

GLoucestershire County Bridge Association

Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held at Cheltenham Bridge Club on Thursday 18th May 2023

In attendance were Ian Sidgwick (President), Andrew Bull (Secretary), Ben Ritacca (Treasurer), Patrick Shields, Alan Stanfield, Richard Butland, Jan Bailey and Peter Waggett (REC chair). Apologies were received from Hylary Kingham, Paul Denning, Roger Williams and Toby Roberts (CBC rep).

Boosting bridge in Gloucestershire

1. Jan reported that she has 23 confirmed volunteers to help out with youth bridge - it was noted that it is much easier to get people to volunteer as "helpers" than as "leaders".
2. There was to be a meeting shortly near Stroud with representatives from various local clubs to discuss how they can help each other - e.g. by adding to teaching resources, letting people know about different levels of bridge played locally, advertising the clubs and so on.
3. Ian had spoken to Worcestershire CBA about the idea of a cross-county meeting involving the Tewkesbury and Twynning clubs with some nearby clubs in Worcestershire, and this was agreed to. WCBA also noted that they underwrite teaching sessions in the county - in practice these will generally pay for themselves (especially if run by volunteers).
4. Alan reported that a 12-week fast-track learning course has been started (costing £20 for the course book and £3 per session).

AGM

5. Ben reported that the Treasurer's report was nearly ready, and the accounts will be signed off. As a change from before, charitable donations will now be in the accounts.
6. It was thought that we should get enough attendees this time (after the issues with last year's online meeting), especially with it being on a Monday night. Free tea and coffee have been arranged, Paul will be bringing wine for prizes, and there is a trophy (the Steve Darke Salver) for the competition.
7. A lot of people, when asked if they would be attending, said they had not seen the e-mail which was sent out to all GCBA members - this required members to have registered an e-mail address, and their club to have sent it to the EBU. Patrick will try to update the lists. We will also try to encourage clubs to announce the AGM on their web pages.

REC

8. It was agreed that we would continue to charge £10 per head for the inter-county league.
9. Peter reported that he is short of players for the President's Cup (for a team of 8) and Midland Challenge Bowl (for two teams of 4), both of which are being held on 25th June. He will try a more direct approach to players at the next Monday night game.
10. The discussion over the policy for whether non-Gloucestershire based players should be picked for the county is ongoing. It was felt by the committee that a player's contribution to (and involvement in) Gloucestershire bridge should be included in the criteria for marginal decisions.
11. We had been contacted by Essex CBA regarding a possible friendly online match - this had had a good response.

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Other business

12. The rearranged dates for the Cheltenham Congress (August 26-27) have been announced, and it has been advertised.
13. The teaching course on 8/9 July is fully booked.
14. Following a discussion of which clubs might be able to lend out a dealing machine, it was noted that GCBA have offered grants to clubs in the past so that they could buy their own dealing machines.
15. The next committee meeting is to be held on Thursday 15th June at 6pm at Cheltenham Bridge Club.