

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

## Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held online on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021

In attendance were Ian Sidgwick (President), Paul Denning (Vice-President), Mike Wignall (Treasurer), Andrew Bull, Richard Butland, Jan Kinane, Hylary Kingham, Nigel Mortimer and Judy Sanis (CBC Representative). Apologies were received from Alan Wearmouth, invited as Chair of the Representative Events Committee, Roger Williams and Patrick Shields.

### GCBA Risk Register

1. Ian had re-circulated the draft Risk Register prior to the meeting; he noted that the coverage was which risks that might leave any of the GCBA volunteers liable, under the law, as a result of actions taken in support of the GCBA and not "Performance Risks", and he invited comments. Some suggestions were made and have been incorporated in the improved version provided as Appendix A to these minutes.
2. In considering the risk of losing GCBA records, we noted that recent GCBA documents were generally available on the website, and it was suggested that it might be worth creating a more complete online archive at some point. We discussed concerns about the possibility of receiving accusations of discrimination, and agreed that individuals must take care to make clear that (unless already officially endorsed) any advice they offer is personal advice. We noted that it is some time since an audit of the GCBA's trophy collection was done; Paul offered to do an audit with Mike as soon as convenient to them both.
3. We then considered Performance Risks, which are primarily about non-achievement of the objectives of the organisation, as reflected in the GCBA's Enduring Mission, last documented as in Appendix B. It was agreed that our current performance is as required except for two issues
  - a. Making sure the game is adequately promoted to non-players, and
  - b. Ensuring that there is adequate teaching going on around the county.

Ian reported that the EBU had just pre-announced a national initiative which would help address these two issues, and suggested that we should think of these two as opportunities from which to benefit. While tackling the problem is best done as club centric, the County Association has an important role in encouraging and coordinating clubs, as well as filling gaps.

4. Hylary asked whether we need a GCBA Teaching Lead to help take these issues forward, and the consensus was that we should try to get someone into that role. Candidates welcome.

### Newsletter Content

5. Ian commented that while the newsletter was an excellent read, there was relatively little news content (most of it being bridge content). We have agreed with the editor (Garry Watson) that publication will follow our committee meetings to facilitate the provision of news material. Jan agreed to put together an article on the current schools bridge initiative for the October 21 edition. [\[This has now been published\]](#) The Tudor BC Open Day is another candidate for a newsletter article; as are plans for international Town Twinning bridge events (as Cheltenham has already done).
6. A discussion about the schools' initiative highlighted the fact that the number of volunteers currently available is limited, and anything we can do to find more volunteers would be welcome. It was also noted that the number of alternative distractions for pupils at secondary school was the reason why it made much more sense to focus the current effort on primary schools. Some teachers involved in the current initiative were keen enough to suggest that a presentation to all teachers at inset days would be useful.

### Finance

7. Mike raised two issues
  - a. Collecting fees for ongoing online games is proceeding, although the lack of references by some payers generates extra work.

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- b. For the live game on October 2nd, the attendance was the lowest with which we would run, and the event made a loss of just over £50. Although not so relevant here, Mike indicated that we could afford to make losses occasionally, although it could only be justified on a repeated basis for events which positively promoted the game.

### **Report from Chief Tournament Director**

8. Patrick has reported in advance ....
  - a. No changes are proposed at this time; the Oct 02 event was satisfactory, albeit within minimal numbers. A similar event will take place on 27 November. The 9-High Swiss Pairs players are being sounded out about a possible live event for that community in November or early December. A questionnaire will be distributed to Monday night players in November to help planning for 2022. All County Championships are on hold until the New Year, so that the most inclusive format can be determined and adopted.
9. The only point raised was a suggestion from Paul that we should be putting more effort into running face-to-face events. Some county clubs have managed up to 9 tables. Hylary reported that throughout last Saturday's game she was very cold and this made the event unacceptable; Judy will report back on this to the Cheltenham BC committee.

### **Update from the Representative Events Committee**

10. Alan had delivered the following report in advance
  - a. The REC has met but teams for the remaining Midlands Counties League matches will not be settled until after the current match, next Sunday.
  - b. A trawl of GCBA members has located an encouraging number who would like to be considered for selection.
  - c. The REC are due to meeting face-to-face towards the start of December. Roy Collard has resigned from the REC, and we are all very thankful for his service.

### **EBU Communications**

11. In a recent message to all County Associations, the EBU proposed that an offer be extended to any non-affiliated club (almost any, not to returning clubs) that their members be given free EBU membership for a year. They have asked that County Associations take on the role of promulgating this offer to the non-affiliated clubs in their county. Ian will learn more about this at an EBU seminar tomorrow.
12. Only a few committee members have contact with non-affiliated clubs, but it would be worth using these contacts (Ian with North Cotswolds, Nigel with Wotton) as a first step with this idea. Hylary made the point we need to understand the reason why some clubs are not affiliated, before approaching them. Mike felt that we should encourage clubs to take up the offer, as there is no cost to them over the first year. The committee will come back to this next meeting.
13. The other new initiative in the same message was about marketing and teaching and was referred to in paragraph 4 above. The plan is a pilot running through early in the new year, so we should come back to this again once more is known.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

14. The plans for meeting with county clubs have been pushed back to the spring of 2022. The Committee Member Induction Pack created and then updated by Roger was welcomed, and is a good reference source, even for existing members. The next meeting will be on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 1900 hrs.

THE END

## APPENDIX A

### GCBA RISK MANAGEMENT 102021

Identified Risk	Potential Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Actions
Giving advice that has adverse outcomes	Reputation damage Financial liability	Moderate	Only Officers of GCBA may give out official advice. Any advice given by committee members can be prefaced by making it clear it is personal advice not on behalf of GCBA.
Venue Facility Management Failures Such as Legionella, electrical etc	Severe	Low	Select venues with established management
Inadequate Venue Procedures such as for COVID-19, fire evacuation etc	Severe	Low/Moderate	Select venues with established management which is evidenced by them providing details of relevant procedures and requirements for us to follow. If a non bridge venue then we may consider what if any game specific measures are appropriate
Regulatory: Safeguarding GDPR	Severe Moderate	Moderate Moderate	Adopted Safeguarding Policy. Keep distribution of personal data to a minimum
Theft/loss of assets: trophies and kit	Financial loss; Reputation	Moderate	Keep track of trophies
Theft of money	Financial loss impeding activities	Low	Treasurer to maintain good password and internet security. Dual authorisation. Cash minimisation.

## APPENDIX B

### GCBA's ROLE

In support of those who do play bridge, the GCBA's enduring mission is

- To ensure that all bridge players in the County have easy access to a variety of bridge games which they enjoy.
- To maintain and develop the quality of competitive bridge in the County and to support those representing Gloucestershire in national events.
- To ensure that the bridge clubs of the County are able to provide playing facilities and services which match the demand for playing bridge in the County.

In support of non bridge players, the GCBA's enduring mission is

- To ensure that the population of the County is suitably aware of the game and its attributes, and of the benefits which playing bridge can bring.
- To ensure that all parts of the County have adequate access to good bridge teaching for newcomers, including the establishment of bridge as a game which is learned and played at schools across the County.