

Draft Minutes of MC 5 October 2022 @ 10am by Zoom

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

1. Apologies – Sophie Cunningham, Steve Jarvis
2. Minutes of last meeting accepted.

3. CEO Report – Ceri Pierce

An amended Laws and Ethics statement regarding the Perry and Spickett is to be circulated for approval by the L&E Committee.

There have been problems with the Masterpoints and Membership database Server again this month. A meeting was to be arranged to review and progress the situation to minimise our vulnerability and risk, but covid has struck and progress has been hampered by illness.

A figure of £2,300 was identified on IT spend in 2021/22 from the Accounts. A breakdown of that was requested. Ceri to check payments in PayPal and pass them on the Jean to compile a complete list of payments made last year.

Action CP / JC

4. President's Report – Gilly Clench

Gilly attended an EWBA meeting recently and reported that it was vibrant. Sophie is moving forward with minibridge lessons and following a suggestion by Rhiwbina bridge club, Adult education lessons are to be investigated. Simon is planning to run classes after Christmas in Cowbridge and Steve will approach Cardiff and the Vale Council.

Action SG/SW

Lisvane membership was reported to have increased by 45%. Gilly to find out what their secret of success is.

Action GC

Freshers' events have been held in Pembroke with about 60 students, mainly local, signed up. Nicky and possibly Lee to provide lessons. We do not know yet how many have/will attend the lessons.

EWBA are encouraging teachers and offering financial support to clubs who offer teaching.

It is clear that it is critical to teach in order to attract new members to combat our declining numbers.

There have been offers from three of our top players to provide face to face training at International level (Lady Milne etc). This will be passed to the selection committee for them to organise.

Action CP

Gilly noted that we need email addresses of members in order to send out an email to ask them to administer our members and to send out a privacy notice. Jean has a copy of the privacy notice and will send to Gilly. Gilly has been in conversation with the ICO about what we can and cannot do with regards to contacting our members directly, and also with a local expert. Gilly will contact all club secretaries and between that and the database, try and compile a complete list of members' emails. It is permissible to write to all our members for example to ask them if they want to receive the newsletter.

Action JC/GC

5. NTO Report – Simon Gottschalk

The Camrose trial was held last weekend with 6 teams entered, and made a small loss. The contact person (Cath) at Crossgates was very helpful in opening up and helping to move equipment. Simon has written to thank her and Ceri will write on behalf of the WBU.

Action CP

It was noted that fabric screens only work with certain tables and the wooden tables are not doing so well at Crossgates due to the damp. Simon to talk to Tony H re the long-term feasibility re the Porthcawl lockup as it is not secure and everything has to be stored on pallets due to the damp.

Simon has taken a box of 2017 law books from Crossgates as the storage conditions are not very good there and there is a danger of damp damage. Alternative storage will be needed.

The Premier League has been put on the Calendar for 2023 and the Commodore are keen to continue supporting our events.

The East Wales congress only has 11 teams and 19 pairs entered at the moment and will make a substantial loss unless numbers pick up. Ceri will get it advertise on the Somerset Website and send out another MailChimp mail shot.

Action CP

The Cambria and Welsh Cup is crawling along. Simon suggested the same format for next year. This year's final will be online and it is intended to be head-to-head.

National Swiss Teams entry forms are now online

National Swiss Pairs entry forms are now online

Lady Milne Trial entry forms are now online

Teltscher Trial entry forms are now online

6. Treasurer's Report - Jean Cufley

Fiona is happy to remain as our contact with HMRC for the time being. The independent examiner actually does the tax returns for the WBU.

Payment for the Commodore Hotel is outstanding.

Simon has submitted expensed to Ceri for the Trials.

Jean to progress the benefits of Charity Status, Ceri has a contact in the SBU who did this for them and will pass the details on to Jean.

Action CP

Jean to confirm with Neville that he will continue to ensure that the PayPal payments for the IT Servers etc will be made.

Action JC

7. Masterpoints and Membership Secretary Report – Steve Webb

When the MP database went down earlier in the month it severed the link between Steve's PC and the database. It has now been reinstated but Steve has no knowledge on how to do this himself. It has hopefully now been resolved as the link is now made to a name rather than an IP address. He will need knowledge of how this works for our technical review meeting.

There is a contradiction between the Competition Journal and the Masterpoints Handbook as to the masterpoint awards for the Perry and Spickett. Steve will document and send out the details for the MC to discuss and make a decision on what awards should be made.

Action SW

Membership Fees are set at the AGM for the following year – i.e. set in June/July 2023 for April 2024. This needs to be changed as it means that there is almost a 2-year lead time required for a membership fee change. Steve suggested that the constitution should be changed so that the MC can make this change.

IN order to do this an SGM will be required. Agreed that this could be done on Zoom and the date to be set for Sunday 23 November at 11am.

A notice of this meeting will need to be sent out by 26th October to provide 28 days notice.

Action CP

8. Area Reports

EWBA Covered by the President

MWBA Nothing to report

WWBA Not present

NWBA Met on 23rd September. Suggested that it would be good to have a lawyer on the committee. The meeting agreed that a lawyer could be co-opted if the need arises.

A new venue for the Llandudno congress. The current venue is no longer financially viable with such low numbers.

The Catherine Spalding teams will be held on 20th November and will be held face to face. Paddy to send details to the Webmaster.

Action PM

9. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 1st November at 10:00 by Zoom.