NEWCASTLEBRIDGE

The Newcastle Bridge Club Inc ABN 16 405 302 022

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held Saturday 21/11/2026

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2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Location:	THE Newcastle Bridge Club 12 Young Road Broadmeadow NSW	**Date:**	21/11/2026
Chair:	Jeff Biddlecombe	**Time:**	11:30 am

AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting dated 25/10/2025**
3. **Business arising from the 2025 AGM Minutes**
4. **President's Report**
5. **Business arising from the President's Report**
6. **Treasurer's Report for FY ending 30/06/2026**
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 - 41

Ailsa Kearney	Julie Butel
Allan Charlesworth	June Waudby
Amanda Falconer	Kathleen Drew
Andrew Walker	Ken Berry
Bernard Adcock	Ken Wilks
Bernie Atkins	Les Brien
Brigitta Kuegler	Linda Thomas
Caroline Carey	Margaret Geddes
Cathy Chalmers	Margaret Moulston
Cec Thompson	Mary Williams
Colleen Wilson	Norma Keith
Cynthia Roberts	Pam Kyte
Diann Miller	Pam Robinson
Effie Roach	Peter Peterson
Elizabeth Legovich	Peter Wheatley
Enza Di Stefano	Phillip Halliday
Giles Martin	Stewart Roach
Janet Hill	Tony Di Stefano
Jeff Biddlecombe	Trish Gleeson
Jenny Fowler	Vincia Martin
Judy Halliday	

APOLOGIES - 85

Aldo Russo	Jan Nicol	Mary Russo
Alida Cornwell	Jan Rowan	Maureen Rippon
Alison Lea	Janelle Smith	Mel Gray
Andrea Bissett	Janet Sutherland	Michael Deacon
Anil Shah	Jennifer Bissett	Michael Simes
Anne Barr	Jenny Atkinson	Michael Winborne
Anne Robinson	Joanne Michel	Neil McMaster
Ann Bissett	John Newton	Pamela Winborne
Barry Knowles	John Stuart	Paul McGrath
Charles Bowen-Thomas	Julie Lavette	Peter Goodwin
Chhinder Bilen	Julie Scanlan	Peter Phillis
Chris Morgan	June Boyd	Peter Stanmore
Christine Chandler	Kate Cafe	Robyn Lynch
Colleen Drelincourt	Kathleen Chapman	Rocco Gallucci
David Borham	Kath Daniel	Rod Bell
Deb Hamilton	Kay Deacon	Roger Yandle
Deanna Stuart	Kerrie Forrester	Rosalie Broughton
Delys Brady	Kevin Wilson	Rosemary Reid
Drew Cowen	Kristine Horan	Roy Hardy
Gabriel Felkai	Lesley Bowen-Thomas	Roy Parekh
George Hatherall	Lorraine Cowling	Ruth Buchanan
Gordon Watkins	Lynne Sherwood	Satish Pandya
Graham Rummey	Marg Geddes	Silvia Young
Graham Woods	Margaret Mangold	Susan Reading
Guy de Carli	Margaret Stevenson	Ted Tait
Howard Bridgman	Margaret Sylow	Teresa de Vitas
Ian Van Altena	Margaret Vale	Terry Charlton
Jan Maddern	Margaret Wood	Wendy Baker
	Marise Wilson	Zol Mahoric

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 85 members (refer to Schedule 1 on the previous page for the list).
2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM DATED 25/10/2025 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, Phillip Halliday and Vincia Martin approved the motion, and this was agreed by all present. ***Note: The Minutes had previously been signed by Jeff Biddlecombe at the Committee meeting on 11/11/2025, subject to approval by members at this AGM.***
3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE 2025 AGM MINUTES There was no business arising from the 2025 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). He gave a special acknowledgement to **Ailsa Kearney** who is leaving the Committee after ten years of dedicated service. Jeff thanked Ailsa for her work in convening this year's Congresses, coordinating catering activities, managing the purchase of our AED, as well as many other activities. Jeff commented that long-term volunteers, like Ailsa, are invaluable to any organization. • Jeff thanked **Neil Best and Greg Archbold** for their excellent work in running the Beginners Lessons for which they continue to receive very positive feedback. He noted the success of the lessons in attracting new members to the Club, with the Monday morning and Wednesday afternoon supervised sessions now ranking as 3rd and 4th for attendance. Jeff also thanked those members who had delivered improvement lessons – **Ken Wilks, Christo Moskovsky, Jennifer Bissett and Vincia Martin.** Jeff acknowledged the efforts of **Jennifer Bisset** for setting up and managing the Teaching Sub Committee, which had given much needed structure to our schedule of lessons throughout the year. • Jeff expressed appreciation to all the members who volunteer to help the Club, including the dealers, scorers and directors, tablecloth launderers, kitchen helpers

