

GCBA Treasurers Report 2021/2

We started the year in the situation of bridge played only online, as it had been since mid 2020, and GCBA continued its policy of encouraging bridge in Gloucestershire by rebating the County UMS charge to member clubs organising online games. When Face to Face play became possible again we took the view that we should be encouraging a return to play in clubs. Accordingly we discontinued the UMS rebate and made a grant of £1,000 to Cheltenham Bridge Club in respect of expenses incurred in preparing the club for reopening and play on the premises.

Clubs are returning to F2F bridge and GCBA has organised some competitive and some training days on a F2F basis at CBC. Online bridge does however continue to be a popular alternative, and we anticipate that it may continue to detract from F2F numbers for some while to come. GCBA itself, with a wider catchment area than other local clubs, expects to continue to run a number of its regular events online for the foreseeable future, whilst aiming to organise events as F2F, whenever that proves practicable.

Online Bridge can be organised at considerably less expense than F2F bridge and as there are no location barriers to play, some price competition can be regarded as international in effect. EBU, local clubs and GCBA have taken the view that there are benefits in playing online within a local “club” environment with local organisation, players, EBU master points and NGS, and this is reflected in the table money charged by local clubs. GCBA has taken the position that it does not intend to undercut local clubs on charges to play, and regards the table charge levied for local online club events as a minimum for its directly organised events, in the same way as for F2F bridge.

The effect of this (and reduced F2F numbers) is that online bridge is making a substantial contribution to GCBA funds and F2F bridge, whether club or GCBA organised, faces a rather harder challenge in covering premises costs. We would urge you to support your local club F2F events as soon as and as often as that is possible for you. If you do play online, a “local” event will make a financial contribution to the organising club and help to secure the future of a thriving Bridge Community in Gloucestershire.

Despite my continued efforts otherwise, the financial results of this year show a surplus of over £3,500 and a consequent increase in the retained surplus, which is now at a higher level than we believe is necessary to support GCBA activity. We remain of the view that one of our prime purposes is to support our member clubs in the development and promotion of bridge within the County and Ian Sidgwick will be very pleased to hear from you if you have any projects which we can help with.

Finally, I would like to explain GCBA’s table money charges for online games. In general these take place on one of two platforms:

- BBO – the table money is set by us and is payable to BBO on registration. A proportion of this charge is remitted to GCBA (or any organising member club) via EBU. This works painlessly for the Treasurer.
- Realbridge – RB has no facilities to charge players and the platform charge is invoiced to GCBA on a monthly basis. This means that GCBA has to collect money from players and asks for bank transfers of these fees. We try to minimise the number of these transactions by seeking payment per pair/team and series. Unfortunately a minority of players have been unable to comply, or to quote the requested reference, with the result that each payment has to be reviewed manually. The impact is that the Treasurer discourages the Tournament Director from using the RB platform and therefore your benefit from the richer platform features is reduced.

Enjoy your Bridge!

Mike Wignall
Hon Treasurer

GCBA Accounts year ended 31st March 2022

2021 (£)	Expenditure	2022 (£)	2021 (£)	Income	2022 (£)
	CBC Room Hire	334.20	1,615.00	Table Money	2,866.00
	Catering	492.00		Match Fees (Representative)	680.00
484.00	Representative Entry Fees	1,187.36	60.00	EBU Affiliation/Membership	85.00
	Grant to CBC	1,000.00	1,069.10	UMS receipts	1,976.35
				Green Point Event Surplus (50%)	548.00
			1,881.50	Congress Surplus (50%)	792.00
			12.00	BBO Income	3,718.72
258.00	Real Bridge Charges	554.40	51.20	Other Income	
1,069.10	Refunds of UMS receipts	880.40		Donation	
1,893.20	Pay to Play & Licence fees	2,284.40			
129.50	Miscellaneous	156.20			
855.00	Excess (deficit) of income	3,777.11			
4,688.80	Total Expenditure ytd	10,666.07	4,688.80	Total Income ytd	10,666.07
Balance Sheet					
18,072.39	Accumulated Surplus b/f	18,927.39	2,332.00	Trophies	2,332.00
855.00	Current Year Surplus	3,777.11	154.00	Entry Fees owing	
				Debtors (EBU)	521.46
1,631.30	Provisions	573.76	17,547.35	Current Bank Account	19,483.70
395.60	Creditor	21.84	20.00	Cash Float	20.00
			52.78	G&H Weekend Assets (50%)	52.78
			645.98	Congress Assets (50%)	687.98
			202.18	Youth Account	202.18
20,954.29		23,300.10	20,954.29	Total	23,300.10

In our opinion the accounts reflect the books and records of GCBA. Note that year-on-year comparability of the accounts is very limited this year due to the unique nature of events in the last two years.

M J Wignall
Hon Treasurer

C J Coleman
Auditor