

Management Committee Meeting Part 2
Wednesday 21st June at 15.00 by Zoom

Present: Andrea Knox, Ceri Pierce, Mia Deschepper, Alan Screen, Gilly Clench Steve Jarvis, Alan Screen, Jean Cufley, Paddy Murphy.

Apologies: Steve Webb

1. Teaching / Trainer Register

All agreed on the importance of teaching in order to recruit new players. Views were sought on whether bridge lessons should be chargeable – there were a variety of views.

It was also agreed that we need a register of teachers and classes.
Areas to collect details of teachers and courses. Ceri to compile a central list.

Action CP/SJ/MD/PM/AS

Gilly suggested that we should run courses in conjunction with local authorities as they will advertise them very widely.

We need a schedule of what we offer and publish it, then publicise it – e.g. local newspapers.

2 Director Training and Bridge Teaching courses for clubs

How should we offer this to the clubs? Andrea would like to offer this to each region each year either free or with minimal costs. Andrea to check with David Stevenson if he still does it.

Action AK

Cardiff bridge club has been paying for people to learn to teach bridge (EBED) and also to attend the EBU / WBU TD courses.

It was discussed if we should we have a WBU Chief TD – agreed that Sarah Amos be invited to take up this role. It was noted that we also need to standardise on scoring platforms.

Tony H has proposed an accreditation system for TDs similar to the EBU scheme where we have accreditation along the lines of:

- Chief Tournament Director (an honorary title).
- National Directors
- Area Directors
- Club Directors
- Online Directors

The aim is to have a TD directory available on the website.

Andrea to discuss further with Tony for details of accreditation and communicate our discussion to him.

Action AK

3. Budget - President's targets

Andrea said that whilst she doesn't want the WBU to lose money, it is OK to do so if it is an intentional decision – e.g. investment in increasing members.

We currently have 68K in assets – it would not be an issue if this dipped to 60K.

All payments going out will be reviewed over the next few months.

RealBridge costs were discussed (40p per player for up to 40 boards). It is planned that the new event will be run for free, sponsored by the President, for which her generosity was thanked.

4. Focus Group feedback and next dates

Ceri outlined the feedback from the focus groups.

The first discussion focussed mainly on the fact that the WBU wants to engage local clubs and players, but the numbers playing competitive bridge have dropped significantly. 80% of club players are not interested in Master Points, or turning up for events other than their usual club day/night. It was interesting that a Northern Irish person who had been to similar discussions with the other home unions and had found that they all had the same experience and problems.

Key take-away points from the meetings were summarised as follows:

Meeting 1

- **We want to get clubs involved**
- **We want to engage local clubs in tournaments / holidays**
- **We want to make bridge more fun**
- **We need to engage people on social media**
- **Players are getting older and we will face a tsunami of club closures as they die out**
- **We need new players!!!**
- **We want to make the magazine about clubs and people**
- **We need to look at the geographical location of events – perhaps pro rata event venues to membership in each area**
- **We need to look at hybrid events / more online events**
- **We need to talk to the other NBOs and find out what works and what doesn't work**
- **We would like our members email addresses**

Meeting 2

- **Teaching is key to our future**
- **A project is underway to teach Grandparents/ Parents and their children minibridge – one session over the holidays**
- **Kits are being put together**
- **Fasttrack bridge over a weekend an option for working people**
- **We should look into Lottery funding**
- **DBS checks available from Powys – free for volunteers**
- **What are we doing for Clubs? – TD books and training – new fun event**
- **Masterpoint promotions should be celebrated**
- **How do we increase entries? E.g. to Welsh and Cambria Cup – why are teams no longer entering?**
- **What groups are we setting up and what will their function be?**

- **Teaching, teaching materials and supported play model to be established and rolled out to other areas**
- **Need a register of teachers**
- **Could involve Golf Clubs and the U3A in teaching**
- **We need new players!!!**
- **EBL style training sessions – where you play some hands then an expert does a talk at the end.**

An observation was made that lots of these activities will happen at club level and it is not clear where the WBU would fit in.

Further focus groups have been set up for Monday 15th July at 7pm and Thursday 29th August at 11am. All are welcome.

5. Youth and Patrick Jordain Legacy Project

There has been a query from one of the members regarding the Patrick Jourdain legacy – Andrea confirmed that no conditions were laid down on how the money he left should be spent in his will.

It was agreed that we should allocate this money to a project that celebrates his legacy.

Suggestions were discussed:

In the Camrose there is already a PJ trophy for the Scotland and Wales match – we could the same for the Junior Camrose Scotland Wales match.

We could have an online version of the Patrick Jourdain Invitational Pairs where 50% Welsh players and 50% International players from around the world are invited to play. This would be a great event for people to watch online and would be very respectful to his memory. It would also provide our international players with really good experience. To be discussed further.

Another view was that we should be concentrating on the bulk of our club members.

Paddy noted that it is very difficult to know what majority of members want and also how we make money from it. We need to co-ordinate with clubs – but they can run these very local events themselves, not the WBU.

Paddy informed the meeting that NWBA are holding a one-day Swiss Pairs with Oliver Cowan – only two Welsh Pairs have entered (but it does clash with the European Championships). The Area will make around £500-£800 and the WBU will make around £200 from it. NWBA needs to run these events to cover the cost of supporting their players in the Perry and Spickett.

There doesn't seem to be much interest from Welsh people. Ceri will do an email shot to try and encourage more Welsh people to enter.

Action CP

(Simon and Alan left the meeting).

6. Grandparents / parents course - formal backing

There is a proposal to have a session in the school holidays to teach minibridge to grandparents/parents and their children.

Andrea is putting kits together and will be speaking to Sophie C about it.

The local press and social media would be interested in this. It also introduces adults to bridge and no DBS checks will be required for teachers as parents/guardians will be present. This will launch in time for the summer holidays.

Packs would be in branded WBU folders and also include Card holders for those with small hands. Andrea stated that she would back this financially, for which she was thanked.

7. Baby Photo and short overview request

Andrea requested that each member of the Management Committee sends in a photo of themselves when they were a baby plus a short biography. This will form an article in the magazine.

8. WBF HMBO letter to confirm Welsh residency

Andrea and Ceri are communicating with the EBL/WBF credentials committee to regularise Welsh NBO affiliation for one player.

9. AOB

Steve J has noted that he still cannot get the WBU website calendar to work properly.

Ceri suggested that maybe we should consider moving from WordPress to bridgewebs. The meeting saw this as a priority. It was noted that the Masterpoints database functions independently of the website.

Ceri to progress.

Action CP

10. Date of next meeting

Saturday 6th July 10.30 to 12.00.