

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held online on Thursday 5th January 2023

In attendance were Ian Sidgwick (President), Andrew Bull (Secretary), Ben Ritacca (Treasurer), Hylary Kingham, Patrick Shields, Alan Stanfield, Roger Williams, Richard Butland, Paul Denning, Peter Waggett (REC chair) and Toby Roberts (CBC rep).

1. Ian welcomed Alan Stanfield and Peter Waggett to the GCBA committee.
2. Ian reported that he had played online at the non-affiliated Fairford bridge club; it's well-organised, and by playing online they can keep the table money very low as expenses are much lower.
3. The teaching programme at South Cotswold will be reported in the next newsletter. It was suggested that the teaching of mini-bridge at Denmark Road High School would also make a good item for the newsletter

Treasurer's Report

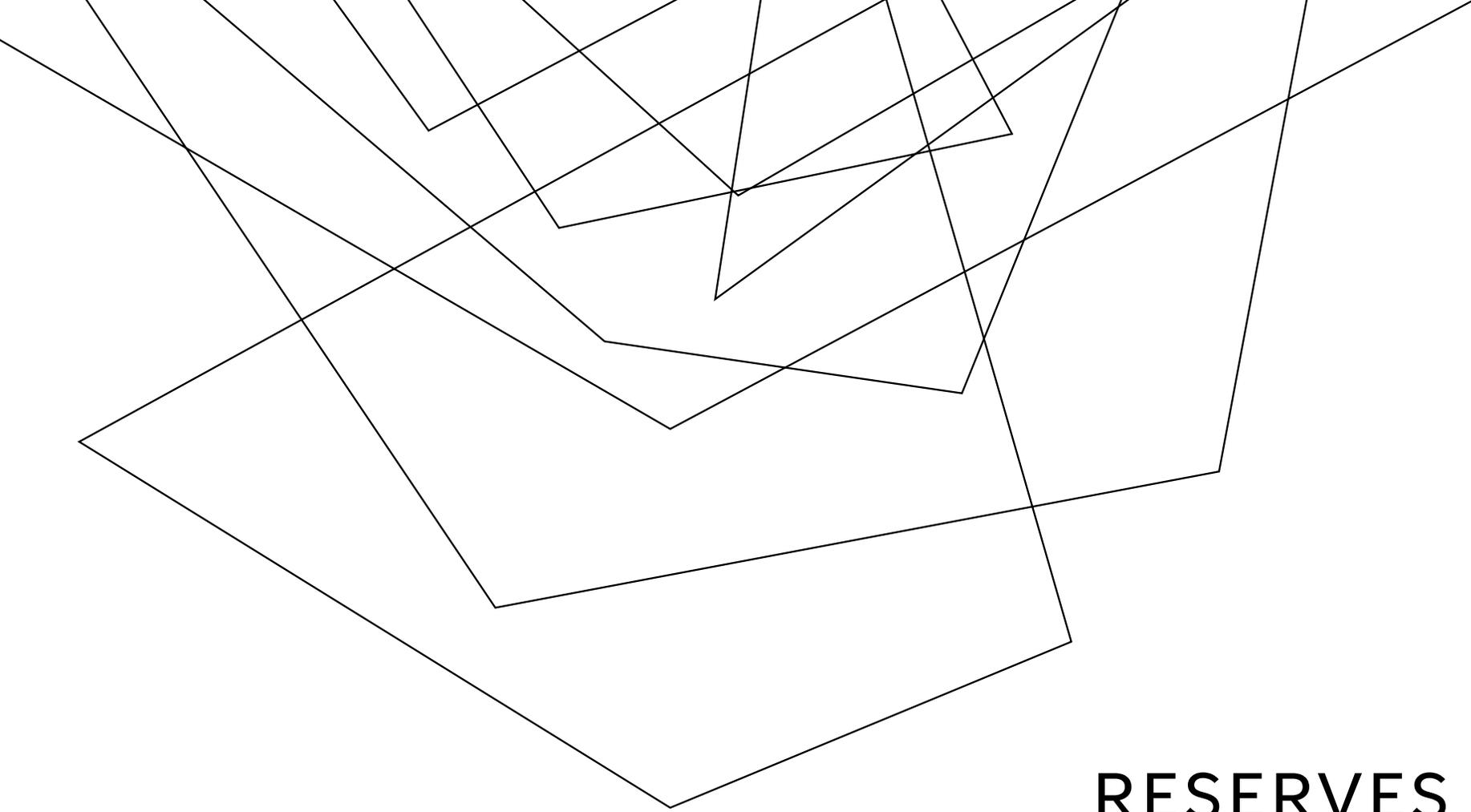
4. Ben gave a detailed report on his proposed Reserves Policy, followed by further discussion of the ideas raised:
 - a) GCBA has sufficient reserves to take a long-term view of where to target its spending, so could be aiming to set up long-lasting initiatives, to be planned and budgeted by Initiative Leaders.
 - b) The goals should be to promote the game in Gloucestershire, to support Gloucestershire clubs, and to develop our players.
 - c) Some suggestion to further the goals included:
 - i. Regular advertising in county-wide publications, and sponsoring speakers at non-bridge events in the county, to attract new players
 - ii. Subsidising events for families to play bridge and teaching of beginners
 - iii. Subsidise venue costs for struggling clubs, and reward members for playing in local clubs
 - iv. Develop an agenda for regular practice/training sessions for local players
 - d) The Initiatives should be agreed, devised and carried out across a whole year.
5. It was suggested that new players, and those at small clubs (especially non-affiliated ones) will often not be aware of how they can develop their bridge ability - and many club members don't know the purpose of GCBA or EBU.
6. It was agreed that we should try to do more to promote the game to new players, which will benefit the clubs as well, and that this should include using the world wide web and social media to promote the game.
7. It was noted that Cheltenham Bridge Club are also reviewing their Reserves Policy, so we could discuss ideas with them.

