

Minutes of MC 26 July 2022by Zoom

Present: Ceri Pierce, Alan Screen, Steve Webb, Paddy Murphy, Sophie Cunningham, , Simon Gottschalk, Gilly Clench, Jean Cufley, Steve Jarvis

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – accepted.

3. **CEO Report**

An official welcome to our new Officers and Area Reps :

Gilly Clench, Jean Cufley, Simon Gottschalk and Steve Jarvis. We look forward to having them on board for at least the next year and hopefully much longer.

Perry and Spickett

Congratulations to the East who won both the Perry and the Spickett.

Unfortunately, the West had to withdraw from the Spickett and the Mid lost a player in the Perry, all due to covid - a sign of the times unfortunately.

AGM

The AGM was admirably chaired by Gilly who stepped in at the last minute when Alan succumbed to covid.

Thanks to Sophie and Paul Cunningham for facilitating the meeting on line – it had a few hiccups but basically worked, which enabled far more people to attend.

Minutes of the Council and AGM have been circulated to the MC prior to publication on the website.

Bridge Trays

Simon G has organised the manufacture of 6 trays for use with screens as the existing ones have gone missing. They were an absolute bargain at £22.50 each and Simon has custody of them at the moment. Our thanks to the EBU who loaned us trays for the Lady Milne.

Ceri still has one that belongs to the EBU that we repaired for them.

Crossgates

Crossgates are redecorating and they have requested that we attend a meeting to discuss locating our equipment – however they don't seem to have got a date sorted out yet. Alan has agreed to attend the meeting (being more local than any of the rest of us) when it eventually happens.

Storage was discussed but the lockup at Porthcawl was discounted as it is not secure or watertight. Agreed that the old WBU laptops can be disposed of as they are no longer viable. They were used at the Lady Milne but were so slow that they were pretty much unusable and we used our own personal laptops instead.

Port Talbot Bridge Club

Sadly, Port Talbot Bridge Club has closed due to low numbers.

4. **Presidents Report**

Gilly outlined her plans during her term as President :

1. Main aim is to work out whether events should be face to face, online or hybrid (Simon).
2. To investigate registering as a Charity (Jean).
3. To produce a newsletter every month. Would like this to be emailed out. Mailchimp only reaches half of our members at the moment (Gilly).

4. Promote the benefits of being affiliated to / a member of the WBU (Gilly/Ceri).
5. Promote and recruit young players (Gilly/Sophie/Areas).
Attend Freshers Fairs at Universities in each area. This will need follow up with classes etc. Agreed to help areas and clubs fund this. Estimate it will cost about £1,500.
Areas to identify individuals who would be prepared to carry this forward – not only at the Fairs but also with taster sessions and lessons.
In England there is a new online teaching programme. Sophie to enquire if the WBU can use it.
6. To ensure transparency and share more information with the membership (All).
Need to publish who the committee members are on the website (Ceri).
7. To review the constitution and make it more relevant and gender appropriate as well as being written in plain English. Areas will be encouraged to do the same. The role of the Council also needs to be reviewed – it may no longer be of benefit now as we are a much smaller organisation (Gilly/All).
8. Update the competition Journal (Simon).
9. Get more press coverage in Wales (All)
10. Investigate grants from the Welsh Government (Ceri)

5. NTO Report

Simon reported that he has held a brainstorming session with the ATOs and thanked them for their participation. An Outline calendar has been produced for approval. Plan to hold main events both online and Face to Face as a trial. Events would be 1 day online and 2 days face to face.

Also proposing that each event (subject to numbers) would have an A and a B section where the B section is Life Master or below.

Dates and Venues have been determined for all events except one. Details will be on the calendar by the end of the week.

The online platform is still under discussion. Prize money for online events still to be determined.

Discussion was held regarding entry fees. Agreed that £20/day for online events would be appropriate.

Steve will investigate whether separate master point scale could be used for A and B sections.

Action SW

Areas and Clubs are requested to promote these events as much as possible.

6. Treasurer's Report

Jean still does not have access to the bank accounts. Can see the WBU account but cannot see the StepBridge account.

Current Balances	WBU	30,713
	Stepbridge	5266

Currently only Neville and Fiona can access the Building Society. Agreed to remove Neville and add Jean, Ceri and Alan to this account.

Action JC

Agreed – mileage rate should be increased to 45p/mile.

Honorarium for retiring officers discussed – confirmed that they run from June to June (AGM) but are paid in December at the midpoint. No payments are outstanding.

Agreed to send a thankyou gift to the retiring officers as a mark of our appreciation and respect.

Jean will send an email to Area and Club Treasurers requesting that they use BACs or cheque rather than PayPal or Stripe.

Action JC

Tony H to be asked to change payment method on the website.

Action CP

7. Area Reports

NWBA – Llandudno ran at a loss with only 13 tables.

MWBA – Majority of clubs are running at no profit or a small loss.

WWBA – Some clubs still not restarting. There was an issue with non WWBA members entering a WWBA event and asked that the WBU enforce that area events are for area members only. However, the view of the MC is that it is up to each individual area to accept or reject entries to area events. It was suggested that we should actually make area events open to all members as times have changed, numbers are much lower now and the more people that play the better.

Simon to discuss with ATOs.

Agreed that it would be good for areas to reintroduce area membership fees next year.

Membership fees were discussed – agreed that we would discuss should membership be set at £15 for 23/24 to be approved at the 23 AGM. Aim to decide by Dec 22.

EWBA – A recent meeting was held to look at congresses ad finances and how to save costs. Intending to do a Freshers Fair stand at Cardiff University in September.

8. Incident at Perry and Spickett

There was an incident at the Perry raised by the TD that has been dealt with by the Laws and Ethics committee but West Wales was dismayed with the outcome. Agreed that the determination made by the L & E committee cannot be undermined, and that although no penalty was applied to the Mid as the match continued thanks to the actions of the West, any recurrence would be dealt with severely. In addition, the offending players have been contacted personally to emphasise the gravity of the offence. It was agreed to add a statement from the MC to be published alongside the L & E determination.

Action CP/GC/AS

9. Next Meeting

Wednesday 31 August at 11.00am by Zoom.