

GCBA Committee meetings – notes from 2014/5 season

At its meeting on **Thursday April 16th 2015** your Committee received and discussed reports from its committees. A report was given on a meeting held on Tuesday April 14th between representatives of the GCBA and representatives of clubs which include the great majority of our members. A report of this meeting is available from your Club official who is registered as the GCBA contact. The Committee agreed a revised constitution to be put to the **Annual General Meeting on Sunday June 7th 2015**. Work is ongoing with exciting opportunities for introducing young people to bridge; with implementing strategic moves to safeguard the future of bridge across the county; to draw up a programme of events for next year to support the aims of the GCBA. The President thanked committee members for all their hard work over the previous two years.

At its meeting on **Thursday February 26th 2015** your Committee received and discussed reports from its committees. It then discussed possible constitutional reform and decided upon a way forward with the intention of presenting to the AGM a revised constitution fully compatible with the EBU recommended constitution. This is to be presented for ratification at the next Executive Committee meeting on Thursday April 16th at 6:00pm at Cheltenham Bridge Club. The meeting also considered in detail a previously distributed Strategy document and it was agreed to invite all county bridge clubs to a meeting to discuss this document, to be arranged for soon after Easter.

At its meeting on **Wednesday December 3rd 2014** your Committee received reports from various sub-committees and then had a lengthy discussion about constitutional reform, ending with a small group being tasked with preparing a possible revision for presentation to members at the next AGM. This work is in hand. The mentoring sessions being held on Swiss Teams evenings have proved popular and relatively well attended, there is some evidence of an increase in numbers for some competitions and there are exciting possibilities regarding youth bridge in the county.

At its meeting on **Thursday September 25th** your Committee agreed to investigate the possibility of changing the constitution to embrace the new Sub-Committee structure more clearly and to create a slimmer, more efficient Executive Committee with fixed terms of office for all elected officials in order to ensure some degree of refreshment of ideas from year to year. Your Committee discussed its strategy for furthering the aims of the GCBA, including creating greater opportunities for a wide variety of players to enjoy elements of the competitive programme and ways of supporting clubs and their members in addition to what the clubs themselves achieve very successfully in many cases. Visits to a number of constituent clubs by the President were reported upon and helped to inform this discussion. A decision to share the organisation of, and take over responsibility for the finances of, the Cheltenham Congress was discussed further and a report given upon progress so far. At the moment there are still two vacancies on the Executive Committee, which is in

the midst of a period of substantial reform and development; offers of support from any member would be very welcome - bridge ability is neither here nor there, it is administrative skills, committee skills, enthusiasm and vision which are far more important. This is particularly true for members of clubs beyond Cheltenham BC, which currently provides the great majority of Committee members.

There are currently two vacancies on the Executive Committee and we would be delighted to hear from any members who might be prepared to offer their time and expertise to the County.

These are brief synopses offered by way of openness; any member wishing to view the full minutes may apply to the Secretary, who will make every reasonable effort to supply as full a set of minutes as is compatible with data protection and confidentiality issues.

The next Committee meeting is at 6:00pm on Wednesday June 17th 2015 at the Cheltenham Bridge Club (downstairs!).

Alan W. President. 28/04/15