

## Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held online on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022

In attendance were Ian Sidgwick (President), Mike Wignall (Treasurer), Patrick Shields (Secretary), Jan Bailey, Andrew Bull, Hylary Kingham, and Roger Williams – plus Toby Roberts as a Cheltenham BC representative. Apologies were received from Richard Butland, Paul Denning, and Nigel Mortimer.

### Finance

1. The Treasurer's annual report [has been published on the website](#) with the accounts for the last year. He commented on the large (£3800) surplus which has been driven primarily by keeping charges level with pre-Covid prices, in keeping with all our bridge clubs. Two requests for funds had come in and the committee agreed to
  - a. Donate £202.50 to the Wessex Junior Weekend fund, covering 50% of the deficit of the most recent event (previous events have always been self-financing, but numbers were down this year).
  - b. Donate £380 (as 10% of the current surplus) to the support of the English Junior Internationals, an aspect of the game which the EBU has recently declared it cannot fund. Suggestions were made about increasing this amount.
2. Mike was thanked for his excellent management of the accounts over his three years as Treasurer.

### Report from Chief Tournament Director

3. We noted a satisfactory (6 table) attendance at the first face-to-face Summer Teams, but the second of the series is usually the more important test.
4. We discussed the question of GCBA weekend events, noting that while Covid was less of a problem, people were busier now at weekends than ever before. The social element of our weekend events and doing more than just a bridge game is considered important, and RealBridge delivers a little of that but only face-to-face delivers it fully. Ian noted that the North Cotswolds group of clubs were planning a weekend in September, which would incorporate events at two different standards. Organising some limited-NGS inter-club competitions over the winter was proposed as an attractive option, and this could be live or on RealBridge. Contracting out the management of such an event (to Sarah Amos or to a county Bridge Club) was also suggested. Patrick will prepare a plan to offer at the next committee meeting.
5. We discussed re-starting the friendly match against Avon County Association which we had run in August of 2018 (in Cheltenham), 2019 (in Bristol) and 2020 (online). It was suggested that online might be the default choice for an inter-county event. With the Ross-on-Wye Green Point event in July, August might again be the timetable for this.

### Preparations for the AGM

6. We confirmed that 25 attendees were needed for a quorate meeting (45 last time). The standard agenda has been published. Patrick agreed to provide a list of trophy winners for announcement at the AGM. A reminder about the meeting will go out to members (over 1000 on the list currently) before the event.

### Report from Club Buddies

7. Ian commented that the September event in the North-East is working to get the local Rotary Club involved and using a local caterer. Work on the combined list of events in the NE area is still underway. We discussed how to improve club websites; catering for both newcomers and experienced players at the same time is difficult.

### Teaching

8. Ian commented that there were parts of the county which were devoid, and Patrick suggested that the GCBA role should be in encouraging and generating more teachers (getting them trained). This is more a personnel problem than a financial problem and the GCBA is willing to pay for teacher training. Hylary suggested the main problem was finding candidate learners – but of course you cannot push the advertising unless you have some teaching to offer. And potential teachers are reluctant to commit before they have an audience! Hylary questioned the need for EBED to monitor an established teacher before they could certify them as a full EBTA member.

9. Jan reported that the effort at Woodmancote School was underway, with about three tables. We noted that schools bridge was very manpower intensive.
10. Ian reported that he and Patrick were meeting shortly with Nicola Renshaw to discuss how to pull together the GCBA duty to encourage learners and the Cheltenham BC role as a CIO in encouraging learners.
11. The committee agreed to support the Junior Bridge Camp in Northampton in September; this will be through advertising the event, and providing financial support for juniors attending.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

12. Patrick reported (from Paul) that the honours boards in the main room at Cheltenham Bridge Club covering LEAGUE, WINTER TEAMS, KO (no 2019 result), COTSWOLD, EVERETT are all almost full. The standard practice is to copy the details to a board in the basement and free the board for re-use (for the same, or different, or re-named events). Toby offered to discuss with Cheltenham BC what should be done.
13. We discussed the idea of offering free entry to a County event to players who reached certain Master Point rankings. Patrick offered to research the numbers currently in each band, before we make any decisions on this. [31% of members are unranked, 29% Local/Club/Area, 25% District/County/Master/Tournament – and then <15% have ranks which involve Green Points]
14. The next meeting will be on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 1800 hrs.

THE END