

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held online on Thursday 3rd November 2022

In attendance were Ian Sidgwick (President), Andrew Bull (Secretary), Ben Ritacca (Treasurer), Hylary Kingham, Patrick Shields, Roger Williams, Richard Butland, Paul Denning and Toby Roberts (CBC rep).

The meeting was preceded by Ro Kaye's briefing on Protection and Vulnerable Adult issues, in which she covered:

- our wish for GCBA to operate to the highest standards in this area
- the need (especially for organisers of an event) - even for issues raised in confidence - to report relevant matters through the official channels.

The briefing was recorded so it could be made available to the local clubs.

Treasurer's Report

1. Ben is still trying to get access to the GCBA bank account. He also has a meeting scheduled with Linda Barratt of Cheltenham BC to discuss having cashless payments for GCBA events. Ian noted that we are intending to send out the information on how to manage the change to cashless payments to other clubs next month.
2. Ben and Mike Wignall have discussed the Reserves Policy; he noted it was difficult to quantify the risks against which the reserve is being maintained. It was suggested that any policy would involve a smaller reserve than we currently have, and even before the policy is settled we could be working towards this. Toby noted that Cheltenham BC are also working on this issue.

Cheltenham Congress

3. Toby reported that, following changes made to the liability in case of cancellation, the terms and conditions in the contract have now been agreed by Cheltenham BC and GCBA to be acceptable.

County Events

4. It was agreed that the GCBA Real Bridge account will remain open for use (for a fee) by county members. It was also agreed that the county will sponsor its use for a planned under-26 W training event.
5. In the County Knockout (for teams of four), teams have previously had 2 months in which to play each round, but for online play this was reduced to 1 month per round. It was agreed that we should revert to 2 months.
6. The rules for the County League have been agreed by the committee. The format is currently to have 2 league winners per year; Paul noted that the important thing was to confirm the format before the event starts.

Bridge teaching

7. Cheltenham BC have offered 'Learn Bridge in a weekend' teaching for clubs in the North Cotswolds which currently have no bridge teachers, for which six people have so far signed up. It was agreed that this should be regarded as a GCBA event.
8. In Jan's absence there was no report on youth bridge, except for a reminder that the junior squad will be visiting Cheltenham BC on the first Saturday in January.

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9. Ian suggested discussing ideas for a newsletter article with the successful teachers at Cheltenham, Tudor and South Cotswolds BCs, to encourage the clubs which currently have no teaching.

Other business

10. Alan Wearmouth is stepping down as the chair of the Representative Events Committee, so a replacement is needed, and the Committee is also looking for new members.
11. Patrick reported that Middlesex are running a drop-in tutorial session on Sunday afternoons, with mentors available to help any learners in their clubs. This is something GCBA could consider, though Hylary wondered if Sunday might not be a popular day for it.
12. We have nothing as yet scheduled for a Christmas special event (having had a successful event last year, with 10 tables for Christmas Pairs) - need to find out what local clubs have scheduled to avoid clashing with them. We would also like to have an event on Easter Monday.
13. It was reported that a good number of pairs had signed up for the Everett Cup on Sunday 6th.