

Minutes of WBU Management Committee

23 January 2023 at 10am by Zoom

Present : Ceri Pierce, Gilly Clench, Steve Webb Paddy Murphy, Steve Jarvis, Simon Gottschalk, Alan Screen, Jean Cufley, Tony Haworth (part), Paul Denning (part)

Apologies: None

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Accepted

2. StepBridge Report – Tony Haworth

Report circulated in advance. Tony talked the meeting through the report.
In summary weekly revenue is £200 for StepBridge UK. Annual Server cost is 5K.
Surplus for the 1st year is approximately 2K.

From April 23-24, StepBridge intend to increase the server charge to 10K pa – we obtained a 50% discount for the 1st year, therefore we will make a loss.

Propose we increase table money to £1.50 and to encourage more people to play on StepBridge, MC members included.

Ceri to call a StepBridge Committee Meeting to discuss – members are Derek Roberts, Ceri Pierce, Tony Haworth, Neville Richards, Alan Screen and Jean Cufley.

Action CP

Steve noted that if master points are required, he would be happy to discuss. In the past no MPs have been issued as the mechanics have been too time consuming. However, Dave Lea has developed software to streamline the process, for which he was thanked.

Thanks were given to the 13 Tournament directors who run the StepBridge sessions and to Derek Roberts for managing the rota. Thanks also to Jean Cufley for managing the accounts and to Neville Richards for managing the website.

CP to arrange meeting with Epko of StepBridge to discuss a reduction of the 10K fee for 2023-24.

Action CP

3. Selectors Report – Paul Denning

There are no European Championships this year as they are held bi-annually.

Camrose – 6 teams entered the trial. It is intended to hold the Premier League for next year and 2 dates are in the diary.

The Welsh Camrose team finished 2nd in the first weekend and the team remains unchanged for the 2nd weekend in 3-5 March in Dublin.

Lady Milne – the trial is to be held this weekend in Llandrindod with 8 pairs entered. Boards will be used from a previous prestigious event and the results scored against the datum from that event.

Junior Camrose – being held in Manchester in February. Wales has one team for the U26 and no Peggy Bayer team (under 19).

Seniors – the Teltscher trophy is being hosted by Wales in Newport at the Holiday Inn. 6 pairs entered the trial and 2 teams required, so the teams were selected from the entrants with no trial held. It was thought that some pairs were put off entering as this event is self-funded and did not want to pay for their hotel if they lived locally.

Agreed that if players have to pay for their hotel themselves, it is not compulsory to stay at the venue. The MC needs to discuss a hardship fund for those who cannot afford it.

It was suggested that the Seniors could be held online to reduce costs.

Jean noted that the Internationals have cost 12K so far with the 2nd Camrose weekend still to come. Fundraising may be required for the WBU to continue to support these events financially.

4. SGM Report – Ceri Pierce

The meeting was quorate and 83% voted for the motion to change the constitution to permit the MC to set the Membership Subs.

Steve W corrected the membership numbers quoted at the meeting to 1385 (not 1700).

Agreed – subs for 23-24 will be set at £15 to include £1 area subscription, with Juniors £1 and direct members £20.

Members may also join an Area directly for £1.

Steve W to inform clubs/members of the rates and also request email details of all members.

Action SW

Congratulations were made for Roy Holmes of Monty Club who will soon be 100 years old.

5. Treasurers Report – Jean Cufley

Bank Balances – WBU Current account stands at £20,711 and StepBridge at £5K.

The Building Society have at last received the signatory letter.

Jean still cannot log in to PayPal – ongoing problem with email address not linked to the account. In order to fix the problem temporarily, Ceri to send a monthly transaction report to Jean.

Action CP

Agreed to switch Stripe payments to automatic and to transfer accumulated fund over to the WBU account.

Action CP

Liz Atkinson has agreed to give permission to the WBU to request £10 donation for the Geoff Evans league which she runs for the enjoyment of all who enter.

The Celtic Sims raised £267 – six clubs played, three from the East and three from the Mid. This event needs more promotion.

6. NTO Report – Simon Gottschalk

The final of the Welsh and Cambria Cups will be held this month. The draw for 2023 was done last week. Again more promotion is required.

The East Wales Congress is being held at Gwent Bridge Academy. An email shot to BESS mailing list has been done and there are 4 tables entered so far with 10-12 expected.

The Lady Milne trials are being held this weekend – there is some concern about the weather, and it will be monitored.

The national pairs in March needs promoting. We need to be able to contact our members directly. We currently have only 780 member emails on the membership database. SG and SW to meet to discuss how an opt-out' flag can be maintained in the membership database and SW membership renewal letter to clubs to be reviewed to request emails...

Action SG and SW

7. Area Reports

West

Tony Haworth has offered to rewrite / update the competition journal.

Swansea Bridge Club concerned that they will be no longer viable in about 1.5 years. Suggested that although the MC sets the subs, that they should be reviewed by the Council.

North

Queried whether the Laszlo can be run as a combined face to face and online event – confirmed that it cannot be done.

A congress will be held in March organised and run by Oliver Cowan – two days pairs and teams. We will monitor the success of this with interest.

Llandudno Swiss Pairs will be held on 1-2 July.

8. Next Meeting

Tuesday 14th February ay 10am by Zoom.