

MC Meeting 16 June 2026

Present : Ceri Pierce, Andrea Knox, Paul Cunningham, Alan Screen, Jean Cufley (part), Terry Ramwell, Paddy Murphy; James Williams

1. Apologies: Steve Jarvis
2. Financial Report

Handover arrangements from Jean to James are ongoing.

Andrea would like an opening balance sheet from 1 April to reflect the financial status of the WBU accounts including amounts unpaid, stock value etc. She offered to assist James in preparing this.

James will take over the banking from this point and can make necessary payments etc and can consult Jean/Ceri/Andrea if unsure about any invoice that needs to be paid.

An accountant needs to be engaged to audit the accounts annually and to support the new treasurer where required. Andrea will recommend one.

Monmouth Building Society forms have been sent to James to sign, who will then need to send them on to Ceri to sign. A new authentication card from Lloyds for Ceri is being sent to James. He will forward it on when it arrives.

3. Perry Spickett Presidents Report and future

The meeting thanked Alan for the Mid's superb hosting of the Perry/Spickett/President's Cups.

A discussion was held regarding the event's future venue and funding. Agreed that it would be held in the Mid by default with costs split 4 ways between the areas.

The date for 2027 was set at 15-16 May.

James to find out how many juniors would be interested in playing in the event, possibly in a separate junior section.

Andrea also asked James if he could find out if there would be any interest in an individual Junior Cup, which she would be happy to arrange and sponsor.

4. President 2027 and Andrea's role

Alan confirmed that the next President will in principle will be Terry Ramwell (Mid Wales). Andrea will co-ordinate a handover to him.

Andrea would like to retain a role in the WBU around the international liaison element once she steps down as she has lots of contacts in England, Ireland and Scotland and has roles with the EBU and EBED and BGB. Alan proposed that she be called the Competitions and International Ambassador.

Andrea highlighted that she was absolutely miserable in her role during this 3rd year, and has found it a thankless task, but intended to continue until the next AGM.

5. Llanbrython

Andrea provided feedback on the Llanbrython Congress in the Metropole Hotel, Brighton, jointly run by the WBU and EBU (last year was WBU only). There were 35 tables and it was brilliant. However Oliver Cowan, who runs the event for us, and Andrea, were very disappointed with the lack of Welsh player attendance and WBU committee support, so next year it be an EBU only as Oliver's view as main event organiser (which Andrea agrees with) was that the WBU had not contributed sufficiently to justify the contribution he had made to the WBU (c.£1,250 this year). One issue was the lack of help from the WBU, although it was noted that Andrea had done an enormous amount to help, and that nobody else had been asked for help – eg dealing boards etc. Another issue was that no advance good wishes or post-event thanks had been received.

The Management Committee assured Andrea that everyone was grateful and it was resolved to also send an email of thanks to Oliver.

Llanbrython will still go ahead next year as an EBU only event. They can still use the name Llanbrython, as Oliver and Andrea own the name, not the WBU. It will be reviewed annually. In Andrea and Oliver's view the WBU failed to deliver.

It was agreed that joint ventures across all the home nations, generally, are a positive thing. Andrea will likely have an update on some of these new events on this at the next MC meeting.

6. Bridgestedford update

Ceri outlined the plans for this event which will be held in Cardiff City centre Holiday Inn, opposite the castle. There have been a steady trickle of entries for the both the pairs and teams events, but it is early days as yet. All areas were asked to promote this event and publicise it throughout their clubs.

Entries could not be done on BESS as it is not designed for multi-pricing depending on what is entered. Ceri is looking at setting up event entry on Bridgeweb. People would then pay by BACs for the events they enter. Terry pointed out that a reference would be needed so that payments could be cross referenced to entries. All entrants to the main events will need to be checked for WBU membership. Side events will not require WBU membership. Cash could be taken for side events on the day rather than pay in advance.

A partnership desk has been requested and we will consider how we can deliver that. Standby team mates/partners may be needed. East Wales will find out if any players would be willing to be available for this.

7. Update on Council Meeting and Selector vote

Following the council meeting, 4 area selectors were appointed and there were 4 nominations to the council for the 3 council appointed selectors positions. Resumes have been requested from the 4 candidates as the council representatives did not know them or their backgrounds. These are due to be submitted by 24th June and a Council meeting will be held shortly after that to take votes.

8. IT Systems update

Ceri outlined several IT issues that had arisen:

The Mid Wales website domain has expired and was not possible to renew it and migrate the contents. This has impacted Mid Wales and some Mid Wales Clubs. A new website will be built by the Mid on Bridgewebs.

There was a Server IP address change this month and all systems were now working, except that the Masterpoints secretary cannot upload Green Points and transfers to other NBOs to the WBU masterpoint database. Clubs are not affected. Simon G is working on re-writing the upload routine.

Ceri proposed that Simon G be given a formal role in the WBU as IT Projects Officer. An IT group including Ceri, Paul C, Steve W and Tony H was suggested to assist/steer. Other things which need to be looked at include re-platforming the WBU website, re-designing the WBU website and collaborating with other NBOs and their IT systems.

Terry suggested that we also explore the use of adverts on the WBU website to bring in income – eg by Bridge Holiday websites. Ceri to progress this.

9. EBED Course at Cardiff

Andrea confirmed she was conflicted in being part of these discussions as she is a trustee of EBED.

An EBED course, initiated by Rhiwbina, will be run at Cardiff Bridge Club in the Autumn to teach bridge teachers. It was agreed that payment to attend this should be funded by clubs for club based teachers and the WBU would fund any places for central WBU teachers, eg for the juniors' teachers. EWBA also has an education budget. The importance of teaching bridge was appreciated by all.

There was some discussion on standardisation on ACOL or 5 card majors should be adopted as standard. Teaching materials for both exist.

10. BGB Proposals

Andrea outlined three proposals from BGB

1. Trans Gender rules - Bridge Great Britain are following the World Bridge Federation rule of what's on your passport is your gender.

Agreed that the WBU supported this definition.

2. Home International Festival of Bridge – The EBU have led this proposal. They are looking at having all the home internationals as a festival of bridge running over 5 to 7 consecutive days, with some events overlapping.

Some discussion about this followed and the WBU's view was that they were very concerned that it would create clashes for people in our small pool of international players, as well as logistical issues such as number of tables, boards etc required, which we do not have.

The Junior events would be kept separate.

3. Technology – there is lots of new technology available including the likes of bidding pads. The view of the WBU is that we are happy with these in principle.

11. Area Reports

East Wales has a new secretary,

12. AOB

None

13. Date of Next Meeting

5th August at 10.30am