

**Management Committee**  
**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 11.00 by Zoom**

Present : Andrea Knox, Ceri Pierce, Mia Deschepper, Alan Screen, Paddy Murphy (part), Simon Gottschalk and Gilly Clench (both invited to join at 11.15)

1. Apologies – Steve Webb, Jean Cufley
2. MC Formalities
  - a. Attendance at MC meetings for non-MC members  
Agreed that the officer posts of Masterpoints and Membership Secretary, (Interim) National Tournament Organiser and Immediate Past President would be invited to join the Management Committee for a trial period of three months. These would be non-voting positions but their views will be taken into consideration.
  - b. Appointment of the Chair  
Andrea Knox was appointed as chairman of the Management Committee

Simon and Gilly joined the meeting.

The basis of invitation was explained to Simon and Gilly (that the appointments were of the relevant officeholders in that capacity) and that the intention is that on the MC each post will carry out a function. The NTO and Masterpoints and Membership function was clear.

Mia noted that the EWBA proposal was to limit committees and form functional working groups.

Andrea flagged up that these meetings are highly confidential especially when relating to individuals.

3. Working Groups

Andrea has already received many emails from people offering to help.

The structure of the possible functional groups that could be set up was discussed at length along with the scope and goals for each of these groups, and people who have offered to help already or we would like to approach for help. (This does not exclude others who wish to step forward). Discussion to be continued and all offers of help will be most welcome.

This will be discussed again at the next MC meeting following which a summary of what is being proposed will be announced along with an invitation for volunteers to assist.

4. Crowdfunding

Sophie Cunningham has created a crowdfunding page for youth bridge, the funds raised from which would be ringfenced in the WBU accounts.

Sophie's proposal was agreed. She will discuss the accounting of the scheme with the Treasurer and Sophie will be responsible for running it and will have full autonomy over what "youth bridge" purpose the funds raised are spent on.

## 5. AOB

The President would like to know Gilly 's proposed role and an initial role suggested was assisting in finding volunteers. Gilly is an all-rounder with many contacts and skills so can be active on several fronts. Gilly to give this her consideration as to how she can best help.

Gilly raised an idea regarding reducing the cost to players for Internationals – maybe changing the perspective of it and provide a light lunch for non-resident players, but they pay for their evening meal (if they wish to stay for it) and find their own accommodation. This was discussed. It has already been raised with BGB and the 'entry' fee has been raised to £400 as all NBOs were finding it difficult to meet the existing limit of £340 for a residential entry. If players chose to be non-residents it would potentially reduce their costs as they would only need pay for lunch and 'table money', but it could raise problems for the organising NBO where the host negotiates hotel rates based on minimum numbers. Also, BGB is keen that everyone stays at the same hotel to maintain the whole ethos of the Home Internationals. It was noted that when Wales hosted, there was a non-residential rate available for players who lived locally.

Andrea has provided four new laptops that will be programmed with easy links to bridge playing platforms and can be used for WBU hybrid events and will be approaching Sarah Amos with a view to testing this as Sarah has previously confirmed this is now possible. The laptops will also be available for training / Vugraph etc. The meeting thanked Andrea for this generous contribution.

## 6. Next Meeting

21<sup>st</sup> June at 11am

- To receive feedback from the Focus meetings
- To discuss and determine a summary of what each functional group can do to best assist the WBU before members are approached to volunteer to help in achieving this