

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

## Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held online on Monday 16th October 2023

In attendance were Ian Sidgwick (President), Andrew Bull (Secretary), Ben Ritacca (Treasurer), Alan Stanfield, Paul Denning and Richard Butland. Apologies received from Jan Bailey and Roger Williams.

### Youth bridge

1. Jan had sent an e-mail to report that the Saturday sessions were running at Cheltenham, and that there are now 20 children playing in school at Woodmancote, and Alison Pritchard has continued teaching in Stroud.
2. It had been suggested that we buy 50 mini-bridge flippers from EBED for £5.95 each, as Christmas presents for the children playing in the county, and this was agreed to.

### Teaching

3. Alan reported that he had attended a very informative international online conference on teaching and coaching, covering both academic aspects and practical experience.
4. The teachers' get-together at Cheltenham BC had taken place successfully in September, with 20+ attendees.
5. There will be a demonstration of Smart Bridge, the EBED online teaching tool, on Tuesday 17th.
6. Paul and Alan have agreed to help out at a new fast-track teaching course being held at Tewkesbury.
7. Clubs are generally in the middle of their Autumn teaching programmes, with good attendances reported.

### Director's Report

8. Patrick reported that the Monday night GCBA sessions continue to be popular, and that there had been 17 attendees at the recent training session. The entry for the Bredon Vale was disappointing, with only 4 teams taking part. There are currently 5 tables signed up for the Everett Cup, the GCBA charity event - we hope to match the 15 tables that took part last year.

### Finance

9. Chipping Camden BC have expressed an interest in buying a dealing machine, possibly second hand. It was felt that this was not really necessary for a club that meets weekly.
10. It was agreed that we should have a policy on how much individual committee members are authorised to spend on behalf of GCBA prior to discussion with the rest of the committee. Ian proposed that the maximum amounts should be £500 for the President, £100 for other officers, and £25 for the rest of the committee. It was stressed that this would only be done in exceptional circumstances where the money was needed before the issue could be discussed with the rest of the committee, and that discussion would always take place subsequently.

### Congress

11. Due to a delay in the processing of the results by EBU, the finances for the Swiss Teams have not yet been finalised.

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12. Cheltenham BC have requested more help from the GCBA in organising the congress, especially with the bookings, and Jan and Ben have agreed to help out with this. It was noted that there had been more issues than usual this year, with the new venue, the delay in the event taking place and new people involved in running it.

### **EBU events**

13. The EBU Festival of Bridge is scheduled for September 2024, with the idea being for each county to have a festival manager to organise local events. It was suggested that we reach out to all local club chairmen to find candidates for the role.
14. There is an EBU competition running for original photographs (or paintings) that convey the fun, drama and excitement of the game - suggestions for ideas are invited.

### **REC report**

15. Paul reported that we had won our recent matches against Nottinghamshire. Most of the bridge was played online, and it appears that Nottinghamshire have lost some of their strongest players as a result - this is apparently true of various counties.
16. The team for the Tollemache Cup has been selected.

### **AOB**

17. Paul is to meet with Peter Swales of Cheltenham BC to discuss the future of the GCBA honours boards. It was suggest that the records on the boards should be put online.
18. The next meeting will be held on Monday 6th December at 6pm.