

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held at Cheltenham Bridge Club on Monday 4th November 2019.

In attendance were Patrick Shields (President), Mike Wignall (Treasurer), Ian Sidgwick, Roger Williams, Richard Butland (REC chair) and Judy Sanis (CBC rep).

Finance

1. We noted that South Cotswolds Bridge Club had indicated that they will be able to proceed with their plans for a Duplimate machine without the need for GCBA assistance.
2. Mike had distributed a summary of the financial position of our competitions, and welcomed questions. The key points were that Monday and Weekend events were self-financing and in fact produced enough profit to cover the deficit on Midlands Counties League matches. We noted that we had no current plans for one-off spends, but that some may arise as the current survey work completes.
3. We discussed the level of assets the GCBA might hold; Mike suggested that a £5000 minimum was appropriate, given the liabilities we might incur with the congress and GP-event, and the need for flexible cash flow.
4. In summary, things are comfortable.

CBC Related Business

5. We noted the need to be aware of PEEPs [Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans] for people with disabilities; Patrick is chasing down the position wrt Wendy Angseesing.
6. We have agreement with CBC that we can hire staff for our weekend catering through CBC, but they pointed out that their insurance does not cover GCBA for anything that happens in such circumstances. Patrick reported that he had received assurance in the past that EBU-supplied County insurance would cover us, but he lacked expertise in understanding the details of the paperwork he had been passed. The committee was tasked with identifying who amongst our membership would have the expertise to check this out for us.
7. We have the agreement of CBC to the hiring of the required kit for the Stanley Swiss Teams on 10th January 2020.
8. CBC are – because of concerns that the club itself has no legal status - actively working towards becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a route recommended by EBU, and followed by a number of bridge clubs already).
9. CBC had been asked about hosting the coming EBU Trials Weekends, but the choice had gone to Spondon (Derby) instead. The GCBA felt it should encourage CBC to be strive to be successful in such ventures, and would support in any way it could.

Representative Events Committee Business

10. Richard had earlier distributed a set of Selection Guidelines, prepared by the REC, for committee ratification. Everyone was very content with the words used. The existence of these guidelines should be pointed out on the GCBA web front page (since done) and in the next county newsletter.

Clubs Survey & Club Visits

11. Roger reported that two chunks of the county had been approached on the survey, but he needed some lead POCs in the North; Rahim was suggested and will be approached.

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12. On the question of visiting clubs, Ian was waiting for fuller information from the survey before making a plan. Judy pointed out that turning up with an agenda or an offer would help, and that coordination of TD training or teacher training might be options to offer (Painswick BC is already seeking this).

Midlands Counties WG Business

13. Patrick had attended an MCWG meeting in October. It was the first with (3) remote video conference attendees and the basic tool (a laptop at each end point) worked fine. We noted the MCWG discussed the issue of targets for growth – identifying the membership numbers and the more readily accessible number of member sessions as two prime candidates. We agreed that whatever there flaws it was better to have some KPIs than none. Being able to separate active from non-active players is useful (GCBA has just under 15% of its membership who have not played in the past year, and the same who have played less than once a month – ratios slightly lower than the national average).
14. The EBU AGM is coming up and papers from it have arrived recently and will be made available to the committee (and others on request); inputs need to be received by Patrick before he attends the meeting on 27th November.

Any Other Business

15. We had agreed to nominate Andrew Kambites for the Tony Priday award, but have discovered we have just missed the boat for this year's awards. We will arrange for the submission to go in next year.

THE END