

Raleigh Bridge Club Board of Directors Minutes - April 15, 2026 5:30 pm

Attendees: Glen Anderson, Niki Antonelli, Eileen Bok, John Cobb, Luisi Martin-Price, Susan Overcash, Bill Rysanek, Lance Shull, and Collins Williams

Absent: Ken Howard and Russ Weimer

Quick recap

The Raleigh Bridge Club board meeting focused on several key operational topics including the treasurer report timing, bidding box replacements, board duplication, and website hosting management. Lance proposed forming a committee to develop strategies for growing the club over the next two years, with the board agreeing to support a growth-focused approach rather than maintaining current operations. The meeting also covered hospitality needs, with Susan requesting more member assistance during events, and discussed plans for the club's 90th anniversary celebration in 2028.

Next steps

- [John: Give feedback to Russ regarding the treasurer's report](#)
- [Collins: Research and provide a proposal \(including pricing, quantity, and replacement cards\) for replacing all current bidding boxes with new ones, and confirm storage logistics for old boxes.](#)
- [Collins and Lance: Research options for replacing the current board dealing machine, including specifications, costs, and potential sale value of the old machine; Lance to investigate selling options and present facts/specs to Collins.](#)
- [Collins: Follow up with Barbara on Board Duplication questions](#)
- [Collins and John: Work together \(and with Barbara\) to develop a transition plan for the board dealing role, including logistics for board storage and volunteer coverage.](#)
- [Collins: Post in Bridgewinners forum \(or similar\) to determine if RBC's Bridgemate scoring perspective \(declarer vs. north\) is standard or non-standard, and report findings to the group.](#)
- [Niki and Glen: Investigate current ownership, payment, and management of the club's website domain and hosting, including contacting Larry R. and relevant unit/district officers; report findings and recommendations.](#)
- [Lance: Form and lead a committee \(with interested members including Luisi, Bill, Glen, and others\) to develop and propose growth initiatives for the club, and report back to the board with updates or proposals.](#)

- [All board members: Assist with hospitality setup and cleanup at club events as able, especially during busy periods, to prevent burnout of the hospitality committee.](#)
- [Susan: Begin planning for the 90th anniversary party in 2028, and coordinate with interested members for initial ideas.](#)

Summary

Treasurer Report and Financial discussion

The group discussed the treasurer report timing to give board members more time to look at it before the board meeting. John agreed to discuss with Russ.

The team discussed financial metrics and break-even analysis for the club's operations. John and Lance examined discrepancies in year-over-year numbers, attributing differences to the transition from hybrid to in-person operations. The group determined that the club needs approximately 12-14 tables to break even between both games.

Bidding Box Replacement Discussion

The discussion shifted to bidding boxes. Luisi reported positive feedback from the limited players using the new style boxes. The group discussed replacing all bidding boxes with new style ones, with Collins agreeing to provide pricing for 12 new sets (various colors) and replacement cards. They decided to keep one tub of older boxes in storage for exceptional cases like large sectional events. The current storage pod will be used to store the extra boxes.

Board Dealing Machine

The group discussed the topic of board duplication. Collins reported that Barbara has implemented additional checks to detect errors before boards are used, though this process is time-consuming. The team explored potential solutions including having the machine serviced, which would require more investigation.

The team discussed the option of replacing their dealing machine. Lance volunteered to research both purchasing a new machine and selling the old one, while Collins agreed to handle the initial research on buying a replacement. The group also addressed Barbara's request to step away from the board duplication role, acknowledging that finding a volunteer to take over this role would require significant commitment and availability, similar to what Barbara currently provides. The team considered storing the dealing machine at the Royal club and potentially having a team of volunteers to share the responsibility, though logistics and space constraints remain challenges to resolve.

The group discussed challenges with the current board production process and potential solutions. Collins explained that producing boards currently takes about an hour of focused work and involves risks of equipment failure and transportation issues. The team explored options including finding a backup producer, potentially storing more board sets at the club, and using pre-game hand duplication as a backup plan.

The group also discussed changing the Bridgemate software's scoring perspective from declarer-focused to north-south focused, with Lance suggesting this could reduce scoring errors. Collins agreed to research the standard practice in the Bridgewinners forum to determine if their club's approach differs from industry norms.

Hospitality / Web / Growth Goals

The board discussed several key topics, starting with hospitality needs where Susan highlighted a busy schedule in April and May and requested more member support for setup and cleanup, particularly noting the lack of help during St. Patrick's Day events. The group then addressed website hosting and domain management, with Niki raising concerns about current arrangements and proposing we take control of these services. Finally, Lance introduced a discussion about 2026 goals and initiatives, proposing a shift toward growth strategies rather than just maintaining current operations, which the board supported by establishing a committee led by Lance to develop and present proposals for growing the club's membership.