

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

## Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held online on Monday 4th December 2023

In attendance were Ian Sidgwick (President), Andrew Bull (Secretary), Ben Ritacca (Treasurer), Alan Stanfield, Paul Denning, Patrick Shields and Richard Butland.

### Teaching

1. It was suggested that we reach out to affiliated and unaffiliated clubs to offer teacher support if needed. It was also suggested that we should try to encourage bridge teaching at local universities and colleges. It was noted that a stall at a Freshers' Fair at Cardiff University had attracted a lot of interest, but that an English university had wanted to charge too much for this. The idea of GCBA or local clubs offering free lessons to anyone at local colleges was suggested, and Alan offered to reach out.
2. It was agreed that the aim of GCBA should be to try to supply training in areas where there is none available currently, and that we should underwrite the costs for anyone offering a sensible training session where there is interest in one.
3. It was suggested that we should encourage beginners to play more by holding mini-bridge tournaments.
4. We will encourage the 31 teachers we know of in the county to register their names on the EBU website.

### EBU Festival of Bridge

5. Ian had contacted the clubs in an attempt to find someone willing to run the Gloucestershire efforts in the Festival. So far he has found three volunteers to help out at their clubs.
6. It was noted that the festival is intended to be aimed at the community at large, rather than just those who play currently, and that the EBU will be providing support packs. Suggested ideas included:
  - Charity events
  - "Bring a friend" events at clubs
  - Encouraging people to play at different clubs
  - Simultaneous pairs across the country/country.
  - Events involving twin towns - possibly online.
  - Demonstrations of mini-bridge
  - Sponsor a mini-bridge competition for local schools
7. Besides the festival, we are still looking for a GCBA publicity officer.

### Finance

8. Ben had produced a balance sheet for the financial year to date. So far we have made a loss of over £3000, but this doesn't account for our share in the profits of the Cheltenham Congress, or various donations and loans. In any case, our current balance of £20,000 is considerably more than the reserve figure of £8000 we intend to aim at.

### Director's Report

9. The GCBA sessions continue to run smoothly.

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## REC report

10. Paul reported that Gloucestershire have qualified for the final of the Tollemache Trophy, and have had a successful inter-county match.

## Youth Bridge

11. (Report e-mailed by Jan): Woodmancote School currently have about 16 players each week, with 7 volunteers helping out, and 10 of them have received their mini-bridge certificates. Meanwhile, the school club in Stroud has stopped due to a change of staff, so Alison Pritchard will approach them again in the new year. We are waiting for an update about attendance at Denmark Road School.
12. At Cheltenham BC, attendance on Saturdays ranges from 6 to 14, with 16 on Wednesdays (outside term times).
13. The forthcoming Wessex Youth bridge weekend will have fees of £25 per day, and is aiming to recruit more children to attend. We agreed that we will offer to support financially children who wish to attend (either this or the Cheltenham bridge sessions).

## Newsletter

14. The recent Tollemache success and inter-club matches will go in the next newsletter.

## AOB

15. Paul will review and add to the transcribed results from the honours boards so they can be put online. Cheltenham BC are intending to take down the boards in the basement, though they may move them upstairs.
16. We have about 20 trophies, but various of the competitions have changed, so we need to decide which trophies to use for which events. It was confirmed that the trophies are not insured (which is why they are not on display).
17. Roger is stepping down from keeping the GCBA Facebook page up to date in January. Also, we will need a new President and Secretary at the next AGM.