

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held at Cheltenham Bridge Club on Monday 6th August 2018.

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

Dimmie Fleming Award and other matters

1. It was agreed that we would not nominate anyone for the Dimmie Fleming Award this year. Jim suggested that in the future we should ask the other clubs in the county for proposals, and we agreed to do that in good time for next year.
2. Andrew confirmed that he had returned the list of the holders of the GCBA committee posts to the EBU, as they requested.
3. Patrick emphasised the need for us to have someone responsible on a Monday night, and asked again for volunteers for the Duty Rota, suggesting individuals consider signing up for an event series.

Status of the accounts

4. Jim had e-mailed the latest figures to the rest of the committee, with the following comments:

"I have produced the accounts for the 2017 Green Point Event at Ross, for the Cheltenham Congresses of 2017 and 2018, and the main GCBA accounts for the year 2017-8, which include the surpluses from the 2017 events. Because certain amounts were paid from the current account that should have come from the other accounts, and these amounts were not repaid by the end of the financial year, they are recorded as loans from the current account to the event accounts (these are assets for the main accounts, and matching liabilities for the event accounts), meaning that the events had negative net value at the end of the year.

I'm worried that there might still be unpaid invoices or unclaimed expenses for the 2018 congress as the expenses seem very low. I have been chasing."

5. He noted that GCBA had not yet paid for the Duplimating for the 2017 GP Event, and that there had been some CBC overpayments last year - he is in conversation with Caroline to sort this out.
6. He noted further that while the surplus reported for the July 2017 Ross event in the 2018 accounts can be explained, the corresponding figure did not agree in the year before that (when the accounts were accepted with an undiagnosed error) and it looks to be too late to sort that anomaly out.
7. Patrick has worked the Youth Bridge accounts independently of the GCBA accounts, and is chasing up some YB payments of which he was not aware. The account has overspent (by under £50), and so will need a new grant. It was noted that we are no longer trying to get the Youth Bridge activities recognised as a charity, so the means of payment for use of CBC premises by YB can be reconsidered. A request for funding will be made once this has been settled.
8. Jim noted that the documented surpluses from the Congresses are now genuine surpluses, and that the Green Point event had a surplus of £2500. He noted that though the accounts were not yet ready for audit (he aims that they will be by the September meeting), the overall surplus for 2017-18 will be about £2000. Jim noted that we are not supposed to be a profit-making organisation, so this was arguably too high. It was noted that more grants had been made to clubs in 2018-19, and also that it has been suggested that we could pay CBC more rent from the

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

table money. To avoid accumulating a greater surplus, another suggestion was that (say) a free tea could be provided for (say) the Everett Cup.

9. The question of the pay-to-play contribution to the county (currently 5p) was raised. It was noted that the contribution from this to grants made to clubs is one way in which GCBA helps to support other clubs in the county (redistributing income from the larger, especially CBC, to the smaller). It was suggested that the fee should be compared with that for other counties.
10. Paul raised the question of whether we had paid all the EBU entry fees (Pachabo, Corwen, Garden Cities, Tollemache). Jim confirmed after the meeting that they had all been paid.

Report from the Representative Events Committee (REC)

11. Richard had sent out a report on the Terms of Reference of the REC before the meeting (see Appendix). It was agreed that these should be published on the website, under an "inter-county events" tab. Judy noted that the Worcestershire website was generally a good one to emulate. Following the discussion (below) Richard agreed to update and circulate the report so this could be done.
12. It was agreed that the transparency aspect of the second responsibility - to determine and publish the criteria by which players will be selected - was an important one.
13. It was noted that the scope of the committee had intentionally been made broader than that of a Selection Committee - hence the title, and role 3 (training of players that represent GCBA). Jim suggested that for completeness "ensure the successful management of representative events" should be added.
14. The selection policies were then discussed. These had originated in work done some years ago by Keith Stanley (for the Tollemache Cup) and David Simons (for the Dawes, Porter and Markham). There had been no official policy for the Midland Counties Bowl or Edgar Foster Cups; for these it tended to be difficult to find enough volunteers, though the aim was, where possible, to pick the strongest contestants.
15. Patrick noted that representatives should also give a favourable image of the county, and it was debated whether winning the Midland Counties Bowl should be our main aim, or whether we should be enlarging the group of players involved. He noted that there were some new pairs in the upcoming friendly match against Avon (where he had consulted with the people who run Gentle Bridge and asked around other clubs). It was suggested that for the Midlands Bowl we could have one team trying to win, one team there for the pleasure of taking part. Richard noted that this would be harder for the Edgar Foster Cup, since there a county's overall performance determines the allocation of one of the trophies.
16. Richard noted that the REC contains two Dawes participants, two Porter participants and two Markham participants (though it is not tied to this) - it was agreed that this was a good balance.

Charges for Representative Events

17. Patrick noted that it had been agreed in the past that members would pay a fee of £7.50 when representing the county in various events (to contribute to the entry fee paid by the county), but that this money has not been collected recently - should we try to collect it retrospectively, or make it known that we would be collecting it from now on - or drop the fee altogether?
18. Jim suggested we should try to be consistent across the events, but Richard noted that the events aren't equivalent. It was pointed out that those playing in the Tollemache, Pachabo and Corwen events would also be paying hotel expenses, so it was agreed that it would be unreasonable to charge them as well. It was further noted that we were refunding travel

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

expenses for the Midland Bowl, Edgar Foster and Garden City events, and that this almost cancelled out the match fees, so it was agreed that it would be simpler to drop both the match fees and the travel expenses.

19. For the Midland Counties League, the fees were collected, and we pay petrol money. It was agreed that we should ensure that team captains know the arrangements, and that we should put this on the website.

Appendix: Terms of Reference of the Representative Events Committee (REC)

Status: The REC is a committee established by the Gloucestershire County Bridge Association executive committee (GCBA EC).

Structure: The Chairman is elected by the GCBA. The Chairman selects 4-6 other GCBA members to sit on the committee. The Chairman shall have a casting as well as a deliberative vote. A minimum of 3 selectors is need to form a quorum for any particular decision. For effective communication and functioning between the GCBA committee and the REC, we recommend that the chair of the REC is an ex-officio member of the GCBA committee.

Authority: The REC is responsible for forming initiatives and policies on selection and training for representative events on behalf of the GCBA. Issues of concern to the GCBA executive committee that are within the REC`s remit will be referred to the REC for discussion. The REC will usually pass back those decisions/policies to the GCBA committee for approval / a request to reconsider.

Role and Responsibilities:

- 1) to formulate policies on the principles of selection of county teams and to select teams/pairs based on those principles.
- 2) to determine the criteria by which players will be selected and to publish those criteria
- 3) the REC is responsible for the training of players that represent GCBA

Current Selection Policies

Tollemache Cup: Select the team most likely to qualify and to win the Final

Dawes: Select teams most likely to win the league

Porter: Select teams most likely to win the league

Markham: To select teams most likely to win the league whilst using this team to bring on new talent, try out pairs on the fringe of the county teams or assist the long term development of pairs in which the REC sees potential

Midland Counties Bowl: To invite entries and select the 2 teams most likely to win the Bowl

Edgar Foster Cups: To invite entries and select the 4 pairs most likely to win the Cups

These roles and selection policies will be reviewed as required.

Agreed by the REC 30.7.18