

## Draft Minutes of MC 3 May 2023 @ 10am by Zoom

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

Apologies: Steve Webb

1. **Minutes of last meeting** - accepted

2. **Matters arising**

Stepbridge Committee - £1 was set for the coming year, even though MC approved a raise. Gilly felt this was too low. From 1<sup>st</sup> May masterpoints will be issued which will raise income.

To be raised at the next Stepbridge Meeting. Agreed to invite Tony to the next MC meeting.

It was confirmed that a complaint has been raised with BGB regarding the Junior Camrose and the behaviour of one team.

2. **AGM**

AGM date set for Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 10am before the Perry and Spickett and will be a hybrid meeting - F to F and Zoom. Sophie will facilitate the technical side.

Motions were discussed:

Gilly would like to change eligibility for the Perry and Spickett. At the moment if you are not Welsh or live in Wales you cannot play. Gilly proposed that criteria should be changed so that as long as they are a member they can play as we are struggling to get teams. The teams would still be selected by the Areas and anything that encourages people to play in Welsh events is a positive thing.

To be submitted as a motion at the AGM.

The Presidency next year is due to come from the West. There is no nomination at present. Steve will check if there is a nomination from the West and if not the West will nominate Gilly (who has agreed to this). Some discussion followed and agreed that it would be submitted as a motion at the next AGM that the Presidency runs for up to 3 years.

### 3. CEO Report

#### Juniors

The juniors continue to have positive feedback having played in North Wales recently.

A meeting has been held to co-ordinate support for them. Mark Roderick and Julian Pottage are doing training with them each Thursday and they each have a mentor at Cardiff bridge club to play with them.

The juniors want to also play in Reading. The Selectors training budget will soon be used up and we should consider whether we need a junior development budget in addition to this - the Patrick Jourdain bequest maybe ?

Plans are in progress for East Wales to have a stall at Cardiff Uni for £200 for a day not during Freshers week - the Freshers Fair remains far too expensive at £1,000.

#### Lady Milne

Wales came 4<sup>th</sup> but it could have been any one of 4 teams going into the last match. It was all generally very close with no runaway winner.

#### Insurance

Club / Area insurance has been renewed with Brecon recently asking to be included. Those that have taken out insurance are:

Penarth Bridge Club

Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club

Wrexham Garden Village Bridge Club

Mid Glamorgan Bridge Club

Ynys Mon Bridge Club

Bridgend Duplicate Bridge Club

West Wales Bridge Association

Radnorshire Bridge Club

Chepstow Archway

Tenby Bridge Club

Brecon Bridge Club

### **Teltscher Trophy**

Organisation is underway for the TT in Newport on 19-21 May. Any helpers will be welcomed. Sarah Amos is Chief TD with James Vickers assistant. Ceri is the Match Manager, Mieke Deschepper is the Vugraph Manager.

Screens and boards are being transported down from Crossgates by Alan (who is also dealing the boards) and our huge thanks go to him. Storage of the screens / tables remains a problem.

Jean requested that the invoice amounts for each country are send to her ASAP so that she can issue invoices.

### **BGB**

The AGM is on 9<sup>th</sup> May. We have raised several items :

- Problem with English Junior behaviour towards less experienced players at the Junior Camrose

- Subs / Hosting - cost to be proportionate with membership numbers

- Celtic Nations Team if host country cannot field a 2<sup>nd</sup> team

It was requested if eligibility criteria could be reviewed to include grandparents in line with other sports.

### **Home Internationals**

International funding needs to be discussed in view of our dwindling bank balance - but agreed to postpone until the next meeting, along with other cost cutting / fund raising items.

The cost to the WBU for the Teltscher will be around 2.5K (the players are self funding).

The LM cost approx 7K when we hosted it as we funded 2 teams as well as hosting.

Gilly asked Jean if she could compile a list of International Costs over the last few years so that we know what the outlay is.

Gilly suggested that proportional input to a central fund BGB (which is already on the BGB agenda) - alternatively we miss a cycle.

### **4. President's Report**

Gilly suggested that the Presidents Cup should be renamed as there is another Presidents Cup. Proposed it should be called the Thomas Cup. **Agreed.**

Gilly would like to invite as many clubs as possible to send teams to the Thomas Cup and has put this in the forthcoming newsletter. **Agreed.**

Alan Goodman was the person in Scotland who did all the work on the Charity status. He reported that there were not many benefits of being a charity. One would be we could get gift aid on membership subs but in practice this did not happen.

However he did recommend that we consider becoming a Ltd company. If the WBU were to be sued it is possible that it would be Ceri and Gilly personally who would be liable. However AS/JC thought it would be all members equally that would be liable. This would not be the case if we were a limited company.

Gilly has written a newsletter that will be sent out immanently.

## 5. Treasurers Report

Reports were circulated separately along with the year end accounts for the WBU and Stepbridge.

A loss of £16,699 made in 22-23. Clearly this is not sustainable.

The bank balance stands at 16K and reserves are 66K.

Proposed that there is a meeting to discuss where savings can be made. **Agreed.**

Suggestions

- International funding is reduced

- More SIMs events are run - Paddy to discuss with Anna Gudge and Oliver Cowan

- Players provide their own shirts

- Sponsorship

Stepbridge accounts were circulated beforehand and have been reviewed. **Agreed.**

## 6. NTO Report

A report was circulated beforehand and discussed.

Generally entry to National events has been very poor.

Simon has been working on Communication with members by email. It is hoped that clubs will return member's email addresses when they complete their membership submissions. More info on this will be provided by Steve in due course.

SIM Pairs could be run online and F to F (ECats could be used to facilitate).

Oliver Cowan did a good job of running the NW Bridge Congress and is supporting the Welsh Juniors.

Simon and Tony's bridge talks are wide ranging and are topic based followed by 16 boards or so. Holding one on the first Thursday of the month in Cardiff. Other people have offered to present some as well.

## 7. Area Reports

### West

The West held a recent area teams event with 9 tables.

The John Issacs Cup / AGM (a closed event) expected to be 10-12 tables.

Champion of Champions event will be at Porthcawl (not at the Tumble).

## **Mid**

7.5 tables at their recent Open Pairs event.

## **North**

Llandudno is running 1-2 July.

## **8. AOB**

Email received from Bob Alderdice regarding membership and reduction of membership fees.

He has requested clarification of the half price membership for beginners and improvers which was introduced around 10 years ago.

This was discussed but there is no current policy.

Clarification is needed from Steve Webb. Ceri to email Bob to apologise that Steve was not available to discuss this at the meeting and we will discuss at the next one. We also need more information regarding whether the beginners/improvers are playing in club duplicates or just having lessons.

An email was received from Rod Sheard requesting that the 1 day autumn congress can be increased to 2 days.

**Agreed.** Ceri to email him.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 7th June at 10:30 by Zoom.