

# **Management Committee Meeting**

**July 6<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 10.30am by Zoom**

**Present:** Ceri Pierce, Andrea Knox, Steve Jarvis, Simon Gottschalk, Gilly Clench, Alan Screen, Jean Cufley, Mia Deschepper

## **1. Tournament Director Training Structure**

Andrea reported back to the meeting that the Chief TD and National TD roles had been accepted. The meeting discussed the different approaches available for TD training. They agreed to create two distinct pathways for TD training, allowing both Sarah Amos and Tony Howarth to deliver training using their preferred methods. Both volunteers' contributions are highly valued. Andrea to discuss further with Sarah Amos and Tony Howarth.

## **2. New GP Events**

Andrea reported on a new initiative to generate revenue through online green-pointed one-day pairs events run by Oliver Cowan. The meeting agreed to the proposal, which involves around 10 sessions per year. The format will be 6 x 6 board rounds starting at 1pm to 6pm and will cost £12.50 per player with free entry for juniors. The format and timing will be reviewed after the first three months. The aim of these events is to reduce the budget shortfall.

## **3. National Tournament locations**

The meeting discussed the need to hold more events outside of Cardiff to better serve the broader Welsh membership. They agreed to explore hosting some Premier League and Trial events in other regions, provided local volunteers can organize the logistics and that the venue reflected the geographical location of entrants. Players will be surveyed on their willingness to travel to non-East Wales venues at this year's Premier League.

An offer has been received from North Wales to provide a venue and suitable accommodation. Andrea is going to view this venue later in the week. The use of Llangollen was discussed as a central venue and the benefits of it being a more sociable event as a result. When an event is held at Cardiff Bridge Club, there is no real socialising done after play has finished. Agreed that this year a restaurant could be booked after the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the Premier League and all players invited.

Online and hybrid events were discussed. The selector's policy is currently that if an event is held face to face, then the related trial should also be held face to face.

## **4. New annual event – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Andrea outlined plans for a new surprise annual event, which will be launched in the July magazine. The group agreed to promote this event to their local bridge clubs and teachers. Andrea will send leaflets to Mia to distribute around local East Wales Clubs.

## **5. National Tournaments**

Simon reported his views on how National Tournaments should be planned for going forward. He has spoken extensively to interested parties and there are many positives but some and potential negatives from the ideas suggested. He proposed that a sub group involving the Area Tournament Organisers and Gwynn Davies and David Smith is set up to discuss ideas and to determine the calendar of events for the coming year. Simon wants one of the objectives to be to plan and organize one brand new event that doesn't look like too much like any of the existing WBU events. Andrea flagged that it should therefore please not overlap with her own January event which is also a new style event. Mia suggested that Simon also speak to Alan Stephenson as he had contacts within the U3A.

Simon will report back once the sub-group has met.

## **6. Bridge for Grandparents/ Parents and kids – 14<sup>th</sup> August**

Sophie Cunningham and Maggie Pierce are running this course at Cardiff Bridge Club in the school holidays. There will be capacity for nine tables and they were confident of filling all the spaces. Local newspapers will be informed and any oversubscribed people's details will be taken for future courses.

Sophie, Andrea and Ceri to discuss the Insurance requirements to ensure that all the necessary measures are put in place and to co-ordinate this with the WBU's insurers.

Details of the course will also be included in the July magazine.

## **7. Baby Photos**

Andrea requested that everyone supplied their photos and write-ups for the magazine. It was suggested that each member of the MC include a claim to fame in each bio.

## **8. AOB**

Ceri has been approached by England who would like to hold an U26 of U31 women's match alongside the Junior Camrose, with an English team v a Celtic team. She reported that the venue could accommodate such as event at no additional cost and that she was supportive of such a venture. The meeting's support was sought so that it could be progressed with Bridge Great Britain. The meeting agreed.

The purchase of playing cards was discussed. Ceri provided costs of the used EBL cards which are barcoded. She will ask each area and key people if they have access to the new dealer machines that do not need barcoded cards as these are much cheaper.

The obituary policy for the website was discussed. The meeting agreed to adopt a more open policy for publishing obituaries on the WBU website, allowing for any member's obituary to be posted if requested by a member of their club with sensitivity to its approval by their family.

There has been a problem reported with the Virmach Server. Ceri investigating the cause, but reported that the service was back online now.

Simon is investigating / developing an online ticket system.

Jean submitted a Finance report in advance of the meeting. It was confirmed that the 50% funding for Internationals events had been clearly stated on the entry forms and the selectors bulletin. Agreed that in future funding commitments need to be reiterated when players are selected.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for 11:30am on August 16th, with the understanding that progress can be made via email in the interim.

## **Action Items**

- Andrea to discuss TD training pathways with Sarah and Tony (AK)
- Andrea to confirm the go-ahead with Oliver Cowan for the Green Point one-day series of events (AK)
- Andrea to visit North Wales venue to assess suitability (AK)
- Draft insurance policies required by insurers for 'Grandparents Course' event (AK/CP)
- Send baby photos and bio for the July WBU magazine to Andrea (All)
- Investigate issue with Virmach system (CP)
- Mia to send Andrea her postal address to receive leaflets for the new event (MD/AK)
- Simon to progress with a Tournament sub-group and report back to the MC (SG)
- Ceri to progress junior women's side event with BGB (CP)
- Debtors to be reviewed in three months time (JC)