AGENDA ITEM
and everyone else involved in the other tasks that are essential to keep the Club running smoothly. • Jeff acknowledged **Graham Woods** for his management of the dealing machine and the roster for dealers, and **Ian Van Altena** for attending to the garden and being our Mr Fix-it. Jeff concluded by thanking everyone for their support and contribution throughout the year. He wished everyone a happy Christmas and safe and healthy New Year.
5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT Jeff asked if there were any issues arising from his report. As there were no questions or issues raised, Jeff moved that the report be accepted, which was seconded by Phillip Halliday and Vincia Martin, then accepted by all.
6. TREASURER'S REPORT for FY ended 30/06/2026 (Les Brien). Les commenced by saying that the notice of the AGM emailed to members on 19th October 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 loss for the year** - $739 compared to a profit last year of $5144. The cash profit was $10,989 compared to $12,622 last year. Depreciation was higher due to the installation of the new solar panels and battery system, as was the loss on disposal (due to the disposal of the old obsolete panels). As we are 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. • **The Club is in a good financial position** with funds available if and when the need arises, including $166,876 in Term Deposits. • **Table Numbers** averaged 66 / week across the year, compared with 78 pre-COVID. A positive trend is the increased participation in Supervised Play sessions, with the 2 sessions now representing 17.7% of all sessions this year compared with 7.8% 2 years ago. At the August Committee meeting, it was agreed not to increase Table Fees, but that the situation would be reviewed before the 2027 AGM. • At the September Committee meeting, it was agreed to **increase our home club member subscription** from $45 to $50, and the full pensioner home club member subscription from $35 to $40, when they fall due at the beginning of 2027. This is in order to cover the ABF capitation fee of $29.90 per home club member and the Bridge NSW affiliation fee of $20 per home club member. Subscriptions for associate members will remain the same. This decision was made under the assumption that the Bridge NSW affiliation fee would remain the same, given the significant increase from $10 to $20 a few years ago. However, we have since been advised that the fee will increase to $22.50.

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While our new subscription rates will not cover the combined ABF and Bridge NSW fees, the shortfall will be minimal.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT

The following questions were raised:

- As a NFP organization, is there any limit to how much we can have in Term Deposits?
  Les' response – No
- Why aren't the premises valued at their market value?
  Les' response: The premises are stated at their cost value in the Financial Statements, as historical cost accounting prevails.
- How much are the premises insured for?
  Les' response – Approximately $850,000. This was based on advice sought 2 years ago. At that time, our insurance needed to be increased significantly as prior to then the premises were under insured. The value is increased each year when the insurance falls due in line with inflation.
- What is being done about the chairs?
  Jeff's response: We are replacing them as the old ones are damaged.
  There was discussion about the replacement chairs, with many of those present commenting that they are not comfortable. Jeff agreed that we would re-visit the choice of replacement chairs to see if there is something more suitable.

  As there were no further questions, Les moved that the Financial Statements and his Treasurer's report be accepted, which was seconded by Jeff Biddlecombe and agreed by all present.

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. The motion was accepted by all present.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

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

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**
Treasurer:	Leslie Allan Brien	Cathy Chalmers
Secretary:	Julie Anne Butel	Deb Hamilton
Vice President:	Jennifer Lee Bissett	June Waudby
		Kathleen Drew
		Margaret Wood

The roles of Masterpoint Secretary and Tournament Director will be agreed 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 2027.

12. MEETING CLOSE: The meeting concluded at 11:50am.

CONFIRMED TO BE A TRUE RECORD OF THE MEETING

Moved by:	
Seconded by:	
Signed by:	
Date:	

Newcastle Bridge Club

Annual General Meeting 21st November 2026

Presidents Report

Thanks to everybody for making the effort to attend our 2026 AGM.

It is my pleasure to present the President's Report for the Newcastle Bridge Club for 2026.

Our club continues to benefit from the commitment and generosity of its members who contribute in many ways to make the Club an enjoyable and welcoming place to play bridge.

Acknowledgement and Thanks

The successful running of a bridge club involves many tasks, both visible and behind the scenes. The time and effort contributed by Committee members helps ensure our sessions run smoothly, our members are well supported, and the club continues to operate effectively.

In particular, I would like to thank:

- James Leitch

- Effie Roach

- Kath Drew

- Jenny Bissett (Our Vice President)

- Les Brien (Our Treasurer)

- Ken Wilks (Our Master Point Secretary)

- Peter Petersen (Our Tournament Director)

Special Recognition – Ailsa Kearney

A particular special acknowledgement is due to Ailsa, who is leaving the Committee after ten years of dedicated service. Over those ten years, Ailsa has made valuable contribution to many tasks, including acting as Congress Convenor and filling the role of Catering Manager Extraordinaire, in addition to having worthwhile input to meetings. Long-term volunteers like Ailsa are invaluable to any organisation and her efforts are worthy of recognition.

Ailsa, thank you for the ten years that you have given the club. We are very grateful and wish you more happy years at the bridge table.

Special Recognition – Julie Butel

As always, our Secretary, Julie Butel continues to display her high dedication and work ethics in her role. Julie does her best to fill in for Ken Wilks when he is away (a hard task master!), and assists in the running of congresses and other events. Julie is also a great help to me in many ways and her advice has been excellent.

Thanks again, Julie.

