

## Minutes of MC 2 Sept 2021 @ 10.30am

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

Apologies – Steve Webb, Fiona Noyce

### 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting - accepted.

### 2. CEO's Report – Ceri

- Selectors' Terms of Reference and Player Responsibility Documents are ready for approval. These have been circulated. Two minor changes identified:
  - Uniform should be worn where it is available
  - The paragraph in point 15 regarding drinking should be removed
- There has been a new initiative to get bridge into primary schools. All they are looking for at the moment is our support, rather than any action. Neville has attended the meeting. The idea is to have a pool of resources that can be shared by all 5 home nations, to share experiences of getting into schools and best practice for teaching young people.  
We need volunteers to take this on – a coordinator and people willing to undertake the training. An email has been forwarded to the MC with information.

This was discussed and agreed that a teacher or ex-teacher would be ideal. Ceri to contact one or two likely candidates to see if they are interested in being involved, and to issue a mailshot.

#### Action CP

It was noted that previous attempts to get into schools has failed. Suggested that we write to LEAs to ask them to let the schools know that this initiative exists.

Long term aim is to get mind sports on the curriculum.

Agreed that the WBU will support the initiative but cannot participate until volunteers have been recruited.

- Clubs restarting bridge – an email has been sent out to secretaries to find out the plans of clubs for restarting face to face bridge / continuing online bridge. A directory will be compiled on the website. Only one response so far!
- BGB met on 19 Aug. Plan to hold the Lady Milne, Teltscher and Camrose face to face, but Juniors online due to possible vaccination issues for younger people and travel. Arrangements for the Gold Cup also discussed. Minutes have been distributed to the MC and can also be found on the BGB website.
- Wales are hosting the Lady Milne in April 2022. Planning has commenced and a meeting has been held with The Copthorne in Cardiff to view the facilities. A quote is being prepared by the events manager. Other venues have also been approached. A match manager will be required.
- Crossgates storage - if we continue to use Crossgates for storage, they have indicated that they will charge £100. They have suggested that we make any bookings in advance (they can be subsequently cancelled). 15 laptops for testing and all the team shirts have been collected and are now at Ceri's house.
- Director training has been postponed and new dates scheduled as there was not enough interest to proceed.
- EBL Qualifier for the WBT – Wales finished 22<sup>nd</sup> / 31 in the Open and 15<sup>th</sup> / 21 in the Mixed. It is worth noting that the Mixed Team finished ahead of England, Scotland and Ireland!

The Welsh Open Team were 2<sup>nd</sup> to play Italy in this event. No line-up was submitted and no teams participating played against Italy throughout the event. The EBL have investigated the matter and have decided that no action will be taken.

Agreed that the WBU will make no statement on the matter. The L&E committee were consulted/informed of the situation prior to the decision not to submit a line-up being made.

Agreed that a formal letter of thanks from the WBU to be sent to the sponsor of the event.

#### **Action CP**

- The WBU Sims have gone ahead – there was no response regarding the Charity, so it has been left as before – Air Ambulance.
- Calendar/Llangollen/Porthcawl – will be covered on NTO report. An ATO meeting has been scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> Sept to discuss the calendar. A draft has been circulated to the ATOs and the MC.
- Tony H has queried the future of Stepbridge in the UK as clubs return to normal. A meeting is to be set up shortly with Stepbridge. It was agreed that the WBU support the continued use of this platform.

### **3. Treasurers Report – Fiona**

A report was circulated prior to the meeting.

- The European Qualifier Costs so far:

Open Team Entry	Sponsored
Mixed team Entry	£439.14
Venue Hire	Sponsored
Observer Costs	Sponsored
Convention Card Printing -	£67.98
- The NTO has been given a report on all WBU entry fees received from 1st April - 25<sup>th</sup> August via bank transfers, PayPal, and Stripe. Once any non-payments have been identified by Jean, we can chase them up.
- BBO Club Royalties are up to date for July, only three clubs participated that month. Confirmed that no prize money has been paid and none has been requested.
- Real Bridge activities over the last few months have been retraced and the outstanding amount invoiced by Ceri has been received. Most of the other activities on this site relate to player training and development. A report will be sent to the selectors so they can organise usage of the available fund.
- Attempts to transfer money from Lloyds to the WBU PayPal facility have failed. Investigation as to why is underway - usually it goes through without any problems. The funds are needed to keep the Web/Scoring/Server etc backup facilities going.
- Following the agreement in principle by the MC and in discussion with the Chair of MWBA, the £600 WBU support received last year has been returned.
- Details of the Lloyds Cardnet System have been circulated for the MC to consider. In face to face WBU events the portable gadget may be useful. The system could be tested at The Premier League to be held at the Commodore.
- The Lloyds Bank balance @ 30/08/21 £29,499.

#### 4. NTO's Report – Jean

- Jean requested that the results from the Cambria and Welsh Cup be sent to her. It was noted that they are published on the website. Arrangements for next year are due for review.
- The draft calendar has been sent to ATOs and a meeting arranged for next week. A summary of WBU events to be easily accessible from the WBU website would be useful. Ceri to progress with Tony H.
- It was suggested that qualifying heats should be held on the same day across the areas. This will be discussed at the ATOs meeting next week.
- Rod Sheard has visited the Hand Hotel to see if it was suitable for the Llangollen congress. The main room is available but can only hold 12 tables and is very expensive. The Bryn Howell is still not open. Agreed that it will be held online this year with the intention of being held face to face next year, as there is still much concern about covid and face to face congresses.
- It was noted that the Competition Journal needs updating.

#### 5. Membership and Masterpoints Secretary's Report – Steve

Steve circulated a report in advance.

- **Membership**

Renewed memberships total                      1263

Area memberships paid

- NWBA    256
- MWBA    144
- EWBA    572

Money to be forwarded to areas by Fiona

- **Masterpoints**

Steve has produced new ranking lists and they will replace the lists on the website in the next few days-

#### 6. AOB

Feedback from the EBL Qualifier last week that was played on Realbridge – it was noted that in future insimilar events where players were located in a single venue, that it would be desirable to set up laptops in advance.

Gwynn queried the arrangements for the Perry and Spickett and President next year. It was confirmed that the Mid Wales would hold the Perry and Spickett, and that the next President will be nominated by East Wales.

Thanks were given to Alan for captaining the Mixed Team in the EBL Qualifier.

#### 7. Next meeting

30 September 2021 on Zoom. Reports to be circulated in advance. Any other business before then to be conducted by email.