

Minutes of MC 10 December 2020 @ 10am

Present: Marie Topp, Jean Hand, Gareth Jones, Simon Gottschalk, Ceri Pierce, Neville Richards, Steve Webb, Fiona Noyce, Alan Screen

1. Apologies – a belated apology was received from Paddy as he was unavailable on the day
2. Minutes of 28 Nov accepted.

Matters arising – the Celtic Sims was postponed by Ecats until next year as some NBOs had not responded.

3. Online Bridge

The Online bridge charging proposal was circulated to clubs and feedback reviewed.

Views varied widely, as you can imagine. Many clubs were supportive, but as some clubs were opposed, the conclusion was to defer until their issues can be addressed as there is no wish to upset clubs. The sub-group is to reconvene to look at alternatives. Fiona was asked to join the group to provide a financial perspective. Ceri to inform clubs of the decision.

Action CP

4. CEO Reports

Neville reported that the WBU Server has been upgraded which has resolved any buffering problems and changes to the Master Points database to allow increased reporting (required for any new charging system) are underway.

Ceri reported that instructions for a PayPal and Square 'Buy Now' button for bridgewebs websites has been done and will be provided to clubs, as some wish to start charging their members in the new year regardless.

Free seminars on Zoom have been scheduled by Tony Haworth, with the first on Tuesday 15th December.

A review of our competitions and eligibility criteria is planned.

The WBU has a Realbridge login for use in National events.

The next newsletter is planned for January.

5. Treasurer's Report

A report was circulated in advance. Honoraria were clarified. The webmaster has declined to accept the honorarium for this role.

Fiona noted that one question raised by the clubs in their feedback was that they perceived that the WBU had no expenses as there has been no face-to-face bridge. However, in reality our overheads have remained the same, other than reduced meeting costs.

Area Accounts were raised as a concern, as only the Mid have submitted them so far. Marie to chase the North Wales auditor and ask for the paperwork to be returned. The East's accounts will be ready following the AGM on Sunday.

6. Web-group Report

The development of the new-look WBU website is mostly complete with some minor enhancements / tidying up now taking place, including archiving of old results. Tony has been doing an excellent job as webmaster.

7. Selectors' Report

The new Chairman is Simon Richards.

Camrose teams have been selected. A captain is still required for the WBU team.

The Lady Milne and Teltscher trials are to be organised.

Wales is hosting the 2nd Camrose weekend and a team of people to administer and direct will be required.

The Junior Camrose teams are being organised and age exemptions to be confirmed by BGB as some of our players are too old.

The par-scoring system was used to select the teams. Marie asked for her congratulations to be passed on to Paul Gagne for his work on this.

Action CP

8. Masterpoints and Membership Report

Steve reported that Criccieth bridge club was closing (they have not met for a year) and had masterpoint debts of around £60-£80. It was queried if this should be written off, but the meeting felt that if a club was closing and had funds, then debts should be paid before they wind up. A query was raised as to if assets should be transferred to the Area in the event of a club winding up, as this may be relevant should other clubs close. Steve to collate all the details and place on the agenda for the next meeting. CP to check the constitution.

Action SW

Action CP

Steve also reported that Mold Bridge Club have not issued Masterpoints for the year and provided no membership returns.

9. NTO Report

Jean is planning a Ladies event online, probably on Realbridge. This was supported by the MC. Jean to go ahead and organise.

Action JH

Quotes for Directors were varied and it was felt by the meeting that we should have standard rates as in face-to-face bridge. Extra services such as event management etc should be a separate cost.

Action CP

David Stevenson was mandated to organise the Welsh and Cambria for two years, (2019 and 2020). Agreed that David be thanked and confirmed that he run it for another year (2021). The arrangements for 2022 to be reviewed before July 2021.

Action CP

10. AOB

Representation at the Tollemache, Western League and Area events requires clarification. CP to put on the agenda of the next meeting.

Members of the Management Committee were wished a very happy Christmas.

11. Next meeting – 14th January at 10am.