

## Minutes of Management Committee 6 December 2023 @ 10.00 am by Zoom

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

1. **Apologies** - Steve Webb
2. **Minutes of last MC Meeting** - accepted.
3. **Chairman**

It was agreed that Alan would chair our meetings until the next AGM

### 4. **AGM**

It was agreed that the AGM should be on Zoom. Hybrid worked well in Llandrindod but was very difficult at Newport this year. Therefore, no venue is required.

**Date agreed 2 June at 11am by Zoom.**

Constitutional changes – a motion to abolish Council is to be put forward at the AGM. It was felt that the WBU is no longer a big enough organisation to maintain a 2-tier management structure. The areas are already represented at the Management Committee.

Ceri to prepare motions for the AGM.

#### **Action CP**

President – the next President is to be proposed by North Wales.

### 5. **CEO Report**

#### **Premier League**

Problems with the PL results have now been resolved and final results are on the WBU Bridgewebs website. Steps have been taken to ensure that the same problem does not happen again and teams will be asked to check scores and line ups after each match.

#### **Masterpoints Database**

The EBU are still investigating if they are able to provide an outsource service for masterpoints administration to the WBU.

#### **Camrose 1**

The Selectors have picked Julian Pottage and Tony Ratcliffe, Tim Rees and John Salisbury, Dafydd Jones and Adam Dunn for the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend. No reserve pair was selected.

Organisation for the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend is underway. Fearghal O'Boyle is Chief TD and Liz Atkinson is Assistant TD. Ceri is Match Manager. We will need lots of local volunteers to help with Vugraph. If you are reading this, please help out – contact Ceri !

Alan is dealing the boards which will need transporting from Mid Wales.

We will need laptops for the Vugraph Operators and to connect to the TV in the bar for spectators, so if any laptops can be commandeered for the weekend from Cardiff/Newport, again, please let Ceri know.

#### **Women**

There is a WBF Women's bridge event being run 16-18 Feb for which we hope one or two teams will enter. All participants must be registered with the WBF. Entry is just 40 euros per team of up to 6 players.

The Women's EBL training is continuing and we usually have 2 teams of 4 entered.

### **Juniors**

Freshers' lessons are doing very well. Numbers have increased as word has spread, and are now running over 2 sessions a week. There are enough volunteers to run the sessions. Our thanks go to all concerned.

We will have both a Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer team this year to play in Belfast following the success of the recruitment drive at Cardiff Uni and the support provided by Cardiff Bridge Club.

A discussion was held regarding funding for both teams. Agreed that this both teams will be funded but parents would be asked to self-fund. This will cost around 5K.

Suggest that we have 1 NPC for both teams in order to keep costs down – this will need to be confirmed with the Selectors. There may be safeguarding issues as one member is 15.

There is a Junior Online game on RealBridge on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec which is free.

There is a residential summer camp at Cheltenham Bridge Club. Agreed that we would fund juniors to attend this. The cost is £80 per head.

Simon suggested that maybe we should run a Junior Bridge Sims. Agreed that the St Davids Day SIM would be for Junior funding and Simon to pursue holding an annual SIMs specifically to fund Junior events.

### **Action SG**

Paddy suggested that as Oliver Cowan is supporting the WBU we could ask him to run a fund-raising event for us online. We could also approach the WBU membership for contributions to support our juniors. The EBU has been very successful in this.

Simon to approach Oliver (and copy Paddy in).

It was queried what has happened to the Patrick Jordain fund and the Junior fund – these were merged into the main accounts several years ago. Note: the PJ bequest was “non-specific” and Junior Funds have always been part of main account but “ring fenced”. The WBU is committed to funding all Junior Bridge as necessary or appropriate.

### **Action SG**

Ceri to pursue the WBU website appeal. Donations to be paid direct to the WBU bank account via BACs.

### **Action CP**

Sophie to investigate crowd funding.

### **Action SC**

### **Mixed Teams**

BGB have put Mixed Teams on the agenda. The suggestion is that there is a Mixed Series along with the Camrose, LM etc. as Mixed Teams are rising in popularity. It is recognised that this would add more financial burden on the host country. The MC are to consider this more fully.

### **Action All**

### **TD Training**

Tony Haworth is running a TD course in Knighton 3-4 Feb. There are a few places left if anyone is interested.

### **Supplies**

Requests for WBU stationery / cards were invited as we are about to start sourcing suppliers. Alan to check whether he has any WBU scorecards left for the Camrose. We have no playing cards left. Ceri to source cards with barcodes as most dealing machines in our clubs need these.

