

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

## Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held online on Thursday 4th August 2022

In attendance were Ian Sidgwick (President), Paul Denning (Vice-President), Andrew Bull (Secretary), Richard Butland, Jan Kinane, Hylary Kingham, Patrick Shields, Roger Williams, Alan Wearmouth and Toby Roberts (CBC rep).

### GCBA Programme

1. The proposed programme for GCBA for 2022-23 was generally approved.
2. The Autumn/Spring Teams (1st Monday of each month) will only be played face-to-face at Cheltenham Bridge Club. The proposed format is to have an initial qualifier session, and thereafter to split into a top division of 4 teams, and a second division for the remaining teams, with one team promoted/relegated after each session.
3. The League matches (3rd Monday of each month) are recommended to be played face-to-face, but will be played online if either team opts for that. When this was queried, it was noted that otherwise some teams would drop out. Ian noted that most teams in the Cleverly League were similarly opting to play online.
4. The Autumn/Spring Pairs (2nd/4th Mondays of each month) will continue with the same format of Pairs League, run online (BBO). There is no evidence that players are losing interest in playing this online. Patrick will check with Cheltenham BC that they are not also planning to run a Pairs League.
5. For the weekends, there are the various special events (Cotswold Cup/Bredon Vale/Rank Xerox/Leslie Everett), which have not been run for the last 2 years due to Covid restrictions, so the general appetite for them to be re-introduced is uncertain. It was suggested that we should arrange for one of them to be played (face-to-face), and encourage as many players as possible to take part. There was also discussion regarding whether the Stanley Shield event should be repeated.
6. We intend to continue organising the 9-high Swiss Pairs, but to drop the Open Swiss Teams if the EBU, as expected, convert their Lockdown League to something similar.
7. Some players from other counties have been taking part in online GCBA events, and there is concern that the other counties might object (as might some local players). Patrick will check the views of his contacts in Worcestershire.

### Cheltenham Congress

8. A suggestion has been made that this will be held at Cheltenham BC to avoid the expense of booking a hotel - however, this will reduce the possible numbers, could be regarded as making the event less attractive, and introduces various logistical issues with parking, catering, etc. Cheltenham are identifying their members of the joint CBC/GCBA Congress committee, with Peter Waggett as the GCBA rep.

### Linkage to the Cheltenham BC whistle-blowing policy

9. We note that some clubs would (according to their constitutions) report such matters to GCBA, so should be prepared for this. Ian will confirm with Ro Kaye of Cheltenham BC who the County Designated Lead on Child Protection/Vulnerable Adult Issues is.

# **GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION**

## **GCBA Recorder**

10. It was agreed that liaison with the Recorder should be a Presidential duty, so Patrick and Ian will arrange for this duty to be passed on. It was also agreed that, for this and the previous role, the post should be re-confirmed annually.

## **Volunteer task list**

11. Patrick had prepared a first draft task list, which was circulated before the meeting. The next job is for others to suggest additional tasks, and then to organise the list into groups of tasks that might be reasonable to expect a single volunteer to cover.

## **Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Joint Congress**

12. This was run successfully (face-to-face), with 40 pairs and 15 teams taking part.
13. Jim Simons is stepping down as the Congress Treasurer. It was proposed that this job could be made part of the Treasurer's duties.

## **Any other business**

14. Roger asked about the Reserves policy, and suggested we should keep it simple, with the policy based on the annual turnover (as used by EBU). It was also noted that the policy needs to be flexible.
15. Roger also suggested having monthly 9-high and 6-high competitions, possibly organised by Sarah Amos's team, as a suitable way to use some of our reserves. It was noted that 6-high events generally have less turn-out than 9-high. Patrick offered to come up with a format that we could propose to the clubs.