

MC Meeting – October 15th 2024 at 1.00pm by Zoom

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

Apologies: Steve Webb, Gilly Clench, Simon Gottschalk

1. Junior Update

Freshers Fair and Student Bridge Lessons

The students from Cardiff University freshers fair have completed two taster sessions. A room at the Uni is booked every Wednesday from 5 -8. Lessons started last week. 15-16 students in total have turned up, but the proportion of people following up v signing up is higher than last year. Only two people permitted on the freshers' stall at a time. Feedback from students was that it went well and they liked going home with cards and a minibridge sheet. Lots of people who signed up have already played whist.

We now need to make sure that someone will deal the hands in the Cardiff Bridge Club. Agreed that subject to cost, the WBU would purchase 80 boards (ten sets of 8) and the hands would be dealt over the weekend. The boards to be kept by Sooz as a permanent youth bridge teaching kit.

Action AK

Juniors in the West – Sooz has tried to find best dates for lessons. She will email both the student and parent to try and progress matters.

Plan for the Junior Camrose in February is to have 1 team of 6 in the Junior Camrose and two in the Peggy Bayer, which will be held in the Holiday Inn, The Coldra, Newport in 2025.

It was noted that this will cost approx. 5.5K and that we need really keen people if we are to invest in them.

A pro-am teams will be held in Cardiff in November – may combine with the Cardiff Bridge Club pro-am teams also starting up on a Wednesday. It would also be good to have the students participating in the Strictly Come Teaching event (free – sponsored by the President).

Advertising for the Strictly Come Teaching event to be stepped up for this and the details circulated.

Fundraising to be made more prominent on the website home page.

Action CP

The meeting thanked Sooz for attending the meeting.

2. Location of Trials and Premier League

Half of our members are in the South and the venue for the Premier League should probably reflect the ratio of where members are located.

Agreed that at the moment, the Lady Milne trials should be held in the South. The Teltscher to be reviewed depending on entries.

Agreed that we would like to hold the Premier League in the Mid (possibly at the Elephant and Castle) for one of the weekends not both. There is accessible accommodation nearby.

Agreed that as a matter of policy, accessible accommodation for players and carers would be automatically subsidised by the WBU so that the cost does not exceed the cost of standard accommodation. Further subsidy is available for low-income players (who are on benefits) on application to the CEO

Will consider also holding the Premier League Some of the PL in the North, 1 weekend in 4 or 6. It was noted that some areas in Mid Wales are just as bad to get to from the North, as Newport. Going forward, ideally the ratio should represent the number of players in each area and this will be reviewed annually, as it also depends on other factors such as organisers, TDs, equipment etc.

It was noted that the Premier League is not a trial, but is currently used to guide selectors in the decisions.

Agreed First weekend for the Premier League 2025 would be in the Mid. 2nd in the South.

Check Sarah's availability and base it on that as it will make transportation easier.

3. Calendar

The combined WBU and area calendar was reviewed and will be circulated for further updates.

Agreed that the Perry and Spickett date for 2025 will be 31 May 1 June

4. NTO Report (Simon)

Circulated in advance.

Premier League 2nd Weekend - everything seems to be in-place.

Porthcawl - entries are going well and a booking for November 2025 and associated promotion should start very soon.

"Club Tickets" is live at Cardiff BC – Club Tickets is a complete cashless payment system for booking online or F2F bridge sessions.

The WBU Virmach Server is nearly out of disk space WBU need to buy more disk space in the short-term.

Masterpoint Promotion Project - will start development in November.

5. Finance Report (Jean)

A report was circulated in advance.

As at 13.30 on 14 October 2024 bank balances were:

WBU	£24930.93
StepBridge	£1713.60
Monmouth BSoc	£68228.06

WBU Sim Pairs Sept 2024 – So far collected in £1032.00 - £132.00 outstanding.

These are the amounts to cover the number of players. Three clubs have sent in extra giving a further £139.00. Ecats bill was £237.00.

Agreed £450 to be sent to Wales Air Ambulance. The remainder for the Youth Bridge Fund.

One outstanding payment for competition entry resolved and one to be chased up by Jean.

Welsh Women's League – one team entry money outstanding (since resolved).

'**Getting to know Bridge**' minibridge event on 29th October will be costed against the main WBU budget until we decide how to allocate it.

Insurance has been paid for the minibridge event.

Ceri to determine likely costs for this event.

It was noted that whilst on the whole our events should make a profit, but there is no problem if they make a loss as long as it is planned and approved by the MC for a policy reason and not a surprise (i.e. so it sticks within budget, with the budget being a loss not exceeding £x). It was noted that we expect 6K to be allocated to the Junior Camrose and £750 to the PL 2025.

6. Area Reports

Mid – no report

West – a report was circulated in advance.

Vince Bevan Trophy – only had 5 tables. Query whether unaffiliated players can play in these events.

Porthcawl – 56 rooms booked. 52 pairs and 27 teams. Only negative is that the holiday event has less than the main event – there are only 4 teams on Sunday. Would like to make a provisional booking for 2025. Hope to make a profit of 1K – 2K.

East – Patrick Jordain Teams – 10 teams. Better than last year. Only charged £10 per person entry. Seems to have paid off as new club players entering.

North – There are 2 events in December. Llandudno in 2025 will change from two days of pairs to a three-day event. **License approved.**

7. AOB

Agreed to decrease focus group meetings from once a month to every two months.

8. Date of next meeting

Wed 18th December at 11am by Zoom.