County Events

8. Matches in the County Knockout (for teams of four) are to be played online unless both teams agree to play face-to-face. It was agreed that the default format would be 2 sets of 16 boards for online play, and 4 sets of 8 boards for face-to-face.
9. The Junior fundraiser, scheduled for January 7th, has had to be postponed due to the rail strike. It was agreed to re-schedule it for the first Saturday in March.

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10. Following the successful running of the Everett Cup in November, we discussed ways to encourage interest in the Cotswold Cup (which is a one-day Teams event). One suggestion was to make it a Mixed Teams event. Patrick will look into ways to incorporate it into the Junior fundraiser; failing which we will consider broader ideas for holding it this summer.
11. We have discussed with Cheltenham BC the idea of GCBA holding a second face-to-face game there each month (on the third Thursday), starting in February. It was suggested that this should be a Swiss Pairs event.
12. EBU have recently sent out an e-mail asking how much each county charges its members for its various fees. Andrew agreed to check the figures from previous replies.



RESERVES POLICY PROPOSAL

Ben Ritacca

AGENDA

Introduction

Our goals

Possible Initiatives

Summary

Timeline

INTRODUCTION

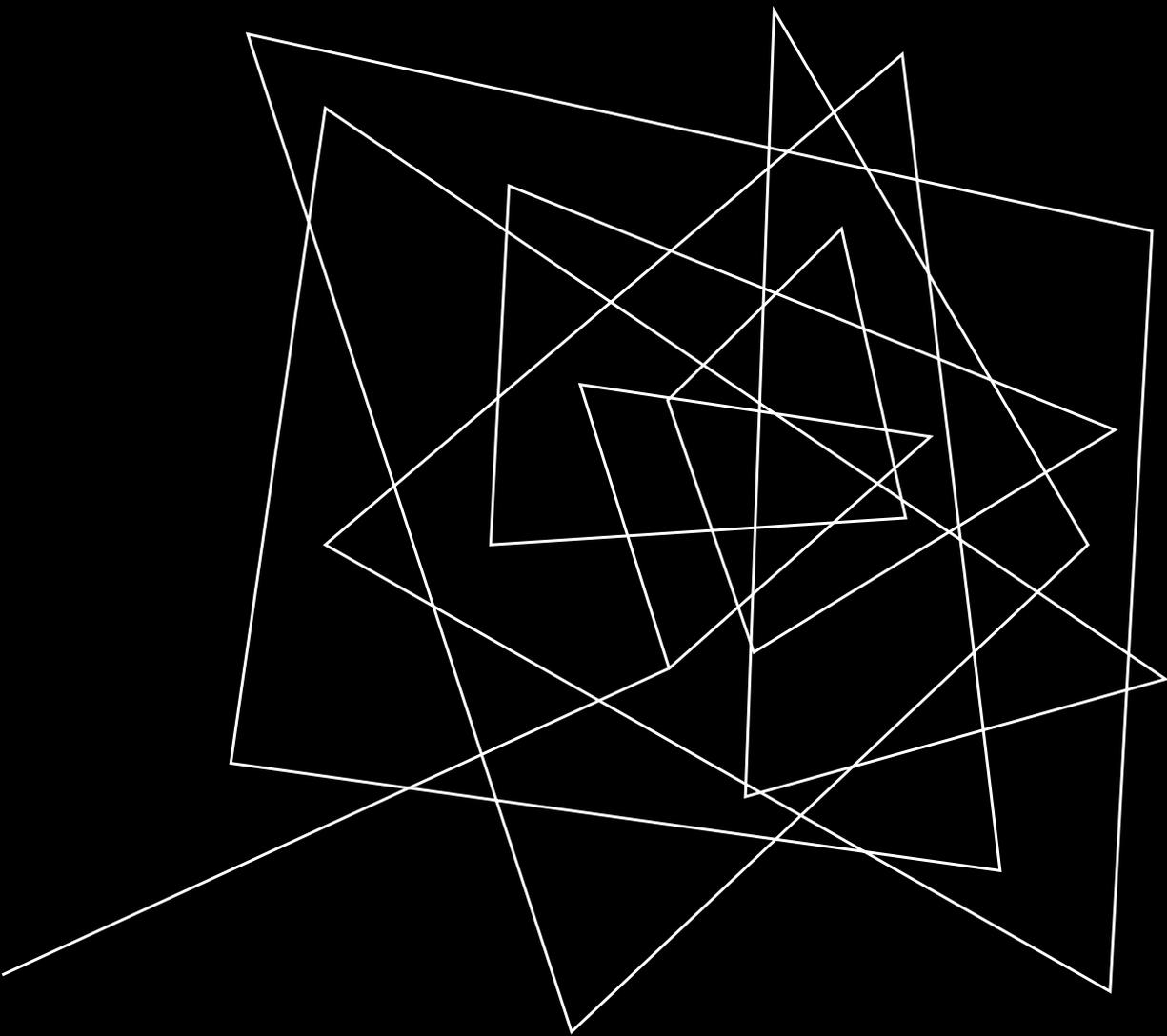
The Committee determines the purpose of a Reserves Policy.

This proposal looks at how the Committee can start to target the Reserves at long-lasting initiatives that can then become part of our on-going services.

