

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held online on Thursday 8th April 2021

In attendance were Patrick Shields (President), Andrew Bull (Secretary), Mike Wignall (Treasurer), Richard Butland, Jan Kinane, Nigel Mortimer, Ian Sidgwick and Roger Williams.

Finance and Programme

1. Mike had distributed to the committee a copy of the draft accounts, showing a small surplus for the year. Mike noted that there will be updates to come, due to the missing invoices for playing on Real Bridge and because GCBA is holding some funds from Midland Counties events.
2. There was a discussion of the issue of GCBA giving a grant to CBC to help them with their re-opening expenses. Patrick and Mike will be discussing this further with the current and incoming CBC treasurers.

AGM

3. It was agreed that we need to hold a virtual AGM this year, especially as we will need to elect a new President and new Secretary, as they have each reached the maximum term allowed by the Constitution. We agreed to aim for 6pm on Sunday June 6th, with a free Real Bridge session to follow. This will require the members to be informed by May 16th.
4. Peter Waggett is also due to step down as a committee member, having reached the maximum number of consecutive years' service. The other members agreed to consider whether they are willing to continue.

Online Bridge

5. For the upcoming May to August session, we currently expect face-to-face bridge to recommence late in the session, but there are too many uncertainties at the moment regarding future government rules, EBU advice and future risks to decide on dates and details at this point. (We note that Cheltenham Bridge Club will initially be aiming to provide bridge for those who have been unable to play online). Feedback suggests that people want online bridge to continue, and probably more so for GCBA than for local clubs. It was thus agreed that we should continue with the Pairs and Teams events on alternate Mondays.
6. It was felt that the "special" events (e.g. Men's/Ladies' Pairs) are of less value when playing online. However, we might make an exception for the Cotswold Cup charity event. We agreed to award the Steve Darke salver for the 2021 AGM Pairs event.

AOB

7. There is to be a 3 day conference in June on Bridge as a Mindsport, and Patrick has been asked to sit on the panel to discuss the effect of the Covid pandemic on bridge. It was agreed that he can go as a representative of GCBA.
8. CBC have been reviewing their constitution in line with their forthcoming change to being a CIO. Their current constitution states that, in the event of disciplinary proceedings at the club, members can appeal to the GCBA (although GCBA does not actually have an appeals committee). It was agreed that we would prefer such judgements to be left to the club in question.
9. The next meeting will be on Thursday 6th May.