

## **Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held online on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

In attendance were Ian Sidgwick (President), Mike Wignall (Treasurer), Patrick Shields (Secretary), Jan Bailey, Andrew Bull, Hylary Kingham, Nigel Mortimer. Roger Williams, and Mel Barlow (CBC Representative). Apologies were received from Richard Butland and Alan Wearmouth.

### **Finance**

1. Mike provided an update on a number of issues related to finance -
  - a. Arrangements have been made that the Cheltenham Congress in May 2022 will run entirely online (using the GCBA's two one-day GP-licenses). The consequence is that Herefordshire will have to license the Ross-on-Wye event in its entirety in July 2022, and so we might expect a smaller return from that for the GCBA. The licensing fee is now £12.30 per table, a rise from £8.20 last year, and it has been agreed the entry fee for the Cheltenham Congress Green Point days will be £14 per person.
  - b. We noted that the County membership subscription fee was 5p per player per session (collected alongside UMS) and although we have no short term need to collect this amount, any change has to be ratified at an AGM and would not come into force until the April after that; meanwhile we can apply the funds from this to boost bridge in Gloucestershire.
  - c. We agreed that the Online Swiss Teams for 1Q22 would be charged at £12 per team, and that the Online 9-High Swiss Pairs for 1Q22 would be charged at £10 per pair covering two series.

### **Report from Chief Tournament Director**

2. Patrick raised a number of issues around the continuing programme
  - a. There are two face-to-face days pencilled in (5 February and 26 March); it was agreed that given the current situation, that a decision on whether to proceed with the first of these could be made in the week preceding the event.
  - b. The proposal to use Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April as a heat for the County Pairs, alongside encouraging clubs to run their own heats, was accepted.
  - c. It was noted that we had avoided – partly for fear of inadequate numbers, but also because online excluded some – running the Men's' or Ladies or Mixed Pairs Championships. Following a discussion, it was agreed that gender-restricted mind-sport events was an outdated concept, and we should use the recent gap to close down these events entirely.
  - d. The Ace of Clubs competition (less experienced/able players, matchpoints championship) has not been run since 2019; it was agreed that it would be much preferred to run this event in 2022 as a live event, and for that reason were happy to defer consideration of it until later.

### **Update from the Representative Events Committee**

3. The REC had met in December, but nothing from that meeting had been brought to our attention.

### **County Websites**

4. Roger made the point that as it was the front door to the club, it was important that a club website gave a positive message about the activities of the club. It can also encourage (or discourage) club players to take a greater interest in what is going on. Some club websites in the county were very good, but others had fallen into a less appealing place. The vast majority are built on Bridgewebs, which – as evidenced by the Cheltenham BC site – offers a lot of flexibility. The question was – can the GCBA do anything to help technically or financially, those clubs whose websites would benefit from some work. It was agreed that we would try to organise help (Patrick to approach some proficient webmasters about the possibility to doing some lessons/tutorials for others) and that Roger would write an article for the next county newsletter explaining the rationale behind offering help.

## **Reports from Club Buddies**

5. Ian reported on discussions with Chipping Campden, Winchcombe and Northleach – all of whom have been running face-to-face games. Winchcombe had recruited some new members recently, as have Northleach, and Chipping Campden is looking to run a recruitment drive in the spring.
6. Nigel reported that The Tudor BC learners' sessions which had been live before the holidays are now moving to be online sessions; a couple of participants have dropped out because of this.
7. Hylary reported that a school venue, as used by Newent BC, is not an attractive place for some to visit in these times, and the club has ceased its face-to-face games for the moment.
8. Mel reported that Cheltenham BC is restarting its face-to-face games on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

## **Teaching and the EBU Recruitment Drive**

9. Patrick reported that the new style of very short course being developed by EBED for newcomers was still under development, and its roll-out would be piloted by two EBU County Associations in the Feb-Apr timeframe, after which it would be tweaked and offered to all counties.
10. Jan reported that current school activities (at Woodmancote) were on hold (school timetabling and volunteer hesitancy contributing), although there was the possibility of using a STEM day in March as a chance to re-build enthusiasm for bridge.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

11. The suggestion of a Clubs meeting in 2022 remains on hold.
12. The intention of Patrick to prepare an offering for Gloucestershire U3A associations on bridge is still to be progressed.
13. Hylary reported that issues had arisen recently at one club she attends, when some players came wearing visors rather than masks.
14. It was agreed that Patrick could use the GCBA RealBridge account (at no cost to GCBA) for a game in memory of Filip Kurbalija who died in December. Filip had played occasionally in GCBA events in the past and became a regular player from the start of the first lockdown.
15. The next meeting will be on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 at 1900 hrs.

THE END