Some initiatives with their long-term objectives are suggested. Hopefully, more will follow as we start this process.

Once the Committee decide which to sponsor an Initiative Leader (IL) would be assigned to plan and put cost estimates both for startup and for an on-going budget.

It is vitally important is to make sure that any initiative we take will then incorporated into the GCBA organization.



GCBA – OUR GOALS

1. Promote the game in Gloucestershire
2. Support the clubs in Gloucestershire
3. Develop our players

GOAL - PROMOTING THE GAME IN THE COUNTY

GETTING MORE PLAYER

Take up regular adverts in county wide publications:

- *List clubs and when they play*
- *Where people can learn (refreshers, beginners)*
- *Condensed County newsletter recent successes, county events and results.*
- *Sponsor (pay for) interesting articles about the game*

Pay for speakers to deliver interesting talks at events:

- *3i, Rotary, WI*

Pay for stands at county events and shows

- *teachers to attract new players*
- *Drop-in place*
- *clubs to attract lapsed players*

Setup, subsidise, and organise family (parents and children) events:

- *Introduction to bridge or mini bridge*
- *Session of Courses*

GOAL - SUPPORTING THE CLUBS IN THE COUNTY

SUPPORT AND EXPAND THE GRASSROOT

Help clubs to promote teaching

- *Subsidise teachers to teach at local clubs*
- *Pay clubs some money based on how many beginners they teach (subsidise the cost of the courses)*
- *Organise external teachers for the clubs*

Subsidise venue costs for a period, to help...

