

## Minutes of MC 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022, at 10am

Present: Jean Hand, Gwynn Davis, Tony Disley, Ceri Pierce, Alan Screen

### 1. **Apologies:** Marie Topp, Fiona Noyce, Steve Webb

Marie has reluctantly tendered her resignation as President, as since her recent move to England she is unable to fulfil her duties. She wishes to remain as Past President and to serve on MC, if possible, to provide continuity. As Immediate Past President, she will, of course, be a member of Council.

Thanks were offered to Marie for her support over many years.

### 2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – accepted with amendment that had been recirculated.

### 3. **Selectors' Report**

The Selectors met to discuss the European Team Selection, but there were not enough entries for the Mixed or Women's teams to make a selection. Generous sponsorship has been offered for the entry fees for the Women's Pairs as an alternative and the 2 pairs that applied to enter the women's teams will now play in the pairs instead. One player has declined sponsorship and will pay their own entry fees. All other costs are to be met by the players.

The WBU will pay the entry fees for the Open Team as agreed in previous meetings. All other costs will be met by the players.

### 4. **CEO Report**

#### **Lady Milne**

Results:

SCOTLAND	72.93
ENGLAND	72.47
WALES	44.55
IRELAND	42.52
WBU	36.60
N IRELAND	29.93

The venue was excellent with lots of positive feedback from the players and the staff could not have been more helpful. Would recommend as a future venue. The only negative was that the playing area was dark and lamps were needed to rectify this. The hotel purchased 7 clip on lamps and the WBU purchased 5.

Realbridge had problems on the Friday night as an upgrade caused problems and as a result no Vugraph was available until Saturday morning.

The MC queried the delay on Vugraph. This was supposed to have been a one board delay, but was in fact longer. Ceri to follow up with Shireen. Also, a cumulative Cross Imp Table was not available which made the scoring clumsy. Ceri to progress with Sarah and Realbridge.

Thanks go to Sophie Cunningham, Paul Cunningham, Laura Woodruff, Simon Gottschalk, Trevor Towers, Alan Screen and the Vugraph team – Simon Richards, Debbie Richards, David MacAndrew, Jim Luck, Stephen Peterkin, Gwynn Davies and Sue Ingham. Also, to the TDs Sarah Amos and Jose Julio Carero.

Accounts were presented to the MC. The net cost of hosting the Lady Milne and the two teams was £6,000.

### **Treasurer Handover**

As Fiona has ostensibly retired, a handover to Ceri will take place in the next week or so as an interim measure. A new Treasurer is required urgently.

Ceri requested that in the meantime that someone approved and checked any payments made to herself.

Agreed that Ceri would ask Jean Cufley to check any payments made at the bank and Tony D offered to approve any other payments made.

### **Club Insurance**

Several clubs have taken out insurance via the Marsh Policy which the WBU is now administering. They need to be invoiced, which is outstanding. Clubs are:

Penarth

Mid Glamorgan

Wrexham

Vale of Glamorgan

Ynys Mon

WWBA have made an enquiry as to whether they can come under the umbrella as an Area, which March have confirmed that they can.

Tony informed the meeting that Bridgend also wish to renew their insurance. Ceri to send details.

### **Dealing Machine**

Abergavenny Bridge Club are looking for a 2<sup>nd</sup> hand dealing machine if any clubs have one available.

### **Online Clubs**

Tony H has suggested that he post a general item giving details of who is actually running online clubs, what platforms, what night/afternoons/mornings, etc. He is aware of the Stepbridge Clubs already, but would like to compile a more general list. Ceri to write to club officials to request the information.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Draft accounts were circulated by Fiona a few weeks ago. Alan raised one query regarding Stepbridge Income which Fiona is reviewing.

It was noted that the working loss for this year was roughly the same as for last year when there was no membership income, so the financial outlook is very poor.

## **6. NTO Report**

Mixed Pairs – 7 entries received to date. Little interest seen from the Mid or North. It has been publicised in the West and East.

Welsh and Cambria Cups are progressing.

Champion of Champions – a request was made by a member to reinstate it, but agreed that this would not go ahead this year.

Teams of 8 – no entries received from the North or Mid so agreed that the East and the West would jointly run the event which is now open to any team, with the stipulation that any complaints from other areas would not have to be dealt with by them. A refund for the teams who entered the East heat which subsequently turned out to be unnecessary has been received by the NTO. Agreed to wait and see what the final will look like before we can make any decision.

Perry and Spickett

Entries (or likely entries) so far:

	Perry Spickett		Presidents
North	1	0	0
<b>Mid</b>	1	1	1 (Possibly)
West	1	1	0
East	1	1	0

Agreed that the future of the Perry and Spickett be placed on the agenda for review at the next meeting.

## **7. Masterpoints and Membership**

Steve provided a written report which was circulated. Membership numbers are very low so far. Only 3 clubs have submitted returns and paid, with another 3 having promised to do so.

It was noted that some clubs may be returning membership subs but not for all members. Ceri to discuss with Steve and Tony D to help talk to the club in question if needed, as all members of affiliated clubs must be members of the WBU.

## **8. Stepbridge Report**

Tony H submitted a Stepbridge UK report which was circulated. Numbers had dropped slightly. But probably due to the weather and the return of more face-to-face bridge. Financially, we will be OK this year as the Stepbridge license fee is 5K, but when that initial offer ends, we may or may not break even.

This led to some discussion about charges for BBO and it was agreed to charge 50% of the gross income for clubs / areas using BBO to cover the admin costs of maintaining a WBU BBO account. There was only one Club still using BBO last month, but all clubs to be given one month's notice of this increase.

## **9. AOB**

None

## **10. Date of Next Meeting** (agreed by CEO & Acting Chairman after the meeting)

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 10.00 by Zoom.