

## Draft Minutes of MC 2 November 2022 @ 10am by Zoom

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

Apologies: Sophie Cunningham

1. Minutes of last meeting - accepted.
2. CEO Report – Ceri Pierce

### IT Review

A meeting was held on Monday 31 Oct to review our IT systems. We need to understand what we have, how much it costs, login details and admin details, so that we are not dependant on a single person in the event of them being unavailable. More information needs to be gathered and further meetings needed to plan how we proceed.

### [Kurbalija](#)/Hirst memorial competition

This is planned to be held at Cardiff Bridge Club in memory of Fil and Mike. An enquiry for it to be Green Pointed has been received. The MC confirmed that Clubs cannot hold Green Pointed event, but Areas and the WBU can - a license fee is applicable. It is anticipated that non WBU members may wish to play in this event, in which case we would [need to amend the regs to permit non WBU players](#). We would be happy to support. It would be a Type B event. Ceri to contact the organisers to progress.

### Action CP

### Law Books

We have had a run on the WBU law books recently. The postage and packing costs about £2 a time and the charge is only £5.95. Ceri suggested that the price published on the website should not include packing and posting. Agreed to add £2 for postage to the price. Ceri to contact the webmaster to update the website. The website currently emails Neville if an order is place. Ceri to enquire if it can be changed to include Ceri and Jean in the email.

### Action CP

Ceri will be unable to fulfil any orders between 2 and 20 Nov as she will not have access to her stock. Simon was asked if he could post them out during that time as he has a stock of them if any more orders come in, which Simon agreed.

### Action SG

### SGM

A notice has gone out about the SGM to change the constitution to permit the MC to set membership subs. Date is Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Nov at midday. (Note this has subsequently been changed to 10am to avoid a clash with the Porthcawl Congress).

### Suspensions

Following discussion, it was agreed that details of any WBU member who has been suspended by any European NBO should be published on our website, as we have reciprocal arrangements in place as part of our terms of EBL membership.

### Juniors

A new junior coordinator is needed. The Selectors have suggested we approach two people. Ceri to contact them. Mark Roderick is running training sessions on a Sunday evening on Realbridge with our current junior squad. An update from Nicky and Lee for the students recruited at Pembroke is to be obtained by Gilly.

### Action GC

The 5 Nations Group has plenty of training materials available, as does the WBU website. The problem is having people to deliver it. Gilly reported that the Council is willing to have Adult Education bridge classes. Simon considering doing one in Cowbridge.

We need teachers!

Commented [PM1]: Needs correcting as makes no sense

### **3. President's Report – Gilly Clench**

The newsletter has been sent out to all direct members and all club secretaries. Cardiff and Newport Clubs are very good at distributing it to their members. Jean asked if it could be sent to her to send out to her club.

Gilly reported that she will be away for 6-8 weeks early next year, and offered to step down as President, as she would not be able to give 100%. The committee members were happy to bear with her for this time rather than find a replacement.

### **4. NTO Report – Simon Gottschalk**

The East Wales congress had a disappointingly low number of entrants making the venue (Lysaght Institute) not viable for the future.

The Welsh and Cambria Cups are progressing.

There are only 6 (good quality) pairs entered for the National Online Pairs and no entries for the B section. Agreed that the event should go ahead. It was noted that we may have the same problem with the National Online Swiss Teams.

A discussion ensued about overall low numbers and how we can increase them. Suggested that we advertise in the EBU magazine and website.

#### **Action CP**

The Lady Milne trials closing date is the end of November and no entries have been received yet. The Commodore has been booked. Gilly, as Women's Co-ordinator to contact the women on her email list and approach players individually to encourage them to enter.

An alternative membership system is to be investigated by Simon. Further discussion will be required between Steve W, Simon G and Ceri. Simon to prepare a paper.

### **5. Treasurers Report**

A report was circulated beforehand. Figures were fairly static. £928 has been received from StepBridge UK. No progress made on Charity status. Jean to progress.

#### **Action JC**

Invoice from the Commodore for the Open trials has not been received yet. Simon G to chase up.

### **6. Masterpoints and Membership Report**

The issue of Masterpoints for the Perry and Spickett requires clarification. Documents were circulated explaining the issue, which was essentially a conflict between the Masterpoint Handbook and the Competition Journal. After discussion it was established that the rules in the Masterpoint Handbook should apply as it is newer than the Competition Journal (which needs to be revised). Steve W to recalculate and reissue the masterpoints.

### **7. Area Reports**

#### **West**

There were 7 tables in the Swiss Teams and 5 and a half in the Area Pairs.

Porthcawl Congress is being held online 25-27 November. Individual members to be emailed to remind them.

## **North**

Llangollen Congress not going ahead. Simon G reported that no venue was available as they Bryn Howel has been closed.

## **8. Any Other Business**

Paddy suggested that we need online payment and data collection for membership subs. Steve noted that if we rely on WBU members joining individually we would potentially lose 60-70% of our members as despite people wanting to belong to a structured organisation, people still ask 'what has the WBU ever done for us' and don't really understand what is required to provide a national bridge organisation. If we cannot increase interest in competitive bridge, we are getting close to the point where we need to review the role of the WBU. Entries to events are very low and we must all put in more effort to promote and encourage participation.

The WBU's membership cost of Bridge Great Britain seems disproportionate to our membership numbers. We have to pay the same as the bigger NBOs to host an [international](#) event without the same level of resources. Ceri to raise with BGB.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 10:00 by Zoom.