

Draft Minutes of MC 6 December 2022 @ 10am by Zoom

Present: Jean Cufley, Simon Gottschalk, Ceri Pierce, Gilly Clench, Paddy Murphy, Steve Webb, Alas Screen (part)
Apologies: Sophie Cunningham

1. Minutes of last meeting - accepted with minor amendments (typos)

2. **CEO Report – Ceri Pierce**

Kirbalija / Hirst memorial

This is being held by Cardiff Bridge Club and will therefore not be a GP event.

SGM/Subs

An SGM was held to permit the MC to increase subs. It was inquorate - separate minutes have been circulated. A general discussion was held and feedback obtained. General conclusion was that

- a. Generally felt that Subs should be raised
- b. The meeting was split over whether the MC should set the rate or a SGM should be held to set them
- c. Noted - we risk Clubs such as Swansea disaffiliating if subs are raised

A new meeting to be rescheduled on Saturday 14th January at 10:00.

Discussion followed regarding subscriptions :

It was felt that an annual £1 increase was not practical.

It was suggested at the inquorate SGM that some clubs pay for their members to join the WBU and they will not be able to convince their members to pay extra. Social bridge clubs have no interest in being in the WBU. There is currently a big disconnect between club and nations level.

Clubs need to know in January what the subs will be in April.

The WBU is running at a loss at the moment and this cannot continue.

Views ranged from increasing membership to £12 and Masterpoints to 30p To increasing membership to £15 plus 50p for masterpoints.

Proposal is to amend the constitution so that the MC can set subs and therefore set them this year. It is anticipated that this would be £15 to include £1 Area subs.

AS pointed out that if there had been no covid, then subs would have been £15 anyway. It is understandable that the MC should not be allowed to set the subs, but that they could recommend a fee and Council approve them (or not).

Note - Current membership income is 13K pa and current Masterpoint income is around 3K pa.

Some suggestions if income cannot be increased:

- Stop paying for International Bridge
- Structure the union so no Chief Exec required - run by volunteers
- Try to reduce BGB fees so that they are proportionate
- Have ~~a~~A two tier membership system
- Increase Master Points fees (currently 25p - netting approx. 3K)
- Hold more simultaneous pairs events
- Charge for the Geoff Evans League (Gilly to discuss with Liz)

Selectors met on Friday 2nd Dec.

International Events

6 entries received for the LM Trial. Closing date to be extended for late entries. Late entries will be accepted unless it means a half table.

We have a team of 4 juniors plus NPC Soozy Nesom.

Wales are hosting the Teltscher Trophy at the Holiday Inn in Newport in 2023.

Mel has stepped down as junior coordinator. Soozy Nelson has agreed to take on this role and we offer her our thanks.

Stepbridge

Tony H will provide a year-end report on Stepbridge in January. Ticking along nicely in the meantime.

Events

Gordon Rainsford and Ian Payne of the EBU have been approached to see if they can help with advertising - they are discussing with their competitions team. The list of neighbouring counties contacts has~~ve~~ been updated and circulated to all ATOs.

The EBL are holding the transnational winter games in April in Tignes, France.

The Celtic Simultaneous Pairs is taking place at Clubs this week - 6 to 10 December in conjunction with Ecats.

Realbridge are holding an event UK v Australia aimed at clubs. Cardiff is planning to take part.

3. Treasurers Report

A report was circulated beforehand.

As of 30 October 2022, bank balances are as follows:

WBU	£28772.22
StepBridge	£5235.88
Building Society	£65794.76

One outstanding invoice to pay on WBU (£1041.66) and one from Stepbridge (£927.88) both due 1 November 2022. PayPal – still in contact with Neville about access – hope to get it finalised in next week or so.

Agreed that honoraria would be paid.

6. Masterpoints and Membership Report

A report was circulated beforehand

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Membership

Continues at a trickle. Total is 1359 paid up members of the WBU.

Please note that new members pay at reduced rate between Oct-Dec

New members between Jan-March receive 15 months membership

Masterpoints

Awaiting results from recent Green Pointed competitions. It is requested that Area ATO's should be more active in sending in their results to avoid delays. Also waiting for masterpoint awards from other NBOs

One member has requested that his masterpoints from a Spanish Club are accepted by the WBU. This was discussed and it was agreed that it was not feasible to have an arrangement with the Spanish or other European NBOs. Our masterpoint system cannot be changed to accommodate this and the manual process would be too arduous.

Ceri to contact the member to reject the request, with regret, but that it was great to see that someone is so keen to collect masterpoints

7. Presidents Report

Teaching of The West Wales Juniors seems to have fizzled out. Gilly to check what is happening with it.

8. Area Reports

West

Disappointed with the turn out of the Porthcawl Congress. May need to rethink their bridge offering. Some felt that face to face would have been more popular.

North

A meeting is being held with Oliver Cowan regarding running a tournament face to face in a nice hotel. The Laslow may run online and face to face - Paddy to discuss with Steve if they can have a license for this.

Mid

Nothing to report

9. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 10th January at 10:00 by Zoom.