

Draft Minutes of MC 5 July 2023 @ 10am by Zoom

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

Apologies: Steve Webb

1. Minutes of last meeting - accepted with minor amendments

2. Matters arising

Discussion regarding International Support and the self funding of players was held and it was noted that it should also include European events. It was noted that it places captains in difficulty if players are paying for themselves as there is pressure to play people for a reasonable number of boards.

Discussion ensued about how to raise more money - one option is to raise WBU event table money. We should consider more social congresses / midweek congresses. It was suggested that entries should perhaps be more focussed and be driven through clubs.

It was noted that events are generally poorly attended generally and there seems little interest in national events. These events generally seem to have lost their cachet which seems to be due to the dwindling entries and the fact that nobody wants to play in a 3 or 4 table national event. It was noted that at club level it is a slightly different story and table numbers are rising at some clubs (Cardiff, Llandudno).

Simon did a very good job with the Teams of 8 and Champion of Champions.

The Geoff Evans League is running successfully and we need to explore how that could be used to advantage.

Action CP/GC

Steve W and Simon are working on providing masterpoint promotions so that we can publicise / email them as an incentive to collect more and perhaps encourage more entries.

Action SG/SW

3. Council Members

The following members were identified :

North	Paddy Murphy, Lorrie Murphy, Barry Wennell
West	Steve Jarvis,
East	Sophie Cunningham, (Jennifer, Nalini to be confirmed)
Mid	Alan Screen (Rita, ANO)

The Laws and Ethics and Selectors Committee are approved by the Council.

It was debated whether there is still a need to have a Council now that the membership is much lower than pre-covid. This will be raised at the Council meeting.

4. President

There is no President elect at the moment.

Technically we can run without a President. The MC can nominate someone to chair MC meeting.

Gilly agreed to chair the AGM. The immediate Past President is a member of the Council but not the MC so it was proposed and seconded that Gilly be invited to attend the MC for the next 12 months.

Agreed

In the meantime invitations for a President will be made on the website.

5. AGM Arrangements

Jean will attend by Zoom.

CP to print agenda and Treasurers report (to be sent by Jean).

Zoom facilities all in hand with Sophie.

Gilly to Chair throughout.

AGM date is set for Sunday 9th July at 10.15 following the Council Meeting at 10.00.

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

Stepbridge has been added to the Agenda.

Motions were circulated and discussed.

- 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 for consideration by Council.

6. Masterpoints and Membership Report

Steve's AGM report was circulated in advance of the AGM as he is unable to attend.

7. Treasurers Report

The current balances are :

WBU Account 18K

StepBridge 4K

Building Soc 66K

The WBF has confirmed that their subscription of 2,525 euros is to be paid (for the last 2 years) - this works out as just under 1 euro per member.

The Building Society after 8 months have now added Jean Ceri and Alan to the mandate.

6 memberships have been paid via Stripe. CP to chase Tony H about membership being paid by BACs not Stripe.

Action CP

Premier League is paid via Stripe - 2 have come through with a third to come. Stripe fees are £6.20 (approx. 1.55%).

Jean queried whether they can they be given an option to pay by BACs or Cheque and if they pay by Stripe, then they should pay the excess Stripe administration charge? Agreed to change BESS so that people can pay by BACs not Stripe.

Generally, if all entrants details are send to Jean, she is happy to chase entrants that have not paid.

Simon to show Jean how to log in as an Admin to BESS.

Action SG/JC

Champion of Champion and Teams of 8 invoices have not been received. SG to check if they have been sent.

Action SG

8. NTO Report

A report was provided by Simon but not circulated by CP beforehand. Apologies were made by CP for failing to do this.

Simon sent an email to the membership to list forthcoming events.

The Cambria and Welsh Cup chugging along with no problems.

Simon has been discussing Lady Milne trials being held at a South Wales venue on 20/21 Jan. Opinions from North Wales players are being sought.

The Teltscher Trial dates were suggested to be set for 4/5 Feb.

Premier League - there have been 4 confirmed entries to date .

The Teams of 8 went well. Tumble has been booked for next year. It was a very popular event. It could be possible to hold another heat for the Mid and North.

Champion of Champions went well, although the venue was not great.

The Llandudno Congress had 16 tables. It is not known if the event made a profit. Only 4 pairs from the North played.

The Porthcawl Congress is likely to be held online.

Generally, the tournament situation is not great, although it is encouraging that the events that have run this year have gone well. Simon is looking to add one more viable event to the calendar.

9. Area Reports

Mid The Mid has a team for the Presidents Cup. Norman Turner from the West of Mid Wales is very enthusiastic. Other clubs reluctant to travel.

10. Presidents Report

Gilly was disappointed that we do not have the contact details for the juniors in Pembroke College. Nicky is going to try and find their details via the maths department. There is a junior in Swansea who needs partners to play with.

We have 4 teams entered for the Perry.

The Spickett has been very difficult, but Gilly has scabbled together a team from the North.

Presidents Cup - we have 4 teams, one from the Mid and Gilly persuaded three others to enter, 1 from the West and 2 from the East. Suggested that we change the format for the future and that we scrap the Spickett and have 2 Perry teams from each area, and maybe amalgamate the Mid and the North. The Presidents Cup could become a Club Teams. To be discussed further.

Alan raised the Perry and Spickett funding - need to consider whether players or the Areas in the future will pay the entry fees. At present the Areas pay. The start time of 11am is very early and makes it difficult for people who have to travel.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 19th July - requested that the NTO submits paper to outline plans for the coming year's programme, which will be the main focus of the meeting.