

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held at Cheltenham Bridge Club on Monday 1st October 2018.

In attendance were Patrick Shields (President), Andrew Bull (Secretary), Jim Simons (Treasurer), Peter Waggett, Richard Harris, Paul Denning, Anne Swannell, Richard Butland, Roger Williams (CBC Rep).

Status of the accounts

1. Jim had sent out a copy of the GP Event Accounts and of the accounts for the year to date before the meeting. He noted that we currently have a bank balance of approximately £11,000. Caroline Hartley (the CBC Treasurer) has indicated a desire to consider a new rental agreement for CBC/GCBA and they will meet to discuss this next week.
2. Patrick reported that CBC have agreed to give the Gloucestershire Youth Bridge another grant of £400, and will continue to hire out the facilities at the same rate as in 2017.
3. Jim reported that the plan to introduce a dual-signature rule for cheques is proceeding, though slowly.
4. CBC have introduced card payments for their bridge sessions, and the idea of GCBA doing the same was discussed. Jim noted that unless everybody paid by card there would be no real advantage to doing this, and as there would be a small cost it was decided not to pursue this idea.
5. Jim will get the accounts audited by Chris Coleman as soon as possible. It was agreed that these should be published on the website in a "members only" section. Patrick will investigate getting this set up.
6. Jim has e-mailed James Ward and confirmed that the price for Pianola would be £360 per year. There was some discussion about whether this was too much, but it was agreed that we should go ahead with it.
7. Patrick asked if there was any suggestions for Treasurer for next year. One name was suggested, and he will be approached, but it was felt he would probably be reluctant; it was suggested that he might instead be prepared to audit the accounts.
8. It was confirmed that Jim and Anne will be the GCBA representatives on the Congress committee, and Jim and Alan Wearmouth likewise for the Ross-on-Wye Green Point event.

Duty Roster

9. Patrick has updated the list of duties (the main duties are to ensure the club is opened on time, that the money is collected and that newcomers are welcomed at the start of the evening, and that the doors are locked at the end). The committee agreed to check the list and confirm that we are happy with it.

Entry Fees for Competitions

10. For evening bridge, the table money is split with CBC. For other events, the price for using the CBC facilities varies: the match against Avon (at a weekend) cost £94.74; training sessions cost £67.50. Room hire is £35.

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11. It was agreed that the standard entry fee for a GCBA daytime event will be £7.50, while for a longer event (a full day event with two breaks) such as the Everett Cup and Cotswold Cup, the fee is £10. We have, though, charged a reduced fee (£5) for the Bredon Vale and Ace of Clubs Final to encourage people to come, and it was agreed to continue doing this, along with the free event at the AGM. It was noted that people generally suggest that they regard these events as good value for money.
12. The justification for charging £10 for training sessions is that it means we could pay for trainers, and it was agreed that having an external trainer on occasion was worthwhile, and would make this more justifiable. We shall therefore charge £10 for these sessions.
13. Patrick reminded the committee that any use of the club premises must be recorded.

A Sponsored Event

14. The suggestions made at our previous meeting have now been discussed with the sponsor. His only issue was with the proposal that entry should be by pairs, to be drawn into teams; he felt that while this was acceptable, he also wanted teams of 4 to be able to enter, as he is keen for there to be an overall prize for the best team. It was agreed that we should have both.
15. Patrick reported that the cost of a session at Hatherley Manor would be between £3000 and £5000, depending on the number of entries (20 to 40 tables). He had checked that the lighting would be adequate, noting that we could provide extra lamps at minimum cost if need be (and that the hotel would be happy with this).
16. It was agreed that January 11th would be the date for the first event. Sarah Amos has confirmed she is available to direct then, and Hatherley Manor is available. This will give us time for later events within the calendar year.

Midlands County Working Group

17. Patrick reported on a couple of issues which had been discussed there:
 - Role of EBED: it was felt by most counties that EBED (the educational/training branch of EBU) had provided little of value to them, so he asked what we felt they should be providing. The sharing of teaching experience was highlighted, and the fact of occasional EBED teachers' conferences was noted. It was agreed that the bridge teachers would be best placed to answer the question of EBED's value, especially at clubs other than CBC (where the teaching was generally run successfully), and that we would ask them.
 - Safeguarding of young players and vulnerable adults: CBC has a policy on this, which GCBA has also adopted. It was generally agreed that central guidelines on how to deal with various issues would be useful, although there was uncertainty as to what those issues would be. Richard Butland noted that we could consult with his wife Andrea, the Welfare and Safeguarding Officer for the Gloucestershire Lawn Tennis Association, where they have guidelines based on those that the LTA have derived from the Government Guidelines.

EBU

18. The EBU has asked how often they should hold shareholders' meetings. Jim reported that he found these meetings were often useful and informative. It was felt that twice a year was the appropriate number.

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19. The publication of county news by the EBU is now restricted to the online magazine, which gets very little attention, so it was agreed not to pursue this question of who was responsible for providing the GCBA news to them.
20. We have been asked for nominations for an EBED trustee for education. It was agreed to ask for suggestions via the GCBA website.
21. It was pointed out that our plan to have an area on the website dedicated to the work of the Representative Events had not yet happened.