

## **GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION**

### **Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held at Cheltenham Bridge Club on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

In attendance were Ian Sidgwick (President), Andrew Bull (Secretary), Ben Ritacca (Treasurer), Paul Denning (Vice-President), Patrick Shields, Richard Butland, Jan Bailey, Alan Stanfield, Roger Williams and Caroline Hartley (nominee for Secretary)

#### **Youth Bridge**

1. There was a discussion about the idea of allocating an annual budget for Youth Bridge, with the expectation that those responsible for Youth Bridge would still try to confirm their expenditure beforehand at committee meetings whenever this was possible. Should an urgent need arise at short notice between meetings, it would be put to an officer according to their spend limits.
2. It was noted that most of the potential expenditure would be to help children whose families would be unable to afford for them to attend the bridge camps. With two such camps each year, and assuming up to 10 children might attend each one, and allowing for some support from EBED, this would suggest an annual budget of around £2000-£2500. There was some concern that this is roughly GCBA's current annual income – on the other hand, it was also noted that we have about £22,000 and we haven't been able to decide what to spend it on. A vote was taken on whether we were prepared to spend potentially at this level on youth bridge in the next 12 months. There were no votes against.
3. We also pay for the required DBS checks for new volunteers who help out with Youth Bridge. Other potential expenses could include equipment (though currently they are quite well supplied), and advertising and travel expenses.
4. In other Youth Bridge news, Jan reported that two (maybe three) new schools are starting bridge clubs, and that three boys had played in the taster session held at Cheltenham library. Hopefully some of the new players will come to the Saturday bridge club at Cheltenham BC.

#### **Vacancies and the AGM**

5. We are still looking for volunteers to fill the posts of President and Treasurer at the next AGM, and we are also looking for a Publicity Office. Having run the Cleverly League for 3 or 4 years, Ian would like to hand over this role as well.
6. It was suggested that the AGM should be held on May 19<sup>th</sup>, to avoid the Bank Holiday weekend, half-term and various bridge events being held in June. (This would require the membership to be informed and the agenda sent out by April 28<sup>th</sup>).
7. It was agreed that the AGM would be held face-to-face at Cheltenham BC, starting at 1pm, with a bridge session to follow at 2pm. Paul agreed to supply wine as prizes for the bridge session as last year.

#### **Content for the Newsletter**

8. The AGM and the vacancies to be filled were suggested as obvious content for the newsletter.

9. It was suggested that news regarding the September nationwide bridge festival, and Richard Barlow's role as the GCBA Festival Manager, should be covered. It was noted that Richard has largely been trying to get unaffiliated clubs and U3A clubs involved. Ian has spoken to chairs at various clubs about their ideas for the festival, and encouraged the rest of the committee to do the same. It was also noted that Worcestershire CBA have more events organised than GCBA.

**AOB**

10. It was agreed that Richard Barlow should be invited to the next committee meeting.
11. There was no other business.
12. The next meeting will be on May 13<sup>th</sup>.