

MC Meeting 25 February 2026

Present : Ceri Pierce, Andrea Knox, Paul Cunningham, Akan Screen Paddy Murphy, Jean Cufley

1. Apologies : Steve Jarvis

2. Various Issues (Andrea)

Andrea started the meeting by congratulating the juniors on their recent Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer matches which she attended at her own cost to support our players. The Wales team came within a smidge (1VP) of 2nd place and are now real contenders. It is their best result for many years. The behaviour and atmosphere was amazing and made her proud to be Welsh. Sooz and Mark have done a superb job as NPCs and coaches.

She also raised the need for transparent selection procedures and conflict-of-interest rules to be in place and reported concerns about behaviour.

Andrea requested that we have published, detailed selection and conflict-of-interest rules as competitors expended significant money and time to compete for National selection and deserved to know the full rules of how the selection process would work and what factors would be taken into account etc. She also asked each area to nominate an approachable, supportive and team-building selector for election at the forthcoming AGM with the hope of building a great environment for the development of future Welsh teams at all levels from Juniors through to Seniors.

Agreed –a working group will be formed (Andrea, Ceri and Paddy plus possible others). Andrea will rewrite draft policies for review with selectors by the end of May. Following this review they would be submitted to the Management Committee.

The meeting also covered junior development and how to address a drop-off of players around ages 25–30. Creating roles within the WBU for this age group to assist with the development of new juniors is to be considered.

Andrea would like the WBU to be as inclusive and as friendly as possible encouraging player development at all levels for those that wanted this and our work and policies and atmosphere need to reflect this.

3. Cards and Bidding Box Inserts

An order for 10,000 packs of cards and estimated number of plastic bidding box inserts (chunky type) has been ordered, with the option of 1,000 being delivered to use at the Camrose next week. Re-dealing the Camrose boards was discussed - only be carried out under supervision of Sarah Amos, and the potential for disaster. Note – later in the meeting, the delivery costs became available and it was decided not to proceed with the redealing on the grounds of the high delivery cost and the whole delivery of 10,000 will be delivered in one batch in a few weeks time for onward distribution to clubs.

4. Bridgesteddford

Venues are still under review. Aim to finalise by mid-April. We are looking at places which just have conference facilities for hire and not necessarily accommodation as well. Cardiff is the current front runner.

5. Feedback from NBO Seminar

Andrea attended this and it was very productive in terms of liaising with other European Countries and putting Wales on the map. She was keen that Wales is represented at future events. There are many interesting projects underway which we could participate in. She had the opportunity to build Scottish Bridge Union contacts in particular.

6. Teaching Voucher update

This is going well – Sarah has started one course and is about to start another next week. Thanks to everyone who gave out vouchers and encouraged new players to join.

7. Finance Report

As at 9.30 am today bank balances are:

Current Account	£18,463.82
Building Society	£70,028.07

We still have £3,118.50 to be paid into bank account for the 1st Camrose Weekend. No outstanding invoices to pay at present, but we will have some large bills coming in shortly which we will need to transfer money into the Bank Account from the Building Society. Approx 13K plus VAT for cards and £2k plus VAT for inserts and 18K (16K of which is recoverable) for the Camrose weekend. Junior Camrose costs including transport to and from Scotland will also be significant.

8. Area Reports

East Wales

The East Wales Congress went well with 20 tables. However, new playing cards had to be bought.

EWBA have decided not to buy a dealing machine as it is more cost-effective to hire Gwent's for dealing the congress boards twice a year.

EWBA are investigating a Realbridge Account.

EWBA will be entering a team into the Pachabo.

Mid Wales

An event was held with 5 tables. GP open pairs on 28th. AGM on 25th April.

North Wales

Llandudno Swiss Pairs will be run by Oliver Cowan again – please could everyone advertise it.

NWBA will be holding a 2 session Green Pointed pairs event online in March with Oliver Cowan – held over two Tuesdays. Details will be circulated for publication when available.

9. AOB

All areas were reminded to submit their nominations for selectors ready for the AGM.

A potential new Treasurer has been identified as Jean will be retiring (our thanks to her). The role will be advertised along with 3 selectors and an NTO on the website so that nobody is excluded.

Jean suggested that we send a letter to each area to send out the areas

The AGM is at Sarn Village Hall on 17th May.

Noted that the TD costs on the website need to be updated.

Home International results can be found on the BGB website. A link will be put on our website.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 8 April at 10am