

**Management Committee Meeting (Part 1)**  
**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 11.00 by Zoom**

Present: Andrea Knox, Ceri Pierce, Mia Deschepper, Alan Screen, Gilly Clench Steve Jarvis, Jean Cufley, Paddy Murphy, Sooz Neesom (part), Jean Cufley

Apologies: Steve Webb

1. Juniors

Andrea thanked Sooz for joining the meeting. She would like to know what she does and how we can help.

Sooz provided an update for the meeting:

We currently have 12 juniors – 10 students from Cardiff University plus one other from West Wales and his sister who is keen to learn but there is no teaching available at the moment.

Next year Sooz anticipates that there will be one Junior Camrose team and two Peggy Bayer teams, assuming that we recruit more students this year at the Cardiff University Freshers Fair. Wales is hosting.

The students are all learning the 2/1 system – Mark R provides training for them every Thursday,

An application to become a society at Cardiff University was submitted before Easter and we are still awaiting a response. The application was submitted by one of the juniors as Sooz will no longer be a student there next year. There are two days for societies at the Freshers Fair – we will attend one day (which is the norm). The students will run the stand, which seems to work best.

Packs will be provided at the fair - Simon G has ordered 200 packs of cards and Andrea is organising a minibridge leaflet.

With regards to follow up lessons after the Freshers Fair, at the first taster lesson held last year, we had 30 people attend though that reduced after a few weeks. Last year we ran lessons based on the Fast Track EBU programme at Cardiff Club. EBED donated the books. This year all involved are happy to repeat this – but lessons may be run at the University and students encouraged to come to the bridge club.

The University will need to confirm that we are a society before we can book the stand at the Freshers Fair. Andrea will send an email to the Societies people and the Freshers Fair people to coordinate the two departments and to chase it up.

**Action AK**

Andrea has asked all the juniors for a small biography and photo. Only one has responded so far – Sooz will chase them.

**Action SN**

All of the juniors (apart from the two in West Wales) are based in Cardiff during term time. Outside of term time, most live in England, some abroad. The two in West Wales live in Carmarthenshire.

Mia suggested contacting the other home unions to consider a monthly event. She suggested contacting Thomas McCormack.

**Action SN**

Julian has also been providing training to the Juniors which is also open to NI and Scotland. Only one non-Welsh player has been involved so far.

The meeting asked if there is there a plan in place to keep the students in the Welsh Bridge family once they leave. They are eligible to play for Wales for as long as they like and we need to encourage them to do so once they finish at Cardiff University.

Andrea would like some positive engagement from the juniors as we are investing so much in them.

Sooz reported that we are also looking at going into schools / FE colleges. James Brindle tried to engage with St Davids college but made no progress. Printing leaflets would be a good thing as they could be distributed at these establishments.

Sooz noted that we also need people outside Cardiff to help provide training. Gilly suggested that we contact three people in the West (she will send Sooz their emails) who have provided training in the past at Swansea University and Pembroke college.

Steve J mentioned that there is a drive to get a fourth Presidents Cup team together and it would be nice if the juniors (especially the one from West Wales) could play in it? Sooz will contact the juniors to see if they can make up a team. Mia will also contact Cowbridge as two pairs from there had also expressed an interest. Alan may have one pair from the Mid. Alan, Mia and Sooz to co-ordinate with each other regarding this.

**Action AS/SN/MD**

2. National Tournament Calendar and possible formation of a sub-group to run tournaments

Andrea was keen for the MC to consider forming a group for organising tournaments following the suggestion by EWBA. She was very positive about this. She envisages a 'job spec' and accountability but with a free rein to achieve the agreed objectives as they wish. Andrea shared some emails from a member who had offered to help for consideration and discussion at the next MC meeting.

Mia noted that we have a problem with competitive bridge and we have to accept that there are a limited number of players now. It is nobody's fault and we should stop trying to find someone to blame. The situation is the same the other NBOs.

Andrea asked if Simon G would send his thoughts to the Management Committee about a week before the next so that everyone's views could be sought.

**Action SG**

Steve Jarvis noted that the Porthcawl congress was being organised in two parts – a Green Point event and a holiday event running alongside it – it was interesting that most entries so far have been for the holiday congress. It was noted that all entries need to come through one point (BESS) in order to manage entries effectively. Steve will ensure that this happens and any entries received directly are logged in BESS.

Simon needs feedback from WWBA treasurer to match up payments made by BACs transfer.

**Action SJ**

### **3. President's new events**

A new fun event proposed by Andrea was discussed and approved. Details will remain a secret until the launch in the magazine – watch this space! The date of the event was agreed to be the end of January 2025.

The meeting ended at 12.00 and will reconvene at 3pm.