

## **Minutes of Management Committee 7 February 2024 @ 10.00 am by Zoom**

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

1. **Apologies – None.**
2. **Minutes of last MC Meeting - accepted.**
3. **Matters Arising – none that are not already covered by the agenda.**
4. **Reports Circulated in Advance**

Reports were circulated by the CEO, Treasurer and West Wales. There were no queries.

### **5. Membership 2024-25**

Rates for membership for 2024-25 were agreed by email prior to the meeting at £20 for members joining through a club (£2 of which is the Area subscription) and £25 for direct members..

Letters of renewal have been sent out to clubs and they have the opportunity to amend membership lists as appropriate. Email addresses of members have been requested. The website has been updated with the new rates.

### **6. Camrose Feedback**

All went well at the Camrose weekend, but The Holiday Inn food was not up to scratch. Alternative venues being investigated but none come within budget. Areas were asked if they had venues and local volunteers so that the Home Internationals were not always held in South Wales.

The Junior Camrose next year will be particularly challenging as the rates are even lower. The Halls of Residence in Newport were used last time Wales hosted it. Ceri will start investigating.

### **7. Junior Camrose / International Matters**

There will be both a Peggy Bayer and a Junior Camrose team playing in Dublin this year. Sooz Neesom is NPC for both teams. A floating pair and a floating player has been permitted by BGB.

The MC considered and noted various complaints and issues regarding the European Mixed Teams, Lady Milne and Teltscher Trophy trials and the selections of those teams.

It was agreed that the criteria for applications to enter an event needs to be published well in advance along with the selection criteria. Changing criteria for entry should be avoided, but a rare exception could be made to add a pair thus avoiding a half table.

It was noted that the Selectors blog and communication could be improved. It should also ideally have a highlighted block to Selection matters on the front page of the website.

### **8. StepBridge**

A small loss is expected in the current financial year and steps are being taken for next year. Masterpoint income from StepBridge is £50 per month on average.

### **9. Lady Milne and Teltscher Trials – Financial Report**

Simon is still awaiting TD costs - expected to be 294.30 The Lady Milne trial made a small loss. Simon will send a Profit and Loss statement to Jean.

The Treasurer is awaiting costs for the Teltscher trial. This is also expected to make a small loss.

It was noted that it is not really viable to run a trial with less than four tables.

#### **10. AGM**

Ceri is drafting the constitution changes regarding the proposal for the cessation of Council. To be circulated when complete.

#### **11. President 2024-25**

The North nominated Andrea Knox as President for next year.

#### **12. Mixed Teams (BGB)**

Views were canvassed from the committee regarding the introduction of a Mixed Teams event in the Home International series by BGB. Julian Pottage wrote about it at some length on Facebook etc and polled opinions from bridge players across the UK. Discussion followed.

Agreed : In principle it is a great idea as Mixed Teams is clearly growing in popularity across Europe, but it has an extra cost and it is an extra event to organise which requires volunteers and lots of work. It also raises the issue of finding venues near an airport in Wales. It was suggested that maybe the whole series could be run in Manchester, as they seem to have all the facilities necessary. Ceri to progress with BGB.

#### **13. Newsletter**

Paul Lamford has kindly agreed to re-start the newsletter. It will be published online, three times a year – after the Camrose, after the Europeans and after the Premier League. It was noted that there have been problems in the past reaching members. Estimate that we have 500 or so valid email addresses on the mailing list at the moment – so just under about half of the membership. We are reliant on Clubs to distribute the newsletter to its members. Emails of members have been requested – some clubs will send them, some won't.

The ATOs are requested to send Paul results and forthcoming events by a deadline before publication of each . The newsletter has been difficult to produce in the past as the editor spent more time chasing for copy rather than doing the newsletter. Its success depends on timely and regular contributions. Some senior players (Paul Denning and Richard Plackett) have offered to submit articles.

#### **14. Fundraising / Crowdfunding**

Being progressed by Sophie.

#### **15. AOB**

##### **Accommodation in Cardiff.**

The Teltscher trial clashed with the Wales v Scotland rugby match this year, which affected the price of rooms in Cardiff. It was agreed that we would try and avoid rugby matches in future, although it is impossible to avoid everything in Wales eg Westlife Concerts etc

Gilly asked that players refer to Cardiff Bridge Club if they are struggling with accommodation because lots of local people can put them up. However it was acknowledged that not everyone likes staying in people's houses.

##### **European Funding**

Payment of entry fees to the Europeans was raised by a member. After discussion it was agreed that it was not possible to fund this event this year, as the WBU is forecast to make a loss. This is the first year that the WBU has not paid the entry fee for at least one team.

### **What Has the WBU Ever Done for Us?**

This question is often asked, especially at subscription renewal time. Ceri has prepared a 'What does the WBU do for Us?' document. To be published on the website prominently. A similar document was published on the forum last year.

### **North Wales**

Two clubs in North Wales have disaffiliated.

The last congress in the North did not make a profit. They queried if it is possible to convert the licence for the Green Point October weekend into 2 one day licences.

**Agreed – The weekend congress can be split into 2 one day licences.**

In the past we have charged licence fees on total income – discussion required whether licence fees (12%) should be charged on profit instead of entry fees. Steve proposed it be charged only on profit. Ceri Jean and Steve to discuss with Area treasurers and advise. May be better to reduce the fee.

**Action SW CP JC**

### **West Wales**

It was confirmed that there will be a Presidents Cup event at the Perry and Spickett.

**Agreed that we will remove the master point criteria and increase the number of entries.** The aim is have as many club players enter as possible and experience a weekend event.

West Wales confirmed the number of entries with the other areas and will go ahead and pay the deposit on the venue.

### **16. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 13th March at 10am by Zoom.