

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held at Cheltenham Bridge Club on Monday 1st April 2019.

In attendance were Patrick Shields (President), Andrew Bull (Secretary), Jim Simons (Treasurer), Richard Harris, Paul Denning, Anne Swannell, Roger Williams (CBC rep). Apologies were received from Richard Butland (REC chair).

Finances

1. Jim produced the draft accounts. Once we have the payments for the County Pairs and finalised the arrangements for the monthly settlement with Cheltenham Bridge Club, the surplus will be approximately £1400.
2. It was observed that our rent bill has decreased, possibly due to old end-of-year effects; that there was no entry this year for printing publicity; and that the outgoings for the Tollemache trophy was much smaller than would be expected. Jim took an action to investigate these issues.
3. The other changes noted in the accounts compared to those of last year - the costs of Youth Bridge and the increased mileage payments - have known causes (part year then full year, and more people claiming at a higher rate, respectively).
4. Jim noted that there were ongoing problems with setting up dual signatures for the accounts and he is no longer able to make online payments, so he is taking measures to fix this. On the positive side Patrick has now received a card and PIN.
5. It was agreed to simplify the accounts by moving the payments for the Pachabo, Corwin and Garden Cities into the new year (to match those for other cups).
6. Jim noted that accounting for the Cotswold Cup is tricky, as the proceeds go to charity, and besides the entry fee there are extra donations, raffles etc. Currently the outgoings are included under Miscellaneous. It was agreed to modify the accounts to include Charitable Contributions under Income and Charitable Donations under Outgoings, so the event costs would be reflected in the same way as for other events.
7. Patrick asked if it would be useful if our financial year ended on an earlier date (than March 31st), so as to give more time before the AGM to audit the accounts. Jim thought this was unnecessary, and that as this would require a change to the constitution it would be easier to make the AGM later.
8. In response to comments in the previous minutes regarding our public liability, it has been noted that the insurance for the venue will usually cover this. Patrick agreed to discuss this with CBC, and ask that this is explicitly acknowledged in their insurance. He also noted that there is coverage for counties from the EBU, so we as committee members would not be responsible in any case, although the wording doesn't make it clear if they would cover all our events.

AGM

9. It was agreed that we did not need to meet again before the AGM (on May 12th), and that the next meeting should be on May 13th.
10. Richard is planning to produce a report on the Cleverly Cup in time for the AGM.

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11. Most of the committee will be standing for re-election at the AGM. Roger noted that he is stepping down from the CBC committee so will no longer be the CBC rep, and was encouraged by the other members to put himself forward for the GCBA committee.
12. Paul took an action to give Andrew the template for the invitation to the AGM, and Paul and Andrew will put together the list of trophy winners. Patrick will prepare the President's report and arrange the (free) bridge event which takes place immediately after the AGM. It was agreed to have cream teas for the catering.
13. It was agreed that we should choose a newer attendee to present the trophies, and that we decide who to choose once we have the entry list.

Engraving of Trophies/Honours Boards

14. Paul has checked most of the trophies, and reported that three of them now have no space for further winners to be added. It was agreed that we should propose at the AGM that we stop engraving the trophies, and maintain the lists of winners on the honours boards on display at CBC.
15. Another issue noted was that sometimes events stop being played (for example, the "No Fear" competition has not been played for several years now) - we need to check if there are other examples. It was suggested that we could put new events on the boards below the ones which are no longer competed. Some events only run for a few years and might not merit an honours board.
16. Patrick suggested we could also be more flexible with how trophies are assigned to events. It was agreed that the list of trophies should be used in Programme Planning to allow a sensible allocation of trophies to the competitions which change from year to year.

Other Business

17. The Tudor Bridge Club in Chipping Sodbury has confirmed that it has switched affiliation from Avon to Gloucestershire; it is hoped that they will get involved in the various GCBA events.
18. Patrick noted that there is a forthcoming meeting of the Midland Counties Working Group, and that we can have a second GCBA representative if anyone wished to attend. The same applies to the EBU Chairs meeting on 15th May, to discuss "membership: role of county and EBU" and "financial strategy".
19. CBC has a strategy committee discussing their 5-year strategy, and Patrick asked if we thought GCBA had any views on this. It was noted that Gloucestershire is unusual among counties in having such a large proportion of its membership based at a single club, so the CBC strategy is important to us.