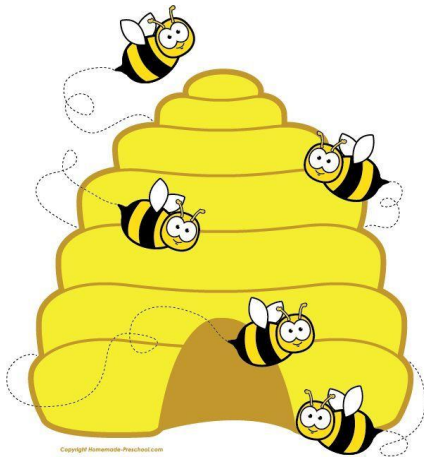


WHAT HAS THE WBU EVER DONE FOR YOU?

From time to time someone asks “What does the WBU actually do?”

Well, there is a surprising range of activities going on behind the scenes, carried out by elected officers, representatives from each area and a part-time Chief Executive. Most of this is carried out on a voluntary basis; only the administrative services carried out through the Chief Executive are paid for; the Treasurer, National Tournament Organiser, Masterpoints & Membership Secretary, Webmaster, and Junior Co-ordinator are offered a small honorarium to compensate them for the time they commit to the running of the organisation.



By joining the WBU you are supporting the whole administration and governance of club bridge in Wales. The money does not disappear into a black hole or - as a few seem to believe – go to pay the expenses of our international teams. At international level all players, with the exception of the Juniors, now mainly pay their own expenses for international events. This year, for example, it will cost each player £2,000-£3,000 of their own money to play in the European Championships. We feel that it is important for Wales to be represented as an independent nation on the international stage: think of

Gareth Bale, whose international expenses are largely funded by the subs and match fees of amateur footballers in local weekend leagues. We should be just as proud of our international bridge-players.

To give you an idea of some of the work that goes on behind the scenes (and where your subs are going), below is a list of WBU activities in no particular order.

We cannot do many of these without an army of enthusiastic volunteers, some for year-round jobs, some for short-term projects such as match-management. We would love to do more, especially providing bridge teaching in schools, but can't do it without your help.

Finally, what would *you* like the WBU to do? We are here to listen.



The WBU ...

- is the national body for the governance of bridge in Wales
- is a member of Bridge Great Britain, which governs the Home International series
- is a member organisation of the European Bridge League
- is a member organisation of the World Bridge Federation
- holds Management Committee meetings on average once a month
- administers membership of the Union, via the clubs, and also for direct members
- issues master point licences and awards
- maintains the masterpoints database - their own masterpoint records
- maintains a national ranking scheme
- organises tournaments and congresses
- runs National competitions
- organises simultaneous pairs
- emails members about forthcoming events and other important information
- maintains online platforms on Stepbridge, BBO, and RealBridge
- provides training for Tournament Directors
- provides teaching materials free of charge
- supports clubs with grants for equipment
- provides discounted insurance policies for clubs
- organises international representation (Open, Women, Mixed, Seniors, and Juniors)
- appoints a Selection Committee which meets on average eight times a year
- appoints a Laws & Ethics Committee which meets as required
- runs national trials
- provides training and coaching for aspiring players, in particular the Junior and Women's national teams
- appoints and funds a Junior co-ordinator to develop and administer Junior bridge
- funds recruitment of Juniors at Freshers' Fairs
- appoints a Women's coordinator to develop and administer Women's bridge and manage participation in EBL Women's training events
- runs a monthly Women's IMP pairs event and training program
- publishes a newsletter/blog
- manages the organisation's finances and reports to HMRC
- runs a website, updated several times a week
- runs StepBridge UK, including UK-wide events three times a week
- organises and hosts Home Internationals
- provides online entry forms for national events
- maintains and publishes details of clubs in Wales, their locations and playing times and contact information
- procures stationery, law books, and equipment
- provides a bridge community
- provides free online and face-to-face seminars

If you would like to know more about any of these activities, or have the skills (and time, of course) to help us run them and even improve them, please let us know. We value every single contribution our members make.



