

Minutes of MC 31 August 2022 by 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 with one amendment regarding the Presidents Cup.

3. CEO Report

The server hosting the database and the server hosting the website have both suffered problems for various reasons this month. We are reliant on one person for support and to make us less vulnerable in the event that he is not available, he has transferred the logon and support details for the Scala (web servers) to the Webmaster, with a copy to me and is happy to help in the background. Neither the webmaster nor I are particularly confident that we could resolve any problems if there is a recurrence. This is clearly an area of vulnerability which needs to be resolved.

A technical group will be set up to investigate documenting and possibly migrating our IT set up. Jean informed the meeting that our Internet / web / IT costs were £2320 last year.

The masterpoints database in particular is very vulnerable and needs reviewing – maybe in conjunction with Scotland who have the same issues. Discussion was held and it was decided that we may also wish to consider provision of services from CBAI or EBU or BGB. Ceri to progress via a technical group.

PayPal access has been transferred to Ceri Jean and Tony H. There have been several problems with logon authentication which we have not yet resolved.

The transfer of signatories for the Building Society Account is in progress.

BGB have agreed to increase the allowance for Internationals to £330 / head (for now) from £320, as we were having problems identifying a venue near support volunteers for the Teltscher. We will need to review ideas for minimising costs for 2023/24 e.g., running several events concurrently, having 1 Camrose weekend not 2 etc etc.

The Selectors have posted details of Camrose LM and Teltscher Trials on the web site.

Recruitment - Gilly has been organising attendance at Freshers Fairs with other areas across Wales.

Sophie is planning a minibridge course for children and their parents/grandparents. I have a source of EXCELLENT and FREE training materials and deal files that were prepared by Paul Bowyer which I used in Somerset pre-pandemic which have been sent to Sophie.

Congratulations to Richard Plackett and Mia Deschepper for winning the Swiss Pairs at the EBU Summer meeting in a very strong field. Richard and Mia are at the World Bridge Series in Poland at the moment and Richard will represent the WBU at the WBF AGM.

4. Presidents Report

A few enhancements to the website have been suggested e.g. using photos more. The forum pages are a bit clunky at the moment and Gilly has discussed the use of comments without pre-moderation with the Webmaster. She urged all MC members to post more on the forum.

We are unlikely to go ahead with the Cardiff Freshers Fair as the cost was prohibitive. It would have been free had we had a society. Instead, we will attend on another day with a stand where there is high footfall.

The West will attend Swansea's games night to promote bridge and Pembroke College.

Alan to send packs of cards to Lee Collier (Pembroke) and Bob Alderdice (Swansea). The price of a pack (wallet, cards, pen, info etc) will be around £3 per pack. Students will have to sign up in order to get their pack.

There are many incentives for the juniors. For example, free lessons with £1 WBU membership. They can train with the English juniors and they will have free entry to many events. There is potential for them to represent Wales. There is a free training camp being held at Cheltenham and juniors sometimes get invitations from events in Europe with free entry and accommodation.

There has been positive feedback from the President's Newsletter but it does not meet many people. Direct members do not receive it and we are reliant on Clubs to distribute it to their members – some do and some don't.

We need to register with the IOC and take advice on how we can contact members directly. Gilly to progress.

Gilly has also arranged for the constitution to be reviewed and re-written in plain English

5. NTO Report

Simon reported that the Teltscher will be held at the Holiday Inn in Newport.

4 teams have entered the Camrose trials so far which will be held in Llandrindod Wells.

The Premier League has been booked at the Commodore for 2022/23, so that the dates are in the calendar well in advance.

There are 2 new online WBU events in the Calendar which will be open to WBU members only. Non WBU members will be directed towards the membership link.

The East Wales Congress has been listed and advertised.

Would like to have a national club teams of 4 event and is considering about how best to run this.

There are 1336 members of the WBU and it is very difficult to reach them all as not many people actively check the website for info. Needs to be resolved (Gilly to progress with IOC as above).

Simon has also been looking for sponsorship and is in discussion with an insurance company in Cardiff who has previously sponsored charity bridge events.

There has been no progress with the Llangollen congress as the Bryn Howell is still closed.

As always, promotion is the big problem.

6. Treasurer's Report

Jean still does not have access to the bank accounts.

Current Balances	WBU Account	30,000
	Reserve Account	85,000
	Stepbridge	5,000

Jean proposed that Simon G has read only access to Stripe in order to do reports for Jean and to monitor competition entry payments.

Tony H wants to keep stripe for Stepbridge.

Agreed that Stripe will be used for foreign payments.

Meeting to be held with Simon and Ceri to discuss how best to manage Stripe and PayPal.

7. Master Points and Membership Report

Simon G needs access to the Masterpoints database in order to produce reports etc for Steve and investigate enhancements.

8. Area Reports

WWBA	2 face to face events have been held and are now open to all WBU members. Porthcawl will go ahead on BBO
NWBA	Meeting to be held soon. No face-to-face bridge in Bangor at the moment. Paddy to resurrect his club but needs a venue.
MWBA	The new amalgamated club is struggling to make 2 tables – hoping that this will improve in the winter. Radnorshire club is doing OK.
EWBA	East Wales has been focussing on recruitment of new members - events for students and minibridge for grandparents / parents and their children. A course on teams play is being held over three weeks at Cardiff Bridge Club.

9. AOB

Discussion was held about whether we still need to have a Council as the WBU has shrunk considerably over the last decade and the only function of the Council in recent years has been to approve / recommend the appointments of committees before being approved by the MC. The general view was that it is no longer relevant as has not actually done anything for some years. A constitutional change voted on by the members would be required to change this. It was suggested that as an alternative, maybe an open zoom meeting two or three times a year would be more productive.

Agreed that in future we will recommend holding 1 AGM and three other open forum meetings, subject to the constitutional changes being accepted.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 5th October at 10:00am.