

MC Meeting – 15 April 2025 at 10:30am by Zoom

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

Apologies: Steve Webb

1. IT Project and Continuity

- Discussion on IT continuity concerns, particularly the reliance on a single developer.
- Simon outlined the current IT setup and expressed the need for a structured IT function beyond his involvement.
- Proposal for a £25,000 investment in IT but concerns over long-term sustainability and feasibility.
- Debate over employing a student versus alternative models. The risk of hiring without guarantees was highlighted.
- Agreement to explore placement opportunities with universities instead of direct employment.
- Paddy to contact the university for further clarification on employment/legal implications.

2. Email and Communication Strategy

- Concerns raised regarding poor communication channels within the Welsh Bridge Union.
- Proposal to introduce a "Club Messenger" system where one representative in each club ensures dissemination of information.
- Discussion of the new email system allowing targeted communication with club secretaries.
- Agreement to transition towards a single database for club information.

3. Junior Bridge Funding for European Championships

- Proposal to allocate a £500 budget for junior players attending the European event in Italy.
- Funding to be exclusively for entry fees, split among those participating.
- Juniors to be informed.

4. WBU Presidents Cup Format and Participation

- Suggestion to reduce match length to 24 boards per round for player stamina and accessibility.
- Discussion on increasing the eligibility threshold from 25 to 75 green points to allow a wider pool of players.
- Decision to solicit feedback from areas regarding board reduction and eligibility changes.

5. Welsh Bridge Union AGM Preparation

- Meeting scheduled for 22 April 2025 at 9:00 AM to finalize AGM agenda.

- Areas reminded to nominate their representatives for committees (Selection, Laws and Ethics, etc.).
- Ceri to circulate relevant papers later in the week.

6. Financial Considerations

Discussion on WBU's financial health, particularly the costs of international events.

- Recent events reported a loss exceeding £5,000, raising concerns about sustainability.
- Potential impact of spending £25,000 on IT discussed, with some questioning whether long-term benefits justify the investment.
- Debate over balancing spending on IT development, junior support, and broader member engagement.
- Agreement reached to monitor ongoing financial risks and explore potential revenue sources to support future projects.

7. Date of Next Meeting

22nd April at 5pm to discuss AGM arrangements.