

GCBA SURVEY RESPONSES

THE STORY

In reaction to the request from the EBU for feedback from players, clubs and counties into its future strategy, the GCBA initiated a survey in August 2020. The survey questions can be found at this link and 173 sets of responses were obtained and reviewed (inputs are no longer being taken).

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1JWfCcOcpeP2d-36VnIZFiDK4I8XMRjdtb-VFGdTidx0/edit>

THE RESULTS

On analysis of the results, the committee decided that the GCBA should take action on three fronts

- a) Making players more aware of what GCBA and EBU are doing to support the game.
 - b) Trying to get clubs in the county more engaged in the governance of the GCBA.
 - c) Helping players with the transition between club play and playing in county/national competitions.
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SUMMARY OF THE RESPONSES

Information on Responders (173 but there might be the occasional repeat)

1. Length of time playing : over 77% said more than 10 years and under 5% less than 3 years.
 2. Comfort level in different events : almost half chose “regular club player but not much more”.
 3. Age group : over 78% were in the 65+ group and under 2% below 50 years old.
 4. NGS ranking : equal numbers in the groups AKQ / JT9 / 876 / “don’t know”
 5. Involvement in your club : 44% just play but don’t help
- ✓ The first four suggest the responders were a good cross section of our members.

About the GCBA

1. How does the GCBA do in representing you and your club's interests?
About right by 65% but 26% said “never noticed what it does” – only 9% asked for change
 2. How does the GCBA do in supporting your bridge club and its activities?
About 70% said “doing what’s expected” but still 24% with “never noticed it does anything”
 3. Does the GCBA widen the range of game in which you might play?
About right got 67% but there were 24% who “don’t need anything beyond my club”
- ✓ These are deemed very high approval ratings

Are there any particulars to go with the above answers, or any other actions the GCBA should be taking - to promote the game of bridge or support the bridge players in Gloucestershire?

- Aiding the transition from club player to better and county player got many mentions
- GCBA criticised as Cheltenham-centric and often confused with Cheltenham BC
- Lack of knowledge of, and communication from, GCBA mentioned a few times.

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About the EBU

Three of the services are (a) Support for recruiting, teaching and the development of bridge players. (b) Advice and support to affiliated bridge clubs on club management, and (c) Promoting the game of bridge as a healthy and sociable pastime. On these does the EBU do a good enough job, or does it need to do more (or less) and why?

- About 45% were “the right amount” but 36% were “I cannot tell how well it does”
 - Many mentioned getting youth & younger players involved
 - GCBA’s understanding of non-competitive players and their interests is weak
 - The image of bridge is not what it should be; promotion needs to go up a gear

Another set of services are (d) Provision of regulations for competitions in England, (e) Support to the interpretation of the Laws in England and TD services, and (f) Disciplinary processes and dispute resolution. On these does the EBU do a good enough job, or does it need to do more (or less) and why?

- About 48% were “doing the right amount” but now 41% had “no way of judging”
 - Many mentions of the need for different rule complexities for tournament and club usage

The third set of services are (g) Running a variety of competitions for English bridge players, (h) Communications about bridge for player members (magazine & diary & website), and (i) National grading schemes (Master Points and NGS). On these does the EBU do a good enough job, or does it need to do more (or less) and why?

- Over 61% were doing the right amount but still 28% had no way of judging.
 - More comments on NGS than anything else and more were favourable than not
 - More events/variety wanted for lower level players

The final pair of services are (j) Representing English bridge players in BGB/EBL/WBF and in the development of the Laws, and (k) Managing international representation. On these does the EBU do a good enough job, or does it need to do more (or less) and why?

- Here “cannot tell” got a 60% take-up with 36% saying “about the right amount”

Finally, from the EBU perspective, is there any service or task you expect from the National Body which has not been reflected in the list above.

- Points made about promoting the game, in particular with younger generations.

[Feedback which was mentioned once or was conflicting (ie some like it, some don’t) is not reported here]

THE END