

## Draft Minutes of MC 23 August 2023 @ 10am by Zoom

Present: Jean Cufley, Simon Gottschalk, Ceri Pierce, Sophie Cunningham, Alan Screen.

Apologies : Steve Jarvis, Steve Webb, Gilly Clench.

1. **Minutes of last MC Meeting** - accepted.

2. **Competitions**

**This meeting was held to conclude the discussion regarding our competition profile and to make any outstanding decisions.**

### a. Prize Money

Tony H brought a proposal at the AGM which was considered at the discretion of the President under AOB and according to the constitution is a suggestion rather than a proposal to be voted upon. At the meeting there was a show of hands to gauge opinion but no formal vote was taken and people on Zoom were unable to participate.

At the AGM it was agreed that the MC would discuss and review the situation regarding prize money and written into the competitions journal. This was further considered today and it was noted that this is a matter for the NTO (Simon G) to decide upon with advice taken from the MC if requested.

Simon G indicated that we didn't agree prizes last year. However, he was happy to provide do it this year but that events would have to be costed accordingly. This would mean higher entry fees which many members will be unhappy with as they are already rising due to the seemingly permanent increase in venue charges. Ceri and Simon to discuss further.

It was agreed that this cannot be implemented retrospectively (as there was no prize money announced prior to these events taking place).

### b. NTO Report

Nothing outstanding.

### c. License Fees

Steve W tabled a discussion paper on license fees at the last meeting. The license fee for Green Pointed events is currently 12% charged on income.

Congresses should be run by Areas in a self-sufficient manner. The problems we now encounter are due to lack of numbers.

It was concluded that congresses should continue to be run by Areas in a self-sufficient way and that no change should be made. Areas have sufficient funds to subsidise congresses if required, but the costing of such events needs to be reviewed. Again, venue increases have had an impact and the higher costs are here to stay.

### 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 in their next meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **f. East Wales Congress (Feb)**

Sophie reported that a TD has been appointed.

#### **g. Cambria and Welsh Cup Entry**

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 has contacted BBO regarding individual daylong events, playing with a robot - just 8 boards here or there. Awaiting a reply.

#### **i. Nat Pairs and Nat Teams**

Simon is working on a different set up for these for next year. Date suggested was 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> March but that clashes with the Camrose and the Bath Congress.

AS applauded SG for resurrecting these events.

NTO to organise.

#### **j. Champion of Champions**

Proposed that entry fees are raised to £30. NTO to make decision.

#### **k. Teams of 8**

Proposed that entry fees raised to £108. NTO to make decision.

#### **l. East / West Wales October congress.**

It is the turn of the West to run this congress but they cannot do it this year due to a lack of volunteers and it will therefore not be held. (The East and West run this on alternate years). Sophie indicated that East Wales may take it back in the future if the West continues to struggle, but not this year.

#### **m. Llandudno Congress**

North Wales are working on a new venue and date.

Agreed - as with other congresses, it should be self-sufficient financially. NWBA have approx. 19K in their accounts should it run at a loss, but again it needs to be costed to take account of higher venue charges.

#### **n. Llangollen Congress**

There is no venue for this at the moment. Ceri investigating venues.

#### **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.

Agreed - raise masterpoints from 25p to 40p.

#### **n. Membership Fees**

Steve proposed raised increasing membership fees by £2 for 2024 (£16 plus £1 for areas).

Agreed.

### **5. AOB**

Freshers Fair is being organised by East Wales. - a donation of £500 (possibly £400 ex VAT) from the WBU has been agreed.

Rod Sheard had asked in the last meeting if there was a delay on issuing Master Points on StepBridge. Jean reported that the bills are coming through OK.

Paddy to check with Steve W.

Suggestion has been made from Tony Haworth to add new ranks of \* Grand Master between Grand Master and Premier Grand Master.

Agreed in principle but there may be technical issues. More investigation required and a paper should be submitted to the MC for deliberation.

### **6. CEO Report**

This was circulated beforehand.

#### **a. International Venues**

Despite investigating venues around South Wales, none have been found within the BGB budget for International Events.

Discussions have been held with The Village, St Pierre, Miskin Manor, Heronstone, New House, Celtic Manor, Marriott, Holiday Inn Cardiff amongst others but all are over budget. So we are back to the Holiday Inn, Newport again for the 1<sup>st</sup> Camrose weekend. Ceri needs to discuss the details of this weekend with the HI as it is slightly different to other Internationals as there is no closing dinner and many people may leave on the Sunday which will impact the minimum numbers required.

#### **b. Premier League**

A bidding tray is being sent off to have another 4 made in order to cater for the Premier League (9 teams). Forecast from Simon is for a £1,000 profit (minus the cost of the bidding trays).

There are 9 entries in the PL so far. This should raise around £1,000.

Simon noted that he wants to avoid a clash with the Madeira Congress next year so consideration is being given to changing the dates in 2024.

### **c. Selectors**

The selectors are due to meet on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept. They will discuss the hybrid proposal made by Andrea Knox for trials. Note that if this is agreed (which looks unlikely from the discussion so far) goes ahead it means that we would have equipment to run other hybrid events and also Vugraph equipment.

### **d. IT Matters**

Simon and Steve are working on automating Master Point ranking lists. Simon now has the access he needs to the database in order to extract data and reports from the data base. We have had problems with the server host, Virmach - we now have access to Virmach Support so that we can contact them if there is a problem. Recently the system was down for several days but this was due to a fire in the data centre. We will look to relocate the host to the Wales or the UK over the next year.

The list of IT systems and related subscriptions (domain names etc) is being compiled and access tested following the review held last month. The aim is to have all systems documented so that we are not dependant on one person.

AS suggested that CP SG and TH should visit Neville and sort everything.

### **e. Juniors**

BGB have been approached regarding if we could change the Junior Camrose to U31 but was met with a resounding NO. The EBL have started holding events in this category.

## **7. Treasurers Report**

Jean presented the balances of the WBU accounts which were circulated beforehand :  
As at 12.10 on Tuesday 22 August account balances were:

WBU	£24031.21
StB	£5475.68
MBS	£66.462.44

## **8. Masterpoints and Membership Report**

Circulated beforehand:

### **Membership**

All club returns for 2023 have now been made.

1277 members from approx. 38 clubs including 2 learner groups

(Some clubs have a fluctuating situation)

£1 pp membership sent to areas by treasurer.

### **Masterpoints**

Proposal received from Tony H regarding extension of Masterpoint groups. No objection in principal but it will require rewriting of Rank Calculator program. Ranking of members and list of officials has been updated and placed on website (Thanks to Tony).

Meeting held with Simon G regarding automatic updates and publishing of ranks on website.

Further discussions to take place with SG after our (separate) holidays.

### **9. Next Meeting**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> Sept at the slightly later time of 10.30am.