

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held at Cheltenham Bridge Club on Monday 5th August 2019.

In attendance were Patrick Shields (President), Andrew Bull (Secretary), Mike Wignall (Treasurer), Richard Harris, Ian Sidgwick, Roger Williams and Richard Butland (REC chair).

Financial matters

1. Mike had produced draft accounts for the 4 months of the 2019-20 season to date. He noted that this period was not representative of the full year, but was reflecting their revised agreement with CBC for premises and equipment costs.
2. There was some discussion of the appropriate allocation of expenses and income, and of the appropriate level of retained income. Mike undertook to produce a draft policy addressing these issues for a future meeting.
3. It was clarified that one source of income for GCBA is a portion of table money from each session played in Gloucestershire affiliated clubs (known as "pay-to-play" or the Universal Membership Subscription). This figure is currently set at 5p per player-session out of the total charge of 44p per player-session payable to EBU. GCBA is midway in the table of county charges, which range from 0p to 15p.
4. The Saturday training sessions were discussed. It was noted that the attendance is about 20, and that these are open events, but are not widely advertised and do generally cater for stronger players.
5. The Youth Bridge association currently has about £200 in funds, having had a GCBA grant of £400 in each of the last two years. Patrick reported that Alison Nicholson has offered to take over running Youth Bridge (she has recently moved to the county and has considerable experience at this). It was agreed that we should accept her offer; Patrick noted that we should ensure there is more money available for when she takes over; this was also agreed.
6. Patrick is intending to organise a get-together for bridge teachers. It was agreed that we would be willing to pay rent to CBC for this, should they charge it.
7. The recent Cheltenham Congress had made a profit of £1,550, of which GCBA's share would be £725. It was noted that we need to check if Jim Simons is willing to continue as the GCBA representative for this and for the Herefordshire GP event.
8. Mike agreed to send an e-mail to the committee with a more detailed summary of the figures.

Interaction with CBC

9. Richard Butland had stood in as the GCBA representative at the latest CBC committee meeting. This had included a discussion over whether they should change from being an Unincorporated Association to being a Limited Company and/or a Registered Charity for legal reasons. It appeared that they wished to change to a Limited Company, but this would have to be agreed by the membership at large.
10. On the subject of legal liabilities, Patrick reported that the EBU had responded positively to our questions over our liabilities, though this seems to refer to running congresses rather than other events. It was also noted that we must ensure that GCBA do not pay any money to the catering staff directly, as we could then be liable for employer's liability insurance: they should be paid by CBC (and reimbursed as necessary under our agreement).

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11. Richard also reported that CBC are planning to rotate their representative at the GCBA meetings, though none was present at this meeting. On other issues; they requested that we take note that fire doors must be shut at the end of the evening; and they agreed to our proposal of a joint GCBA/CBC event on 30th December (as suggested at our last meeting). However, some CBC members had fed back that they had felt overwhelmed at the joint Bank Holiday pairs events, and did not enjoy that.
12. Andrew and Patrick agreed to jointly act as the GCBA representative at CBC meetings.

Other Business

13. Patrick reported that Alan Wearmouth is happy to continue as GCBA representative at the Ross-on-Wye event. He has also offered to take over trying to arrange the Stanley Shield, and we agreed he should.
14. Paul Denning has agreed to take up the role of County News Contact from October. It was agreed that we did not need a stand-in for the next two months.
15. EBED have asked counties to have a County Education Officer. It was agreed that Patrick should first gauge interest in this post among the teachers at the meeting that was planned for September.
16. Roger had suggested that a candidate for the Dimmie Fleming Award. On considering the various EBU awards, it was decided that the Tom Bradley Award (for encouraging young players) would be more appropriate for the candidate in question, or possibly the Tony Priday Award. Roger agreed to consult with Paul Denning regarding material for an appropriate citation.
17. The Avon friendly match will take place on the 18th August, with John Cuncer organising the Gloucestershire teams, helped by Patrick.
18. Following the discussion at the previous meeting, it had been agreed to switch our home and away matches with Leicestershire in the Midlands County League.
19. It was agreed that we should move the AGM to 17th May.
20. The squad games had been moved to Thursday, but the venue (CBC) was no longer available, so they are being moved back to Wednesday. As Stroud Bridge Club felt this clashed with their regular night, it had been agreed that they play the same boards, and Patrick would provide a commentary on the hands.
21. It was noted that the CBC Wednesday night Pairs league was generally more of a problem for Stroud. It was suggested that GCBA and CBC should limit their events which tend to draw members from other clubs, maybe restricting them to Mondays and Wednesdays.