GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the GCBA committee meeting held on Tuesday 30th September 2025 at Cheltenham Bridge Club.

In attendance were Patrick Shields (President), Paul Denning, Jim Edwards, Alan Stanfield, Jan Bailey, Steve Bunker.

Apologies were received from Michael Wright, Caroline Keen and Richard Butland,

Minutes of the last committee meeting held on Tuesday 1st July were agreed.

FINANCE,

Michael Wright had already distributed the figures for the previous 2 months and the committee was comfortable with what was showed. The Charity contribution was discussed and it was confirmed (discussed and agreed between committee meetings) that Ro Kaye and Jan Bailey will have their entry fees paid for the Junior Camp at the end of October 2025.

COUNTY PROGRAMME 2025/26

The County League had been organised, The Bredon Vale Cup will be organised by Paul Denning and a date of Saturday 25th October was agreed, this is the inter club event of teams of 4. This will be from 2,00pm until 5,30pm. The Cotswold Cup which is the annual County Charity event was agreed to be held on Saturday 6th December. Both at Cheltenham Bridge Club.

YOUTH BRIDGE

Jan Bailey provided a report in advance of the meeting, which is summarised as Appendix A. She reported that donations from the Cheltenham Congress for Youth Bridge totalled £155. We agreed that this should be used to pay for the Mini Bus to take local youngsters to the National Schools event.

GDPR

We are awaiting the report from Richard Butland following some recent changes in GDPR regulations. The report will address Privacy notices, Controls and Monitors and where Data might be held.

GCBA Growing the membership.

Patrick Shields confirmed that statistics gathered confirm that the average club will lose 8% of its membership each year and that we need to replace this amount to stay as we are and to a much higher percentage if we wish to grow our Clubs and increase the County membership. This can be done by recruiting Beginners and 'Rusty Returners'. There are Beginners Courses being run at Newent, Cheltenham, Churchdown, Wotton under Edge and Cirencester .We agreed that Alan, Jim and Patrick would approach some clubs not teaching to discuss why. Patrick to identify the appropriate clubs.

Alan Stanfield reported that the first weekend of his 2-weekend Beginners Course had 13 people on it and had went well.

It was noted that Nailsworth Bridge Club had taken a one year trial affiliation of the EBU.

Jim Edwards reported that South Cotswold Bridge Club was hoping to run a Café Bridge event in Cirencester in April or May of 2026. It was suggested to look up Brian Bridge run by Victor Letts which help these events.

GCBA could do with the help of a Marketing person for help with Publicity. Volunteers welcome.

Patrick reported that the County Chairs Meetings and the Midlands Counties Working Group meetings which took place on Zoom often had a recording available on Youtube which can be viewed by anyone (and minutes are usually published on the EBU website).

DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 2nd December at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

APPENDIX 1

Recent activities

- We have run 2 taster days for nearly all year 9 at Cleeve School
- 6 young people from Gloucestershire attended Summer Junior Bridge Camp
- The Cheltenham Congress raised £155 for County Youth Bridge.
- Advertising of the after school bridge club took place at Cleeve School's Year 7 induction day.

Current school activity

- Foxmoor Primary IN Stroud and St Mary's Primary in Churchdown and St Gregory's Primary in Cheltenham all now have active clubs.
- Numbers at St Thomas Rich's senior school in Gloucester have increased and the after school clubs at Pittville and Cleeve have restarted.
- We believe a club is running at Denmark Road but lack details.

Plans

- Actions are in hand to start a club at Crypt school in Gloucester
- There are plans to start a 6th form club at Balcarras school and at Cleeve school.
- At Cleeve school there is a plan to start a Saturday bridge club.
- At Pittville we have been invited to run taster sessions for all year 8 in December.
- Due to limited availability of helpers and small numbers attending, the Sunday club held at Cheltenham Bridge Club has been put on hold.