## Action CP

### 6. Treasurer's Report

A report was circulated beforehand. Balances stand at:

WBU	£20,271.64
StepBridge	£4,296.43
MBS	£66,462.44

There is around 10K to pay out between now and the end of March for honoraria payments and admin (CEO). 12K in January for the Camrose and 5K for the Junior Camrose in February. Funds are dwindling quickly.

Invoices to be sent out to the other NBOs ASAP for the Camrose to recover the outgoings - Ceri to send details of attendees for each country for Jean to raise the invoices as soon as they are known.

Money has been received from Wrexham bridge club for the Sims Pairs played on Monday. Well done Wrexham on a speedy turnaround.

The Premier League profit is around £1,500 with £1,681.42p total income from competitions this year.

Entry fees need to be reviewed – EBU charge on average £40 / day for events and Counties £25 / day. We clearly need to have higher fees if events are to generate income for the WBU.

### 7. NTO Report

A report was circulated beforehand.

NATIONAL MIXED PAIRS (Gwent Bridge Academy) 28/04/2024 - We currently have 0 pairs entered.  
<https://www.msg.uk.com/bess/?eventcode=WBUNMP24>

PERRY SPICKETT – WEST WALES 13 & 14 JULY 2024 The Halliwell Centre SA31 3EP Carmarthen  
<https://venuewales.co.uk/meet/halliwell-2/>

2024 EWBA FEBRUARY CONGRESS - 10-11 FEB – Gwent Bridge Academy, TD Sarah Amos.

2024 CAMBRIA & WELSH CUP - FEBRUARY START – Entry forms are on the website.

2024 CLUB TEAMS OF 8 - 16TH JUNE TUMBLE – Entry Fee £96 per team. TD Dave Nicklin.

2024 CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS - 23 JUNE - Porthcawl Bridge Club – Entry Fee £30 per pair DIRECTOR: Amos.

The Premier League dates are problematic - we cannot do the dates advertised for 2024 as the Weston Congress has moved.

Alternative dates to be reviewed. Ceri and Simon to discuss further.

### Action CP/SG

The Hirst / Kirbalija Teams is filling up.

Lady Milne Trials - 2 pairs entered so far. 8 expected. Closing date is 20 Dec 2023.

Teltscher Trials – no pairs entered so far.

National Pairs and Teams weekend is all set up.

Perry Spickett dates have been set for 13-14 July.

East Wales Feb congress in progress. TD to be confirmed.

Cambria and Welsh Cup events – entry forms are on the website

Teams of 8 in progress.

Champ of Champs in progress.

None of our events apart from the PL make a profit.

Entry fees were discussed and agreed that they should be realistic. The Teams of 8 entry fee is the same as it was 20 years ago. With outgoings of 20K over the next few months and a reserve of around 3 times that, we will have a problem.

It was noted that we need to keep contact with juniors and it is important to keep a mailing list.

## **8. Membership and Masterpoints**

No report – Steve has been unwell.

## **9. Area Reports**

**West** – Porthcawl online – entries were disappointing. 8 tables participated in the teams. There were not enough entries to run the pairs.

It was confirmed that residual funds from the Porthcawl Congress had been transferred to the West Wales coffers when the congress subcommittee disbanded.

The Halliwell Centre has been booked for the Perry and Spickett. Lee Collier has volunteered to provide refreshments. Accommodation is available on-site.

It has been traditional for the host Area to provide an evening meal on the Saturday and a buffet on Sunday. Area Congresses have dwindled meaning Area funds have decreased. Alternative options such as Players (or their Area) paying an entry fee must be considered. Steve to obtain DBB prices for review. The teams from the North will need to stay on Friday as well. Charges to be discussed. Paddy would not want to see the President's Cup disappear.

To be put on the agenda for the next meeting following discussion.

**North** - Paddy apologised that he did not enter the Porthcawl congress.

Wrexham paid quickly as Frank is an accountant and are very good at running Sim Pairs.

**Mid** – Open Pairs had 6 tables. Online teams had 6 teams and another session planned in January.

## **10. AOB**

Tim Rees has agreed to be a selector. The MC supported this appointment. The East need to propose him.

**Action SC**

The Calendar on the website is not working very well and there are not many dates on it. Ceri to raise with Webmaster.

**Action CP**

## **11. Next Meeting**

7th Feb 2024 at 10am by Zoom.