

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held online on Thursday 6th October 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).

Support for clubs

1. Ro Kaye has agreed to give a briefing on Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult issues at our next committee meeting. It was agreed that we should make this a separate session from the rest of the meeting so it could be recorded and shown to clubs.
2. Regarding the list of directors within the county, Patrick has the list for Cheltenham BC, and of the recently qualified directors. Ian asked that anyone who had a list of names for a club should send it to him.
3. We have information from Cheltenham and Tudor BCs on how they had managed their change to cashless payments which we can circulate to other clubs. Also, Ben will look into the possibility of GCBA switching to cashless.
4. Cheltenham BC have offered a "bridge in a weekend" teaching session for areas of the county beyond Cheltenham. Meanwhile, Wotton and Tudor have recently had considerable success in teaching beginners to play; it was agreed that this would make a good article for the newsletter. It was reported that Churchdown and Gloucester are also looking to get volunteers for teaching. Patrick noted that the EBU guide for setting up teaching has recently been updated, so is worth consulting.
5. The list of ways in which GCBA can support clubs (given in the previous minutes) has been updated and will be put onto the website. More additions are invited.

Entry fees

6. It was agreed that we would continue to charge 4 BBO dollars for online pairs, and £3.50 for face-to-face play, and £20 for the Saturday sessions.
7. The Everett Cup, as a charity event (for Sue Ryder) with catering, has been advertised at £10 per head. It is scheduled for Sunday 6th November, and there is plenty of space for more entries, so we will try to encourage more people to take part, and advertise it in the newsletter.
8. It was agreed that it was acceptable for the 9-high online Swiss Pairs to be made free, as the expenses are low, and it was not felt to be replacing a club session so was not undercutting the clubs.
9. It was agreed to charge £60 per team per season for the County League, as this would avoid it making a significant loss even if all matches were played face-to-face, while also avoiding making an excessive profit if (as expected) most matches were played online. Eleven teams have currently entered, so we would like one (or three) more to give an even number.
10. Entries for the NICKO need to be submitted very soon, so we agreed to send out a request to clubs. We have offered to subsidise new teams so they only have to pay £36 of the £84 entry fee.

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County Chairs meeting report

11. Ian reported that some counties are looking to reverse the recently imposed restrictions on counties' holding online Green Point events.
12. There was a presentation on websites; Ian noted that some of those shown (e.g. Essex's) are very well-designed, but felt that the main issue with many club sites is their failure to give clear links to local bridge teaching.
13. Suffolk CBA reported a successful venture in which they had worked with local libraries to provide accommodation for bridge teaching, and 200 students had signed up. It was felt that libraries would provide a pleasant environment that might prove less intimidating than a bridge club for beginners.

Treasurer's Report

14. Ben is working with Mike Wignall to get access to the GCBA bank account.

Cheltenham Congress

15. The Cheltenham Congress is scheduled for Saturday 29 and Sunday 30th May at Dean Close School. Financially, it is expected that it will roughly break even. There are some issues with the contract to be worked on - it was noted that we need to bear this kind of risk in mind when formulating our Reserves Policy.
16. The Green Point Pairs event is scheduled for the Saturday, with the GP Teams and the 9-high event on the Sunday. There was further discussion of the 9-high event:
 - a) It was suggested that we could use it to promote club bridge by including a prize for the best combined score for 3 pairs from the same club.
 - b) It was also agreed that we should look to promote the event in Herefordshire as well as in Gloucestershire, while accepting entries from anywhere, and that any club prize should be restricted to Gloucestershire and Herefordshire clubs.
 - c) It was agreed that pairs with an average rating of 9 or less at time of entry would be eligible.
 - d) It was suggested that we could use an old trophy, such as the Ace of Clubs or Leonard Cup, as the trophy to award.