- *potentially closure*
- *becoming uneconomical*

Reward GCBA members for playing in local clubs

- *Have a league table of members who played in the most in a season*
- *entry-fees to GCBA events*
- *cups/trophies*
- *newsletters*

GOAL – DEVELOP OUR PLAYERS

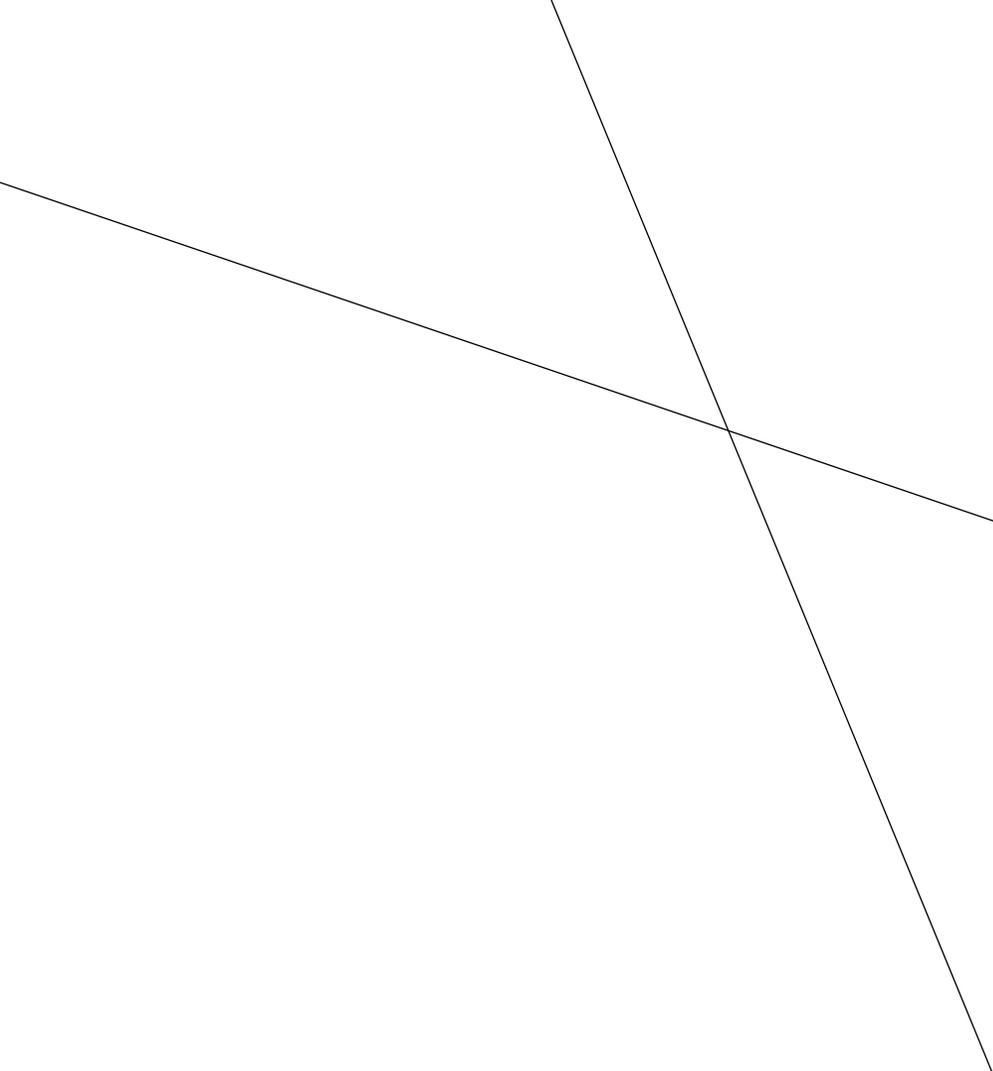
MAKING GLOUCESTERSHIRE A GREAT PLACE TO PLAY

Develop an agenda for regular practice and training sessions for GCBA pairs/teams

- Paying for top professionals to help with these sessions.

Organise venues that can be subsidised for F2F matches

- *GCBA event*
- *representing GCBA.*



SUMMARY

I hope you found these ideas an interesting starting point.

Please let me know your ideas on other ways we could use our Reserves to promote the game and help the bridge community in Gloucestershire.

Once we agree on a set to take forward

- *assign a Leader (IL) to plan and manage*
- *setup regular reviews during the planning stages*
- *for the larger initiatives they will probably need sub-committees to meet more often*
- *most will need some volunteers to help run these project*

Q1

- Agree a set of initiatives to take forward and select the top 5
- Agree a set of objectives that we aim to meet with each of our chosen initiatives
- Recruit and Assign an IL to each

Q2

- The ILs should prepare their outline plans and costings
- Committee review each plan and agrees to proceed, puts on hold, or to drop. For those taken to the next phase assign a sub-committee to manage.

Q3

- Most projects start
- The IL regularly report back to each Committee
- IL document how these initiatives then become business-as-usual

Q4

- On completion the Committee decide how they become normal practice and agree the on-going costs

TIMELINE



THANK YOU