

Draft Minutes of MC 2 August 2023 @ 10am by Zoom

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

1. **Minutes of last MC Meeting** - accepted with amendments
2. **Minutes of Council Meeting** - accepted

Regarding the Masterpoints and Membership database, Steve W raised the point that there is no contingency plan in place if he is no longer around and it would be useful to have a backup and could anyone identify a person who may be interested. Ceri to be trained and act as backup in the meantime.

Action SW/CP

3. **AGM Minutes** - accepted with amendments

Discussion was held regarding constitutional amendments, as they require a vote with two thirds majority.

The amendment regarding eligibility for representation in Area Events cannot be carried as the reworded amendment was circulated after the meeting and was therefore not voted on.
To be confirmed at the next AGM.

The amendment regarding the term of President was however voted for with a large majority and is carried. The term was further discussed at the AGM and a 2nd vote taken as to whether it should be 3 years or indefinite and 3 years was the narrow preference of the meeting.

4. **Competitions**

A report was circulated in advance by Simon. An open discussion was held regarding our competition profile. A further meeting will be held to conclude the discussion and make any outstanding decisions.

a. Prize Money

Prize money was discussed at length following the issue being raised at the AGM.

There were varying views - the West, Mid and East were in favour of no prize money for National Events for several reasons - an increase in entry fee would be required which will deter people from entering and people do not enter for the prize money. Prize money is generally fairly insignificant and would result in potential loss to the organisers. Steve W thought that the Champion of Champions should be different and prize money should go to the club. Simon thought that there cannot be a blanket rule for all events and that we should be charging enough entry money for prizes to be paid.

Agreed - Whilst the WBU (and events) are running at a loss then there should be no prize money for National Events. To be reviewed annually.

b. NTO Report

Steve J (West Wales) commented on NTO report as he had to leave the meeting. His comments were as follows:

He was in favour of Webber and Graded Masters and Welsh foursomes.

Would be very sad to see Llandrindod go as a venue as it is generally a nice place to stay and felt it was a retrograde step to have everything in Cardiff. Simon noted that this is a temporary measure.

Stepbridge - we should consider running competition over the year e.g., best 6 results and we should raise the profile of it.

The Porthcawl congress will be online this year, but hopefully face to face next year. Dates have not yet been determined.

Steve checked that the TD for the Champion of Champion has been paid, which was confirmed.

c. License Fees

Steve W tabled a discussion paper on license fees.

In order to encourage Areas and Congresses to hold events, 12% was charged on INCOME. This is causing problems for the organisers as after they have paid the fee then they are making a loss.

The license fee was increased from 10% to 12% about 15-20 years ago.

One view was that the license fee should be charged on PROFIT not income so that organisers are not put off from running events.

The general view was that the events should be made more successful (financially) and that the license fee should remain.

Paddy commented that venues in North Wales are expensive. The NW congress would run at a £320 loss on that basis. N Wales need the congress to make a profit as they need to raise around £1500 (£500 a year for 3 years) to run the Perry and Spickett every 4 years.

No conclusion reached - to be discussed further.

d. Hirst / Kurbalija Teams

This is held in January at Cardiff Bridge Club - it was discussed whether this could be a GP event. If so, it will need to be run by the Area or the WBU, in which case all entrants need to be a member of an NBO. Steve W noted that this event was supported by Sully players but they were not members.

Ceri to contact Diane and Ann to see if they want it to be a GP event and run as a WBU or Area event.

e. Lady Milne and Premier League

Hybrid events were discussed following a proposal from Andrea Knox. This is where there is one or more tables where a pair (or part of a pair) is playing remotely. The Selectors current position is that the trials should reflect the conditions of the actual event.

Ceri outlined the wider benefits of hybrid events and of having equipment available for other uses such as Vugraph.

Simon's conclusion and recommendation was that the selectors make the decision, which was agreed.

f. East Wales Congress

A TD is required. Sophie to organise.

g. Cambria and Welsh Cup Entry

Proposed that entry fees should be raised to £48 plus £12 per player. (Fees currently set to £40 plus £10 for extra players).

Entries are low. It is quite time consuming for the organisers even though it is held online.

It was agreed that we should consider increasing fees each year to take account of inflation.

h. Other Competitions

Gilly suggested as a money earner, we investigate holding BBO individual daylong events, playing with a robot - just 8 boards here or there. No one knew what was involved in setting this up. To be investigated further.

i. Nat Pairs and Nat Teams

Simon is working on a different set up for these for next year.

j. Champion of Champions

Proposed that entry fees are raised to £30.

k. Teams of 8

Proposed that entry fees raised to £108

l. East / West Wales October congress.

It is the turn of the West to run this congress but they cannot do it this year and it will therefore not be held. (The East and West run this on alternate years).

m. Llandudno Congress

The venue is very good - Simon proposed that WBU offers to pay the congress venue charge so the NWBA can get on with promoting it.

Paddy commented that the cost of the venue is the main problem. What NWBA really need is that there is some kind of insurance that if it runs at a loss that they are covered. People were pleased to see it brought back. This year they had 16/17 tables. Working on a new venue and date.

For further discussion.

n. Llangollen Congress

There is no venue for this at the moment. The Eisteddfod Pavilion venue was suggested as a good venue.

Ceri will make some calls and report back. Help from people on the ground in N Wales would be needed to assist in checking venues due to the distance involved. Provision of tables and equipment and a TD would not be a problem.

m. Master Points

Steve suggested Master Points fees are increased at the end of the year. This is a huge job for Steve as every invoice needs to be amended. Steve's report was read out at the AGM and there were no comments made about increases in Masterpoints fees.

Discussion to be continued at the next meeting.

n. Membership Fees

Steve raised increasing membership fees by £2 for 2024.

Discussion to be continued at the next meeting.

5. AOB

Freshers Fair - a donation of £500 (possibly £400 ex VAT) from the WBU has been requested by Cardiff Bridge Club. The EBU are likely to donate the Fast Track training materials required for follow up lessons.

Gilly has playing cards. There are also some at Pembroke.

Agreed Ceri to inform Glyn at Cardiff Bridge Club

Rod Sheard asked about if there was a delay on issuing Master Points on StepBridge. Paddy to check with Steve W.

Next Meeting

The discussions will be concluded on 23 August at 10am on Zoom.