

Gloucestershire County Bridge Association
Executive Committee Meeting
1st February 2018 5.30pm
Cheltenham Bridge Club

1 Present: Jim Simons, Patrick Shields, David Simons, James Hastie, Peter Swales, Richard Harris, Anne Swannell : Apologies from Paul Denning and Peter Waggett

2 The minutes of the meeting on November 30th 2017 were approved

3 Matters arising: It was agreed that invitations should be extended to attend meetings to Publicity Officer (Judy Sanis) and Chair of Representative Events Committee (Richard Butland) when not members of the Committee. Under matters arising it was also noted that Ro Kaye had agreed to be Safeguarding Officer. CBC currently has adopted a Safeguarding Policy; the Executive Committee needs to review and formally adopt, if agreed. Ro is planning to draft a document covering necessary advice to TDs should a vulnerable person turn up to play bridge. Once available, this document will need to be considered by TSC and subsequently approved by Executive Committee.

4 Strategy: Patrick had submitted a report (copy attached). It was noted that Mark Rogers had agreed to be the lead for the teaching strand in the strategy.

5 Youth Bridge: see Patrick's Report. It was also agreed to support the request from Ian Payne to raise money for youth attending the world championship in the summer. It was agreed to organise a county wide SIMs pairs competition, for which each competitor would be charged a fee (£1 or £2). Jim and Judy would write to all clubs in the county asking them to support the event. Patrick offered to undertake organisation and James agreed to undertake the scoring for the event
There was a discussion about the level of funding of youth bridge to which the county had committed. Subsequent to the meeting a note of a sub group meeting held in 2016 had approved an annual expenditure of £400pa. This to be ratified at next county meeting.

6 The Committee considered a comparison between the GCBA constitution and the model EBU and agreed to make no changes to the current county constitution. It was noted that when the Constitution was amended in 2015, it was brought into line with the EBU model which requires payment to be subject to two signature authorisation. The application of this policy never happened and the county has been in technical breach. The Committee considered the new policy to be impractical with so much being electronic (although Dual Authorisation on electronic accounts is now common-place) It was agreed that at the next revision to the constitution this should be addressed but in the meantime the President should point this out at the AGM.

7 Committee succession. It was noted that Jim was standing down from the Committee at the conclusion of his Term as President; David also advised that he was spending more time abroad and would also leave the Committee at the AGM. Jim asked all to consider how best to encourage members to join the Committee and particularly from outside of CBC and/or non Monday night players. Patrick suggested that we try and get representatives from the different regions of the County and also Gentle Bridge in Cheltenham.

8 James presented an updated set of accounts and noted a relatively healthy cash position with nearly £12,000 in the bank. There is still a gremlin in the bookkeeping and Jim and James to work together to resolve. James outlined a request from Gloucester BC for financial help in purchasing a dealing machine costing £3240. The Committee considered that the request was very much in line with the county strategy of supporting clubs. James , together with Jim, were authorised to agree a

support package based around 20% grant and 40% interest free loan with a reasonable degree of latitude. The package discussion should also include a sense check on the club's ability to repay the loan

9 Keith Stanley Plate: see Patrick's report and agreement to proceed was agreed, but that in order to get wider involvement in the event, we would leave the making of arrangements until we had some new faces on the committee.

10 CTD report: In Paul's absence a written report had been submitted.

- Individual Winner Ian Constable
- Rank Xerox. Cheltenham BC (it was noted that only 3 and a half teams entered)

Midland County Match in January v Derbyshire

- Dawes won 15/5
- Porter won 13/7
- Markham lost 8/12

11 Midland Counties Working Group: see Patrick's report. The MCWG are proposing to submit a combined view on the EBU strategy paper and Jim, Patrick and David to work with the group on this.

12 CBC representative: Ashok advised that the financial agreement between club and county included an adjustment for inflation. This has not happened and CBC Treasurer to agree with James. Ashok also pointed out that certain costs will now attract VAT

13 Future dates: next meeting Thursday 19th April at 6pm, AGM Sunday 20th May at 1pm. The AGM date was subsequently changed to 13th May.

14.AOB: EBU have outlined policies on Data Protection which affect both clubs and county. Jim and Patrick to lead on actions arising.

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Patrick's Report : Inputs for GCBA Committee on 1 Feb 2018

Strategy Report

1. On Dec 5th club contacts were informed of the discussion at the last committee meeting (the need to involve the 80%, financial support for clubs, having top team players visit clubs) and the response has been two requests (Gloucester & Winchcombe) about the funding.
2. In terms of objectives you will have seen some publicity on Best Behaviour, and changes in the content of the County Newsletter. The suggestion of a match against Avon in three categories was well received and is being explored with the Avon committee, TD seminars round-table discussions are going and well attended (a dozen on average), discussion has started with Mark Rogers about county action on teaching.

Youth Bridge

1. Sessions ran over half term in October and on most Sundays since. Attendance is low (but keen); we did two school visits in January which – with suitable prods – might produce more players. Low numbers mean that – paying rent to CBC – we lost £100 in January and, if we get no more takers, we have sufficient funds to run until the summer.
2. Plans are progressing for the (Wessex) Youth Bridge weekend on 7/8 April, at which the National Youth Squad will be in attendance.

Stanley Plate

1. I met with Keith on 29 December. We agreed that the aim of the event is to encourage more people in Gloucestershire to play competitive bridge, and in doing so to follow the regulations properly, particularly about face down leads, pauses after stop cards, and getting the TD to handle hesitations without any recriminations. This means his target is all regular bridge players in Gloucestershire and not just the 15% who normally play county events. It is free and offers prizes as an inducement to get people to try out such an event (and for some to try out a teams event) with the hope they come back for more afterwards.
2. He accepted that sometimes the regulations don't make sense, and that it is a long term task getting people to understand them, but he sees consistent following of the regulations as a step on that path. He understands that a single day will not affect people's long term behaviour, and it therefore happy that this is part of a longer campaign to improve application of the regulations. I argued that people need the understanding or else they will soon revert to ignoring the regulations again, and he accepted that but repeated he was only focusing on the first step.
3. He is adamant about no computers involved, and to avoid the TD having a headache verifying scores before any serious prize-giving, that strongly suggests a Swiss Teams event, for which manual scoring and checking is easy. But computer dealt hands are expected.

MCWG Report

1. The group had one meeting which was attended by Gordon Rainsford (EBU) and Donne Wright (EBED). The group has agreed to take forward six strands of activity / investigation of which the most relevant to us are (a) one examining difficulties with the classroom to clubroom transition, and (b) one examining the gulf between competitive and less competitive players, and (c) how counties and EBU can give value to unaffiliated clubs.
2. The MCWG has been asked to engage on the currently developing EBU Strategic Plan for 2018-2023, and is collating inputs. We need to decide whether it suffices for our input to be via the MCWG (for which I am editing the text) or separately.

END OF REPORT