

## **Minutes of MC 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 (amended) @11.00am**

Present: Marie Topp, Jean Hand, Fiona Noyce, Gwynn Davis, Ceri Pierce, Tony Disley, Paddy Murphy, Alan Screen, Steve Webb, Fiona Noyce, Paul Denning (part)

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

### **2. Selectors Report – Paul Denning**

The Selectors are meeting tomorrow to discuss arrangements for the Camrose Trial along with Lady Milne.

After a successful week's bridge in the online European Championships at the end of August the selectors turned their attention to the Premier League which is normally held over the two weekends at the end of October, beginning of November. With Covid seemingly under control plans were made for two face to face weekends. Unfortunately, only three teams were available to play on both weekends which was not enough for us to hold a viable event. Four teams were available for the first weekend of November so the selectors opted for a four team trial. The weekend as a whole went well, although there were one or two small problems which were mainly due to rustiness with running face to face events. The selectors' choices for the two Camrose weekends were:

January (in Bristol – but now changed by BGB to online on Realbridge)

Ratcliff & Pottage  
Jones & Lamford  
Plackett & Denning  
NPC - TBA

March (in Scotland)

D Jones & A Dunn  
M Jones & J Dunn  
Third pair – TBA  
NPC – TBA

Next January we will be holding the trials for both the Lady Milne (to be held in April in Cardiff) and the Teltscher (to be held in May in Northern Ireland). With the emergence of the Omicron variant the selectors decided that they could not practically hold face to face trials for these events so both will be played online.

### **3. CEO Report - Ceri**

#### **Clubs**

Following enquiries, and discussion of various proposals, the situation with regards to clubs that are struggling or who are worried about their future will be progressed by a working party, which will consist of Ceri, Steve, Fiona, Tony D and Alan.

It was noted that if the membership structure of the WBU was changed, then the WBU IT system would need to be changed and it would not be straightforward. There would be costs associated with this.

The possibility of purchasing Life Membership with any residual club funds from a club that closes was discussed following an enquiry and it was concluded that this was not viable for various reasons –

- It depends on the age of the member – it may not be good value for money for older members
- The WBU may not be an on-going concern so it may not be appropriate to take money for life membership

It was agreed that club assets are the concern of the club, not the WBU, unless they have been in receipt of a match -funded grant from the WBU which states that the grant should be repaid if the club is no longer affiliated within 5 years.

Some clubs are transferring their equipment to other clubs. Clubs may choose to share fund between their members and/or make a donation to the WBU.

**Action** Steve and Tony to speak to Alan and Gwyn to canvas their opinion.

**Action** Fiona to send match funding details to Steve and Tony.

**Action** Working Party to consult with Archway and Pencoed for their views and report back to the MC in January.

Gwynn proposed a possible two tiers of membership for consideration by the working party:

one for clubs, which would incur only a modest charge (variable according to club numbers) and would give access to services and to a limited menu of WBU competitions on behalf of all their members;

and one for individuals, to be set at £10 pa, which would confer full NBO membership rights

### **Llangollen**

The Llangollen congress was disappointing with only six teams entered, but they were of a very high calibre and the congress was enjoyed by all. An email from the winners has been received congratulating the WBU and the TD, Gareth, on a great event.

### **Life Membership**

Following discussion, it was agreed that Honorary Life Membership will be honoured if that member is suspended by another NBO. However, as there are reciprocal arrangements in place across all EBL members if one suspends a member, then they would not be permitted to play in any WBU licensed events.

### **Stepbridge UK**

Several meetings have been held (Ceri, Tony H, Neville and Alan) and the following has been agreed in principle in order to preserve the Stepbridge platform in the UK and to provide a mechanism for Clubs and the WBU to charge table money. Epko was thanked for his generosity and the MC considered and approved the proposals which are summarised below:

- A new entity called Stepbridge UK is set up.
- SBUK events will be charged at £1 per session – this would include membership of the SBUK club so any surplus made by the WBU as a mutual trader is not taxable
- Clubs can charge whatever they wish, and the WBU will retain 50p.
- Anticipated income
  - SBUK events (70 tables / week) £10K pa
  - Clubs (approx. 60 tables / week) £ 6K pa
- Anticipated costs
  - 1<sup>st</sup> year
  - License Fee £5K pa
  - TD and admin costs £5K pa
- Start date – aiming for 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022
- SBUK Manager / Deputy Manager – Tony Haworth and Dereck Roberts
- No Masterpoints to be issued (initially)
- Once approved by MC, then we will communicate with TDs, Clubs and players the new arrangements.

### **3. Treasurers Report – Fiona**

Everything is ticking along. BACs refunds for people withdrawing from competitions have been processed. The Air Ambulance donation has been made. Some BBO invoices are outstanding and being chased.

#### **4. NTO Report - Jean**

Jean confirmed that the Open and Mixed Pairs will be direct entry one-day events and will be held online.

Open Pairs date confirmed at 31/1/22.

The Welsh and Cambria Cups will be run by Jean for the coming season until a new organiser is identified. Agreed entry fee of £40 per team. Tony H assisting with double elimination as Jean is not familiar with it.

Gareth Evans was thanked for his sterling work as TD.

#### **6. Any Other Business**

Gwynn queried what boards are held by the WBU. East Wales has a considerable number which are unlikely to be required anymore and they are considering how they can be distributed. Confirmed that the WBU has 14 cases of boards in addition to those held by the East.

#### **7. Next meeting**

20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 10.00 by Zoom.