

Minutes of MC 14 Jan 2021@ 10am

Present: Marie Topp, Jean Hand, Gareth Jones, Gwynn Davis, Ceri Pierce, Neville Richards, Steve Webb, Fiona Noyce, Alan Screen, Paddy Murphy, Simon Richards (part)

1. Apologies - none
2. Minutes of 10 Dec 2020 accepted.

3. Selectors' Report – Simon Richards

The Juniors have been invited to play in the Chairman's cup in Sweden (free of charge). Clarification of eligibility is required and any funding requests will come via the Management Committee.

The Young Chelsea Bridge Club is holding a junior league and have invited Wales to participate.

After the 1st weekend of the Camrose Wales and Iying 3rd and the WBU team 6th. A number of issues relating to disconnections and security have been raised with the TD, Fearghal O'Boyle and will be fed back to Bridge Great Britain.

The Teltscher and LM are both being held on the same day which causes problems for Wales and our concern is to be reiterated to BGB. The trials are this month. Expect 3 to 4 tables for the Teltscher and 2 or 3 tables for the LM, depending on the outcome of the Teltscher.

A 3rd pair has expressed an interest in the European Open team. No other interest recorded yet for other European events.

Wales are hosting the 2nd weekend. Ceri is the match manager. Fearghal O'Boyd will direct again, having had the experience of the 1st weekend.

(Simon left the meeting).

4. Membership for 2021/22

It appears that there is no light at the end of the covid tunnel. The WBU has had no membership subs from 2020/21 and the bank balance is dropping. There has been a small amount of masterpoint income.

Membership subs for 2021/22 to be set at £10.00. Clubs may have difficulty collecting the subs as they are still closed. Some discussion ensued and a 2-pronged approach was agreed, where clubs will be asked for membership subs, but if they are not collecting them, then direct membership can be offered. The website will need to be modified to ask which Area members are affiliating to.

Steve said that each year he provides the clubs with a list of members for them to update and return. For 2020/21, about 90% did not respond. He will try again this year.

The WBU has no way of contact all the members, and it was felt that a membership list should be maintained so that we can contact members to renew subs on behalf of clubs if they cannot do so

themselves. This causes no GDPR issues as we would be processing data for the purpose of bridge administration and on behalf of the clubs.

Agreed that a special communication to clubs was needed to explain the situation and ask if they are able to collect subs, and if not, if they can provide member lists so that we can collect them directly.

Action SW

5. CEO Reports

Neville reported that the hosting platform had been upgraded and masterpoints / membership reporting changes were in hand. A full site upgrade may be required in the future as it is 12 years old. The databases are OK, but the front-end web pages will need updating. This will be about 16-20 hours work (chargeable), when we decide to do it. For now, it is working fine.

Ceri reported that Tony H's seminars had gone well with 140 and 101 attendees. Our thanks go to Tony for these.

A WBU Club has been formed to run the equivalent of the WBU Stepbridge sessions in the afternoons. 2 sessions/week will start later this month on BBO. Agreed entry fee to be set at \$2.50.

The facility for private Realbridge sessions for bridge parties or private matches, to be booked is in progress.

Simon G is extending his entry system so that clubs can use it to manage entries and collect payment via Stripe to congresses. This will be made available on a not-for-profit basis. Ceri extended her thanks to Simon.

Organisation for the Camrose is underway.

The next newsletter will be out shortly – items for inclusion in it were invited.

A (very bad) video of how to set up a paypal or square button on bridgewebs has been made and is available if clubs want to see how to do this. However, help will be needed to do the same on Wordpress.

A marketing person for WBU events would be very useful, if anyone knows anybody who would be interested in helping out.

6. Treasurers Report – Fiona Noyce

There are a few loose ends to tie up with BBO. The percentage charge may increase to 50% from 30% in January. CP to check again with Sarah Amos.

Action CP

Simon G's charging system welcomed.

Authorisation changes to access to the bank account still ongoing – they have the paperwork but it is not on the system.

Fiona confirmed that the WBU does comply with HMRC's new IR35 rules.

One Area's accounts are still outstanding.

7. Masterpoints and Membership report – Steve Webb

Masterpoints are no longer being issued for Stepbridge Open events.
Bridge Club Live have ended their relationship with the WBU.

8. NTO's Report – Jean Hand

The Open Pairs has been scheduled for 14 March. Sarah will be directing.
The Mixed Pairs has been scheduled for 20 June.
Celtic Sims – no word from Ecats yet.
Perry and Spickett has been scheduled for 5/6 June (subject to agreement by N Wales)
Portland Pairs to be investigated but if it is held online it may not be regionalised.
Teams of 8 – suggested that it go ahead with last year's qualifiers as it has not been held yet.

Action JH

9. AOB

Area representation – clarification / guidance has been sought – move to next meeting.
Camrose organisation for 2nd weekend– in hand.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 28th Jan @10.00am.