

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held online using ZOOM on Tuesday 12th May 2020.

In attendance were Patrick Shields (President), Ian Sidgwick, Judy Sanis, Mike Wignall, Peter Waggett, Richard Butland, Richard Harris and Roger Williams. [Andrew Bull was unable to attend]

Payment or not of UMS fees for online bridge.

1. Patrick explained the EBU position – that unlike the GCBA and many bridge clubs it had ongoing expenses but its income which is dominantly from UMS payments for face-to-face bridge games has been slashed. We all agreed we should pay GCBA UMS on the games we organised. Mike indicated that we had reserves which could cover it and Patrick pointed out that we still had UMS income from CBC online games which would cover a lot of our normal UMS levels. Concerns were expressed about how EBU was spending its income (it has cut costs and furloughed staff) and about our free games taking away business from CBC charged games (Patrick has checked with CBC and found no concerns as yet). We agreed that while the current advertised games were free we would instigate – from events starting in June and later, a charge of £10 per person to be eligible for all GCBA online events for 2020. Mike will need to consider arrangements for paying this, and we will have to appropriately address occasional visitors or substitutes in teams.

Sponsorship of Training of BBO TDs

2. Patrick indicated that the vanilla route for becoming a (BBO) Virtual Club TD involved briefings from an accredited TD, shadowing that TD, being shadowed by that TD and then being registered – and the cost for all this was advertised at £100 per person. [The full proposal can be [seen at this link](#)]. We noted that with a minimum charge of BBO-\$3 per person per session, that this cost would be fairly quickly collected if the TD was an unpaid volunteer. A key requirement is that the qualification be used, so we agreed to loan the training fee to any club (or clubs) who wanted to have a TD trained which would then use them – but noted that many clubs would have reserves to cover this anyway. Judy had identified three from the CBC TD team interested in this training. Our action is therefore to find clubs or groups of clubs interested.

[LATER NOTE : can Ian please investigate the appetite in his area, can Peter investigate the appetite in the South, can Roger investigate the appetite in the South East, and Patrick will investigate the appetite in the NW of the county]

Inviting Herefordshire participants in GCBA events

3. Patrick pointed out that all neighbouring County Associations were active in online bridge except for Herefordshire where there was positive interest but problems in getting to a critical mass. He had spoken to Keith Stait (HE County Chair) and Keith has indicated that an invitation would be welcome. We all agreed that would be a Good Thing, and Patrick would relay that. When we move to charging, these players would be treated as our own. Richard B raised the question of Herefordshire players playing in inter-county events and suggested he take this question to the REC.

Finance

4. Mike reported that the accounts for 2019-20 had been reviewed by Chris Coleman but lack of physical access meant that a full audit was not practical. He pointed out that others (Patrick, Judy) had access to the online bank accounts and could do any checking people felt was required. He plans to prepare a report covering the year (and the Stanley Salver) for placement on the GCBA website, and a set of further details for the committee. It was agreed this was the right way forward.

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Other Business

5. Richard B reported that the Representative Events Committee had organised a successful match against Lincolnshire and was now actively planning the Midlands Counties day for 23rd May. They had also offered a game to the NorthEast and to Wiltshire.
6. The suggestion was made that more could be done in the way of Town Twinning games in the current online world.
7. Patrick pointed out that with the likelihood of no face-to-face bridge this calendar year, we should soon start planning how we handle the full set of “normal” GCBA competitions. He pointed out that the Killarney Congress is running this year (9-17 May) totally online.
8. It was agreed that we would meet like this once a month, Patrick to arrange, probably at the same time on a Tuesday.

END OF MINUTES