

This month has flown by and I have been away, but quite a lot has happened as always. You may have noticed differences on the WBU website – pictures so that you can recognise our workers and it's now easier to comment on the forum. This isn't really being used very much, which could be good news assuming there are no problems (but I doubt that's the reason). Give it a go.

Main problems identified - (I am certainly not the first to have noticed them)**Communication**

We cannot contact our members! Only 700 have signed up for Mailchimp and there's no way to contact the others, except via secretaries, many of whom are fed-up of forwarding information. Having done some research, I am delighted to read on the ICO website that I can contact everyone individually to ask whether they would like to receive this newsletter; if you agree, we can finally make up a comprehensive list. It is also now easier to find Mailchimp on the website, in order to sign up.

I doubt that clubs have registered for GDPR – even the WBU has not (which will be rectified shortly) so this could save an awful lot of money, as the WBU would be the data holder and the clubs would not have to worry or register. We are considering becoming a charity, but this needs some looking into and we probably need to insert “not for profit” into all the constitutions, which will be revised soon hopefully.

New members

Our spare time recently has been taken up organising the most important challenge of all – getting young and/or new people to play bridge. Sadly, Freshers Fairs have proved too expensive – Cardiff wants nearly £1,000, despite the fact that we are offering free tuition and the opportunity to play at International level within six months. There are exceptions, notably the wonderful Pembrokeshire College. They gave free entry to the Fair, which resulted in a list of students signing up for lessons, some of whom may even make up a Peggy Bayer team. They provide, free of charge, a room for storage and lessons, which will only go ahead because of the dedication and enthusiasm of Lee Collier and Nicky Hancock. Bob Alderdice and Phil Thomas are infiltrating games' nights at Swansea University, so fingers crossed this all goes well. I have a week to organise something in Cardiff, but it needs volunteers to do the lessons and help on the day. Aberystwyth and Bangor will have to wait for next year as I haven't managed to get anyone involved yet. Sophie Cunningham and Maggie Pierce are organising school-aged pupil lessons – but more of that next month. Apologies to various other people I have missed who are giving their time and help.

It is all very well reading this, but it just needs one person to offer to go into a school and conduct lessons to create a youth culture. Another overlooked area is teaching of Adult Education courses run by the Council – there are none locally, although materials and help are available in abundance.

Running at a loss - We are losing over £10,000 per annum.

It cannot continue, but we have fewer members, less entries to competitions and worst of all many clubs and individuals are not even affiliated. Why? It's just 19p per week! Currently everyone is having free publicity, how unfair is that? .

Without the WBU, the game would probably die along with its members (please remember to leave something in your will). We can change this (just the game dying aspect obviously haha). Next month - a list of all the great things the WBU does for you and the game – refer to previous section about Juniors for one example 😊

I am pleased to note that people are slowly drifting back to face to face – do try to support your clubs and save on your Energy bills! Please let me know about good things happening in your area.