

GLoucestershire County Bridge Association

Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held online on Thursday 21st September 2023

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

Youth bridge

1. Ro Kaye had sent a report from the Youth Bridge weekend for which the GCBA had provided financial support, including some photos which the EBU are intending to use.
2. The Saturday afternoon sessions have resumed, currently with about 6 children attending, with hopefully more expected as word gets around. Bridge is also being played at schools in Stroud, Cheltenham, Woodmancote and Gloucester, and we hope to get more schools involved.

REC

3. Paul was elected as new head of the REC. It was also noted that more members of the REC are needed, and Ian agreed to attend an REC meeting.

Teaching

4. The next teachers' get-together is scheduled for Sunday 24th, with about 20 expected to be there. The GCBA website has been updated with forthcoming sessions for beginners and improvers.
5. Tewkesbury BC and the other clubs nearby have set up a teaching session for beginners, starting next month, though more volunteers would be helpful. Paul offered to help out every other week.
6. Churchdown BC also have beginners' sessions starting soon, and other such sessions are being run in South Gloucestershire (including at Wotton).
7. Gloucester BC have switched to Gentle Bridge duplicate sessions on Tuesdays, and have 5-7 tables with new players attending.

Cafe Bridge

8. It has been suggested that we organise a bridge session in which a few hands are played at each of multiple cafes, and that Gloucester Quays would be a suitable place for this - as well as being enjoyable, it could be a chance to raise money for charity, and raise the profile of the game.
9. Similar events have been held at other places, including Oxford - they had been successful, but had taken a lot of organising. This had also been the case when Cheltenham had run a cafe bridge event at a single venue. It was noted that any such event would be played in the Spring or Summer, so does not need to be organised urgently.
10. Other suggestions included playing in pubs, or to involve local chess or go clubs to make it a "mind games" event.

Club Visits

11. Roger had been to Stroud BC, and noted that they are re-introducing the use of tablets for scoring. Ian reported that Winchcombe BC was thriving, with more players than they had before the pandemic.

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Finance

12. The loan and grant to Churchdown BC has gone through, and they have already used the money as planned.
13. Finances from the recent Congress are not yet finalised, with some expenses still to be paid, but it will have been profitable. The attendance was reasonably high, including 18 tables in the 9-high event (which we hope will be played in the same room as the main event next year).
14. We believe that the plan is for the Congress to be played in August again next year, though this may need to be confirmed with the EBU.

AOB

15. The arrangements for the Bredon Vale have been made with Cheltenham BC. So far about 6 teams have signed up to play.
16. It was agreed that we should look into the cost of getting a Zoom licence for online meetings (and other uses).
17. The next meeting will be held on Monday 16th October at 6pm, prior to the next County League matches.