, it was pointed out that our Monday Afternoon session has been undergoing a slow but steady decline in session numbers. Members who used to play here on a Monday now play at other venues especially at West Newcastle Bridge Club. The most common explanation is that the atmosphere is more relaxed and less serious.

Our club and Bridge players in general are roughly spread across 3 groups as follows:

- ***Senior / serious players:*** Mainly experienced players who have played Bridge for many years (40 – 70 years, or more). These players know and understand the rules, systems and procedures of Bridge, including the requirements for competing in Congresses. They continually seek to improve their game and have either competed in Congresses in the past or continue to do so
- ***Beginners and "social" players***: Tend to prefer to participate in the Tuesday and / or Thursday sessions, may not be aware of all the procedures followed by the more serious players, and generally prefer to play in a more relaxed environment,
- ***Supervised Players:*** Relatively newcomers to the game of Bridge

So Bridge is a game where you will find all types of player levels and personalities and hence there is a need for common courtesy and patience by all who play together. The different groups do interact when playing each other, and this is where we all need to be aware of the needs of others.

In the interest of fostering an atmosphere of tolerance and harmony at the Bridge table, I've got a few suggestions:

For ***"Serious Players",*** prefix your comments with words like "Do you mind if I etc, etc" in matters such as asking the meaning of bids, hesitation and the need for reasonable explanations. Try not to undermine the confidence of the less

experienced players and help them understand why you are seeking explanations. Remember it's not ***what*** you ask, but ***how*** you ask that can make a big difference.

For ***Social Players,*** use expressions like "Do you mind if I ask for help etc, etc", "Thank you but I do not want to have lessons at the table etc, etc""

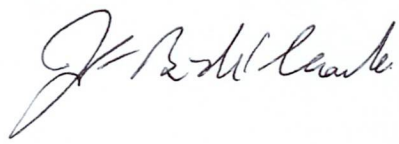
Social players need to understand and cope with the reasons of the "Senior" players Senior players need to understand and cope with the reasons of the "Social" players.

So, to put it simply, be nice and treat others with respect, courtesy and empathy.

I would like to conclude by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for the upcoming festivities.

Jeff Biddlecombe

President



The Newcastle Bridge Club incorporated

2025 Annual General Meeting Treasurer's Report

The club made a profit for the year ended 30th June, 2025 of $5144 compared to a loss last year of $1,939. The following table shows the results from operations for the last two years:

	2025	**2024**
P & L Statement Result	$5,144	($1,939)
Long Service Leave charge	$300	(4000)
Profit/(Loss) from operations	$4,844	$2,061

- **Table fees** were $104,159 (see attached spreadsheet), which is up on last year ($95,928). During the year we operated at an average of about **62** tables per week (about 57 tables per week in 2024), compared to about **78** tables per week in 2019.

- **Subscription fees** of $11,485 are up on last year ($10,030).

- **Interest received** of $8,100 has increased because of higher interest rates in 2025 compared to 2024. Interest rates in 2026 are expected to be lower than in 2025.

- **Total income** for the year was $138,809 compared to $124,363 last year.

- **Expenses** for the year were $133,665:
    - 21% (21%) was for employment, including long service leave charge
    - 31% (32%) was for occupancy
    - 48% (47%) was for administration.
    - The percentages in brackets are for last year.

The Balance Sheet shows the club in a sound financial position with bank accounts of $18,701 and term deposits of $166,810.

I consider that a continual improvement in participation at bridge sessions will be necessary to cover the constant increase in operating costs. By way of example, in the 2025 financial year the ABF has increased their capitation fee from $20.00 to $23.30 per home member and masterpoint fees by 25% and, BridgeNSW has increased their affiliation fees from $10.00 to $20.00 per home member. As a result, our home club member subscriptions of $40.00 did not cover the $43.30 fees paid to the ABF and BridgeNSW, for their capitation and affiliation fess, respectively. The ABF have advised that the

capitation fee per home member will increase by $3.30 for each of the 2026 and 2027 financial years and masterpoint fees will also probably rise. Accordingly, the committee resolved on 23rd September, 2025 to increase the home club member subscriptions from $40.00 to $45.00, and full pensioner home club member subscriptions from $30.00 to $35.00 when they next fall due. Subscriptions for associate members remain the same.

The new solar panels and battery system was installed on 27th August, 2025 at a cost of $20700. The old panels had to be replaced because they were incompatible with the new equipment associated with the battery installation, and a change in the electrical standards associated with solar installation since 2021.

My thanks to the committee for their assistance, especially Ken Wilks and Julie Butel.



Les Brien Treasurer 23rd September,2025