

Draft Minutes of MC 7 June 2023 @ 10am by Zoom

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

Apologies: Gilly Clench, Paddy Murphy

1. **Minutes of last meeting** - accepted with minor amendments

2. **Matters arising**

None

2. **AGM**

AGM date is set for Sunday 9th July.

Agreed that the Council Meeting will be at 10am and the AGM at 10.15 before the Perry and Spickett and will be a hybrid meeting - F to F and Zoom. Sophie will facilitate the technical side.

Steve Webb offered his apologies in advance as he will be unable to attend.

We need to add Stepbridge to the Agenda.

Action CP

Motions were circulated and discussed. On one further motion discussed under Treasurers Report:

- Eligibility for the Perry and Spickett. At the moment if you are not Welsh or live in Wales you cannot play. Gilly proposed in the last meeting that criteria should be changed so that as long as they are a member they can play
- The Presidency term to be changed to be up to three years

Nominations for Selectors and L&E committees to be invited.

It was noted that Gilly will not stand for President again. Nominations from the West are sought.

Action SJ

3. CEO Report

Juniors

We have a new junior in Swansea who needs partners to play with. Gilly was hoping that the 3 players at Pembroke college last year would also play - Gilly is trying to make contact with them but we have no email addresses at present.

Gilly hasn't had time to approach the University yet. Will approach the Maths Dept. Steve W offered to help.

Action GC/SW

Crossgates

Crossgates likely to be no longer available in the future and we will need to relocate the equipment. There are 25 new tables that we can offer for sale. We need to obtain photos and sell them. Alan to ask Neville how much they were being sold for.

Action AS

We also have 22 green padded top tables in storage which will need relocating along with boards etc.

A discussion on Bridge Holidays was held - should we be doing them? Further thought required.

It was discussed whether the Home Internationals should be bi-annual? We cannot sustain the cost of Home Internationals as they stand. See Treasurers Report. The net cost to the WBU should be zero. However if players have to pay for themselves, a hardship fund to support people who cannot afford it will be required.

President's Report

A report was read out and discussion ensued. The question was asked whether we can consider issuing Master Point Certificates when people are promoted up a rank as an incentive to players to play in WBU events? Steve W informed the meeting that our system does not support this unfortunately. It produces masterpoints to everyone's personal account but does not notify Steve. Simon G now has read only access to the MP database and may be able to help.

Steve and Simon to discuss further.

5. Treasurers Report

A copy of the Treasurers report was circulated earlier.

The balances are :

WBU Account 30K

Building Soc 66K

The Teltscher Bill has not yet been paid.

The WBF and the EBL bills have not yet been paid which equates to approx. £1 to each organisation per head per member. Jean to chase the WBF to ascertain the accuracy of their bill.

The Building Society needs to be chased to add Jean to the mandate.

A discussion was held as to what we can do to curtail our expenses.

International Expenses were provided by Jean for the last 4 years. Agreed to submit a proposal at the AGM that International players pay their 50% of the associated fees (currently £340) for the Camrose and Lady Milne and receive no travel expenses. This applies to the Teltscher at present and will not apply to the Juniors.

It was noted that no one has claimed travel from the Lady Milne team - this is certainly as a gesture of goodwill and acknowledgement of the WBU financial problems from several of the players.

Steve reported that at the moment we have 1000 members which is lower than ever. The WBU receives approx. £10 a head from members after paying for WBF, EBL and Area subs.

It was noted that International trials are self funded but did not quite cover costs last year. The trials could however be used to fund Internationals. Recommend raising the entry cost to enable a small profit to be made. Simon G to discuss with Selectors.

Action SG

MPM Report

Several clubs have their subs outstanding.

Some clubs have sent money with no lists.

Steve confirmed that half price membership for learners does exist - they get 50% off for 2 years for WBU fees and no area fees. Ceri to inform Bob Alderdice. The information can be found on membership information that was sent out to clubs in Feb.

Action SW/CP

Most clubs are sending back membership emails. Cardiff and Gwent are not providing many email addresses.

Steve pointed out that raising membership was a struggle and we do not know which clubs are going to reaffiliate.

Our only source of income is masterpoints and membership. Events no longer make any money.

It was suggested that we raise money by raising MP income from 25p to 40p or 50p in December. It has to be done manually and is a lot of work and has to be done in December.

40p=£2,800 extra income for 23-24.

Green Points to be discussed at next meeting.

6. NTO Report

A report was circulated beforehand and discussed.

9 tables for Champion of Champions. CP to sign contract.

Gwent has not entered. Steve W will raise with Gwent when he is next there. Chepstow have entered.

Team of 8 has 6 teams entered at present.

Premier League will run over 2 weekends.

7. Area Reports

West

The John Issacs Cup / AGM (a closed event) expected to be 9.5 tables.

Letterston Club has folded and their equipment is being redistributed to other clubs.

Swiss and Bevan dates have been passed on.

Struggling to find a venue at Porthcawl. May be held on line. Want to change it to a Celtic congress and may relocate to Bluestone or Narbeth.

East

Perry - all areas have entered a team.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 5th July - brief meeting at 10:00 by Zoom.