

Minutes of MC 17th June 2021 @ 10am

Present: Marie Topp, Jean Hand, Fiona Noyce, Gwynn Davis, Ceri Pierce, Alan Screen, Paddy Murphy

1. **Apologies** – Steve Webb, Tony Disley
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - accepted.
3. **Selectors Report – Simon Gottschalk**

Simon confirmed that the 2021-22 Selectors are as follows:

Paul Denning
Paul Gagne
Simon Gottschalk
Jean Hand
Paddy Murphy
Simon Richards

Simon R is the current chairman. Paul Denning is the next on the rotation. It is to be confirmed whether he will take up this appointment.

The EBL Qualifier will take place 23-28 August. The selectors would like to enter an Open Team which it was confirmed would be sponsored, so there would be no cost to the WBU.

There may be a Mixed team, but no entries for the Seniors or Women's teams have been made to date. The WBU deadline is 1st July. Entries must be made to the EBL by 12th July.

As there is sponsorship for the Open Team, funding is not an issue, but the selectors would like to know what funding for the Mixed or any other teams will be made available.

The costs involved are:

Entry Fees
Venue Fees
Observers' accommodation

The WBU need to nominate an official observer (maybe two) to the EBL. Simon G has volunteered.

The EBL will pay the observer 100 Euros a day and will allocate observers to NBOs in different countries to maintain neutrality.

The WBU may also need to provide equipment for using Realbridge at the venue.

Entry fees are 100 euros per day per team.

As the majority of players are from the South, an appropriate venue could be Mercure North, Miskin Manor, Vale Resort, Cardiff Airport Hotel, or we could use bridge clubs. However it was noted that for a team of 6, a resting place would be needed, so a hotel may be preferable.

Agreed:

Entry fees for the mixed team will be provided.

Observer costs (accommodation) will be provided as necessary.

Any further entries will be reviewed and decision made by the MC regarding funding once the closing date has been reached.

Ceri to check if meals also to be paid for observers.

Action CP

A match manager needs to be nominated to make the necessary arrangements. Ceri agreed to do the admin and venue organising, but may not be available during the event itself. Simon G offered to help with establishing bridge club costs (if used) and IT suitability of potential venues.

In other news, Gilly is organising monthly Womens events in preparation for the Lady Milne.

The Premier League is being revived and provisional dates are to be published.

The Juniors are unlikely to have a Peggy Bayer team next year. Bridge training is required. Fiona confirmed that there is a budget for training.

The Selectors have updated the Terms of Reference and Player Responsibilities which will be submitted to the Management Committee for approval.

4. Face to Face Bridge

Discussion deferred until the next meeting.

5. CEO Report

Women's' monthly online event organised by Gilly have been advertised starting on 5th July on Realbridge. They will be IMP Pairs in order to avoid having one or two teams that win all the time, and to make it easier and more inclusive for pairs to enter.

The Laws and Ethics Committee have met and implemented a 4-month suspension for a member who left in the middle of a tournament after a disagreement.

Steve cannot issue Masterpoints from Database at the moment, following a server relocation. Neville and Phil are helping but has been like this for over a week now. Support for this system needs to be clarified should this happen again.

Ceri has requested a list of IT systems and associated support contracts from Neville.

6. Treasurers Report

Not a lot to report this month, just a few debtors to chase up. Membership money is coming in.

A query was raised regarding the position for members who will want to re-join the WBU when live bridge returns. Historically fees have been pro-rata but that may not be the case anymore. It is currently £10 per annum for full membership. Ceri to confirm with Steve what the policy is.

Action CP

It was also confirmed that clubs who decide not to renew their membership when live play resumed, if they had been in receipt of match-funded grants from the WBU, need to stay affiliated under the terms of the grant for 5 years. Therefore if they do not re-affiliate then the grant would need to be repaid.

7. NTO Report

Teams of Eight - awaiting for the names of the 2nd team from the West.

Champion of Champions - Robots were inadvertently used in this event. One player registered his objection and was awarded a 50-50 score for that round. He has since requested that his score against the robots is adjusted to an average of his session score, or have robot scores removed.

The Management Committee decided that the results should stand as they are. Ceri to inform the player.

Robots will not be used in future.

Fiona asked Jean and Paddy about Directors for the Perry and Spickett and the Champion of Champions.

The TDs and costs were confirmed by Jean and Paddy, though there was some confusion as to whether it was actually Sarah or IBEX that directed the Champion of Champions. Other issues were raised regarding IBEX arrangements, especially regarding the delay experienced before receiving bills. Agreed that Ceri would speak to Sarah to:

- Make sure all quotes are written
- Make sure there is timely billing
- Make sure that it is clear whether we are engaging Sarah or IBEX

Action CP

8. AOB

Congratulations were given to the winners of the Perry, Spickett and Presidents Cup.

9. Date of next meeting

Friday 2nd July at 1pm by zoom, after the selectors meeting.