Teaching and Developing New and Present Members

One of the most encouraging aspects of our club is the work being done to introduce new players to bridge and develop existing members. Special thanks to Neil Best and Greg Archbold for running the beginner lessons, for which they have received very positive feedback, and our member numbers are increasing as a result. The follow up good news is that the beginners feed into the supervised play sessions on Monday morning and Wednesday afternoon. These sessions our now our 3rd and 4th best attended sessions after the Tuesday and Thursday morning sessions.

In addition, thanks to Ken Wilks, Christo Moskovsky, Jenny Bissett and Vincia Martin for delivering very well attended improvement lessons to develop our members further. And of course, a special thanks to Jenny for her great work in running the Teaching Sub Committee which has given much needed structure to our schedule for lessons across the year. Her efforts in encouraging active participation by members, especially our newer members, is appreciated.

Well done to all.

The Volunteers Who Keep Our Club Running

Our club depends on many members who willingly give their time to ensure that our sessions and facilities run smoothly. I would like to thank all our dealers, scorers and directors, as well as those members who launder the tablecloths, help in the kitchen and undertake the many other tasks that are essential to the day-to-day operation of the club.

Special thanks to Graham Woods for managing the dealing machine and its problems, as well as the roster for dealers, thus ensuring that the boards for all our sessions and special events are available when needed.

A special thank you goes to Ian Van Altena, our resident "gardener and Mr Fix-it".

Conclusion

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for their support and contribution throughout the year. I look forward to another year of enjoyable bridge, continued friendship and cooperation, and the ongoing success of Newcastle Bridge Club.

Finally, I extend my best wishes to you and your families for a very happy Christmas and a safe, healthy and enjoyable New Year.



Jeff Biddlecombe

President

Newcastle Bridge Club

The Newcastle Bridge Club incorporated

2026 Annual General Meeting Treasurer's Report

The club incurred a loss for the year ended 30th June, 2026 of $739 compared to a profit last year of $5144. The following table shows the "cash profit" after depreciation and loss on disposal of non-current assets are excluded:

	2026	**2025**
P & L Statement Result	($739)	$5,144
Depreciation	$8,753	5,778
Loss on disposal of NC assets	$2,975	$1,700
"Cash Profit"	$10,989	$12,622

- **Table fees** were $110748 (see attached spreadsheet), which is up on last year ($104,159). During the year we operated at an average of about **66** tables per week (about 62 tables per week in 2025), compared to about **78** tables per week in 2019. Because of the constant increase in operating costs, I consider that at least **70** tables per week should be the aim for the 2027 year.

- **Subscription fees** of $14,430 are up on last year ($11,485), and cover the ABF ($8160) and NSWBA ($5720) levies.

- **Interest received** of $7,069 has decreased because of lower interest rates in 2026 but is expected to slightly increase in the 2027 year.

- **Total income** for the year was $150,228 compared to $138,809 last year.

- **Expenses** for the year were $150,967:
    - 22% (21%) was for employment, including long service leave charge
    - 31% (31%) was for occupancy
    - 47% (48%) 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 $8,479 and term deposits of $166,876.

The new assets ($24946 as per the Depreciation Schedule attached to the Financial statements) were funded by the "cash profit" ($10,989) mentioned above and the draw down of our bank accounts.

We have been advised that the ABF capitation fee per home club member of $26.60 will increase to at least $29.90 for the 2027 financial year and

masterpoint fees will increase by 3%. The NSWBA affiliation fee will probably remain at $20.00 per home club member for the 2027 financial year. Accordingly, the committee resolved on 8th September, 2026 to increase the home club member subscriptions from $45.00 to $50.00, and full pensioner home club member subscriptions from $35.00 to $40.00 when they next fall due. Subscriptions for associate members remain the same.

The new assets mentioned above included the solar panels and battery system ($20700); chairs ($2,896); and an honour board($1,350).

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



Les Brien Treasurer 8th September,2026

The Newcastle Bridge Club Incorporated

2026 Table Fees Summary

	2026	2025	2024
Monday Supervised Play	$11,656.00	$9,680.00	$6,890.00
Monday Afternoon	$5,950.00	$9,022.00	$11,038.00
Tuesday Morning	$26,444.00	$22,982.00	$23,394.00
Tuesday Night	$7,106.00	$8,456.00	$7,592.00
Tuesday Night Supervised	$342.00	$0.00	$0.00
Wednesday	$6,640.00	$6,924.00	$5,844.00
Wednesday Supervised Play	$7,652.00	$2,194.00	$0.00
Thursday Supervised Play	$0.00	$741.00	$598.00
Thursday Morning	$23,104.00	$21,738.00	$20,284.00
Friday	$10,706.00	$10,908.00	$11,622.00
Saturday	$11,148.00	$11,514.00	$8,666.00
Total Table Fees	$110,748.00	$104,159.00	$95,928.00
% Increase on prior year	6.3%	8.6%	
Total supervised play	$19,650.00	$12,615.00	$7,488.00
% of total table fees	17.7%	12.1%	7.8%