

Minutes of MC 8 November 2023 @ 10.30 am by Zoom

Present: Jean Cufley, Simon Gottschalk, Ceri Pierce, Steve Webb, Steve Jarvis, Paddy Murphy, Alan Screen.

Apologies : Sophie Cunningham.

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

2. **CEO Report**

Selectors

The selectors are meeting on Tuesday 14th to discuss the selection of the Camrose team but may need more time to go through the boards before making a decision.

Paypal

Ceri now has access as the account 'owner'. Jean has been set up again on the Paypal account and hopefully she will now be able to log in.

Chepstow Archway

Chepstow Club have decreasing membership – now down to 31 and have approached the WBU for help. They are considering dis-affiliating. Steve is meeting with them on zoom – but short of subsidising them, which we are not in a position to do, there is not much that we can offer at present. They are unfortunately not alone as many other clubs have had this experience. It is possible that they could consider merging with another club, as others have already done. Dwindling numbers is a big problem for everyone.

Celtic Sim Pairs

This will run Monday 4th – Thursday 7th December. Please encourage all clubs in your areas to play.

Camrose Jan 5-7 2024 (1st weekend)

This will be held at The Holiday Inn, The Coldra, Newport. Fearghal O'Boyle will be Chief Tournament Director. Ceri will be match manager again and will need assistance transporting tables, dealing boards, and will need lots of Vugraph helpers. Anyone interested in helping, please contact Ceri.

Perry and Spickett

West Wales have requested Perry and Spickett dates. (Since confirmed as 13-14 July at the Halliwell Centre, Carmarthen).

Learners

West Wales have queried the membership subs for their learners for their 1st and 2nd years. Steve W confirmed that we have previously discussed this and the outcome was that learners receive half price WBU membership for 2 years and no area fees. The information can be found on membership information that was sent out to clubs in February.

Masterpoints and membership database

Neville has clarified that all necessary information to make changes to the system had been provided to WBU.

The MC is concerned that WBU does not have (currently identified) the expertise to maintain the system. An enquiry has been made of the EBU regarding outsourcing the MP functions to them.

It is possible that other NBOs will look at this as a solution as well.

3. Treasurer's Report

Monday 6 November 2023 bank balances were:

WBU	£21694.67
StepBridge	£3471.43
Monmouth BS	£66462.44

Item 3 minutes 27 September 2023 – interest rate at Monmouthshire BS is 2.75%.

National Savings and Investments were investigated but are for private individuals only not businesses or clubs. Could not find any account offering 6% on their website.

4. NTO Report

West Wales are hosting the Perry and Spickett in 2024. Dates to be set for either 6-7- July or 13-14 July.

There were 10 tables in the Premier League which was fantastic and should bring in an income of approximately £1,600. This was partly due to the venue being in South Wales. Jean queried what the staffing costs were. These were costs for staff from Cardiff Bridge Club. Frank was a good TD. There are issues with the results which are still being finalised. Catering was very good. Dates will be changed slightly for next year to avoid a clash with the Madeira congress but will be published ASAP.

Tables will go to the Porthcawl lockup. Table cloths have been washed and will be stored in the lockup in a plastic box. Cards and bidding trays will be kept at the Porthcawl lockup.

National Swiss Pairs and Teams will be held on 9/10 March at Cardiff Bridge Club. All areas are asked to promote and support this. Players must be WBU members. Simon would like to offer prize money which we have previously agreed is up to the tournament organiser.

5. MP&M Report

We are entering into discussions with a 3rd party to provide our masterpoints and membership database as identified earlier in the meeting.

6. Area Reports

West Wales Vince Bevan event was only 6 tables which was disappointing.
Porthcawl congress entries are very poor and may not run.
Porthcawl club has closed (they were down to 12 members)– most players have gone to the Rest Bay Club. West Wales have purchased the dealing machine.
Bob is concerned that Swansea may not reaffiliate when he steps down. Steve has sent emails to Swansea in the past and have had no issues with renewal.
We would ask that members should be encouraged to support the WBU – it is the overarching national body for Bridge in Wales and provides an infrastructure and regulations necessary to govern bridge and retain a national identity.
Steve J believes that the Porthcawl congress bank account was closed and assets transferred To WWBA. Steve J to confirm.
Simon noted that all Rest Bay club members are also WBU members and it is possible that they may re-join as a club.
Ceri and Simon to send out an email mail shot for the Porthcawl congress and will include the Catherine Spalding in North Wales as well.
Oliver Cowan is promoting and organising the face to face Porthcawl Congress in 2024.

East Wales Student group running successfully. There are now two nights of lessons – Tuesdays and Wednesdays

7. AOB

EBL bi-annual conference will be held in February 2024. Ceri suggested that if she attends then she should pay her own airfare and expenses due to the financial position of the WBU. It was agreed that Mia Deschepper also be invited to attend as our Women's Co-ordinator (also at her own expense) as the focus of the conference this year will be Women's Bridge.

8. Next Meeting

6th December 2023 at 10am.