

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held online on Thursday 7th July 2022

In attendance were Ian Sidgwick (President), Paul Denning (Vice-President), Andrew Bull (Secretary), Richard Butland, Jan Kinane, Hylary Kingham, Patrick Shields, Roger Williams and Toby Roberts (CBC rep).

Finance and Programme

1. It was reported that the GCBA assets have increased by £200 since the AGM, bringing our cash holdings to about £20,000. Roger asked if there had been any progress in making a "Reserves Policy", and suggested that this issue should be kept on the GCBA agenda until it is resolved. We are also continuing to consider how we should invest these reserves in bridge in the county.
2. Patrick proposed that we continue to have roughly one weekend event per month.
 - The next one scheduled is a friendly match against Avon on 21st August, which Cheltenham BC have agreed to host. It was noted that Stroud had been asked if they could host this event, but they were not available.
 - The EBU Handicap Pairs on 4th September is being run by Cheltenham BC.
 - Patrick will be discussing training ideas with Cheltenham BC on 21 July; this could lead to more training/playing days at the start of October and December.
 - It was suggested that we play the Cotswold Cup or Everett Cup as a charity event in November, and that we could investigate playing at some venue other than Cheltenham, e.g. Stroud.Patrick noted that he will have more information at the next committee meeting in August.
3. It was confirmed that the Ross-on-Wye Green Point event will be going ahead (face-to-face).
4. It was suggested that the Monday night league could be played as a hybrid face-to-face/online competition.

AGM

5. It was noted that, disappointingly, we had struggled to get a quorum of members to attend the online AGM (the 2021 AGM, also held online, had been well attended). Patrick noted that he had heard that other counties had had similar problems.
6. Some possible candidates for the new independent finance examiner were suggested, and Ian agreed to follow up these suggestions.

Promoting bridge in the county

7. It was agreed that the next newsletter should report that Cheltenham BC had generously donated a dealing machine to Tewkesbury. Ian noted that he had visited Tewkesbury BC and was happy to report that he had been welcomed enthusiastically, and that they are trying to find ways to increase their membership.
8. It was suggested that we resurrect the inter-club championships (Bredon Vale Cup and Rank Xerox), though it was noted that it was not always easy to persuade many clubs to take part.
9. Ian had news from clubs in north Gloucestershire: he is trying to arrange a weekend training session at North Cotswold, Chipping Camden and Winchcombe are trying to recruit new players, and there has been some progress in arranging a local inter-club event.

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10. It was suggested that we should have a bridge demonstration as part of some larger event (e.g. a three counties event). It was agreed that, providing the cost of having a stall at such an event wasn't too high (which Patrick noted had been the case at university freshers' weeks in the past), this was a good idea. There would need to be appropriate follow-on for anyone who showed an interest, such as introduction to local clubs or teachers. It was felt we should support any club that wished to do this. Patrick agreed to discuss the idea with his contacts at Worcestershire and Herefordshire.
11. Patrick is involved in discussions with Nicola Renshaw regarding helping out with teaching at Tewkesbury and North Cotswold.
12. It was felt that we needed more volunteers to get involved with various tasks (many of which currently fall to Patrick) - for example, running the GCBA website - and it was agreed that it would be easier to get people involved if we had specific tasks for which they could volunteer (rather than just seeking volunteers generally). Paul and Patrick agreed to produce a draft list of tasks.
13. Cheltenham BC are in the process of standardising their honours boards on display at the club. Paul agreed to contact Peter Swales to discuss the GCBA boards. It was noted that one of the GCBA boards is full, so needs to be transcribed into the smaller format and then re-used, so we will need to decide what should go on it in the future.
14. It has been suggested that any player who reaches the rank of District Master should be awarded a free entry to a GCBA tournament. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to have the Cotswold/Everett Cup as the free entry for all such players.

Future meetings

15. It was agreed that we would continue to meet once a month, so the next meeting will be on 4th August.