



Chairman David Newman d_newman5@sky.com	Secretary Peter Milewski wwba.sec.pjm@gmail.com	Hon Treasurer Bob Alderdice bobalderdice@btinternet.com
Tournament Organiser David Nicklin wwba.ato.dn@gmail.com	Webmaster Christine Smith chris.smith1@ymail.com	

Annual General Meeting Minutes: 12th May 2022 at 2.0 p.m.

Held via Zoom

Unfortunately technical issues prevented display of documents by screen sharing, so they were partly described with some passages read out. The documents are appended to these Minutes.

1. Present:

David Newman (Chairman), Bob Alderdice (Treasurer), Christine Smith (Webmaster), David Nicklin (ATO), Peter Milewski (Secretary), Philip Roberts (Auditor), Tony Disley (Bridgend and WBU), Tony Haworth (Porthcawl), Nicky Hancock (Tenby), Jenny Vaughan, Irene Thomas, Simon Richards, Lavinia Thomas, Perry Crickmere, Vida Halford, Glyn Williams, Irene Delahunty, Glenda Roberts, Eleanor Price, Emer Disley.

Apologies were received from David Lea, Debbie Lea, Keith Davison, Julie Milewski, Steve Jarvis, Mike Baker, Lee Collier, Frances Williams.

2. Previous Minutes (Appendix 1)

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2021 were only available as a draft in pdf form. They were described in broad outline and approved following proposal by Bob Alderdice seconded by Perry Crickmere.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Secretary's Report (Appendix 2)

Constitution. Peter described the reasons for the update which were to enable appointment of Honorary Members, add the office of Honorary Webmaster, incorporate a section on online bridge, and substitute the phrase 'in writing' with 'electronically or in writing'. Tony Disley indicated the view that for online clubs to be accepted as WWBA affiliates, most members should be resident in West Wales. There was general agreement that, while the phrasing allows the committee to decline applications for whatever reason, the current view of the committee should be recorded, which is to support insistence on that condition of residence, for affiliation. The updated Constitution was then proposed for approval by Bob Alderdice seconded by Perry Crickmere. A two thirds majority approved it. The updated Constitution will be submitted for verification to three committee members, in line with previous practice.

Action: Secretary



5. Treasurer's Report (Appendix 3)

Bob described the healthy state of the finances as depicted in the summary of the audited accounts. He proposed applying no subscription again this year, and that one of up to £2 be applied next year. This was seconded by Tony Disley and passed nem con. However Bob pointed out that we will be hosting the Perry and Spickett competition in 2024 which will incur extra expenses. Bob hopes to have an overlap handover with a new Treasurer during the coming months so the search is still on for a suitable replacement.

Action: none

6. ATO Report (Appendix 4)

David described the winners of the various competitions held throughout the previous year, and the performances of West Wales members elsewhere.

He has researched face to face venues, and the hall at Tumble is available again, also there is an attractive alternative at Llanarthne which has a number of advantages including a bar. However, lockable storage facilities at Llanarthne are not currently available and he is continuing to research this. The intention is to return to face to face bridge, circumstances permitting, in September at Tumble (Swiss Pairs) and October at Llanarthne (Vince Bevan Pairs).

The recent draw for first position in the John Isaac Pairs required resolution for allocation of the cup. Tony Haworth achieved this using the procedure described in the White Book, and the cup was awarded to David and Debbie Lea.

Action: ATO

7. Webmaster's report

No issues. Christine requested to be kept as up to date as possible on club officers etc. She was complimented on the quality of the site.

8. Chairman's report (Appendix 5)

To the accompaniment of cheerful applause, David gave a highly complimentary speech and presentation of a Tissot Flamingo watch to Irene Thomas, for her magnificent work in organizing and promoting bridge for many years that has raised in total over £25k (copy speech appended).

David advised that he is now standing down, but will continue until a new Chairman can take over. Steve Jarvis has agreed to take on the role, but is not returning from his current absence till 21st May.

Bob advised that a WBU President will be sought from the West for June 2023.

9. AOB

Simon Richards indicated that the West has not hosted any international events for some years, and may be requested to do so by the WBU in the fairly near future. Bob indicated that owing to the need for reasonable proximity to an airport, probably Swansea is about the farthest west that could suffice.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.



Appendix 1.

Minutes of AGM of 9th May 2021.

These were only available as a draft in pdf format (attached separately), owing to the files not being available from the previous Secretary. They are now being treated as the approved minutes.

Appendix 2.

Updated Constitution (pdf format, attached separately).

Appendix 3.

Audited accounts (pdf format, attached separately).

Appendix 4.

ATO report 12 May 2022

Appointed ATO late last year.

I have looked for the previous ATO report from the last AGM but have not been able to locate it. So I apologise if the following story seems all too familiar.

Once again it has been a strange year. Only in latter months has there been a return to f2f activity at club level and the hope was that the region would be able to put on at least one f2f event before the AGM. Sadly this wasn't to be due to communication problems with Tumble and a lack of availability in Llanarthne. Other venues were considered but either weren't available or were not central enough for the area.

By my calculation the region has hosted 7/8 online events this year mostly using the BBO platform. In addition a number of events held outside of the region delivered some good results for our regional players. There was also our Porthcawl Congress which again was run online.

To be honest I don't know the form when it comes to the ATO report so I have put together the list of winners and some of the good performances for the year. So here is my quick remedy for insomnia!!

May 2021

John Isaac winners Mike Baker and Steve Jarvis

Ann Dolan winners Julia Holley and John Bowen

Laidlaw Murray winners included Tony Disley

October

Vince Bevan winners Mike Baker and Peter Milewski (AGAIN!!)

WWBA Swiss Pairs winners Vida Halford and Glyn Williams



November

Porthcawl Congress winners Novice Pairs Julia Holley and John Bowen

Mixed Pairs Julie and Peter Milewski

Mens Pairs Mike Reed and Barry Thorne

Little Dragon Dave Melville and Bob Alderdice

Feb 2022

Mixed Pairs Emer Disley and Tony Haworth

Last weekend John Isaac Debbie and Dave Lea

Ann Dolan Kath and Tony Brown

Further afield we also had some success:

Llandudno Congress Pairs Tony Haworth and Kevin Maddox

Champion of Champions Anthony Stevens and Peter Milewski

Congratulations to everyone who won something this year and also not forgetting everyone else for taking part in what I understand were often thrilling and close matches.

As for me, I have set up a dialogue with Tumble and Llanarthne Village Halls and made a visit to the latter. A lovely venue with plenty of room, a kitchen and wait for it a BAR. I intend to use both locations later in the year for f2f events, pandemics permitting.

Dave Nicklin

(Addendum per Secretary)

Bob told us that Western Area players also featured in the recent international competition the Lady Milne (Jennifer Wardell, Margaret Lane and Lee Collier), and Tony Disley pointed out that the 2021 winning Laidlaw Murray team were all members of the Bridgend clubs as well as himself, so affiliated to the Western Area: Tony Ratcliffe, Julian Pottage, Simon Richards.

Appendix 5.

Chairman's presentation speech for Irene Thomas.

"It is my pleasant duty on behalf of the West Wales Bridge Association to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of Irene Thomas to Welsh Bridge and in particular the WWBA. Irene recently stood down as Porthcawl Congress organiser after about 15 years through which she raised in excess of £15K for our funds and another £5K for the WBU in Congress Fees. In addition through her other Congress work she probably raised at least the same sum for the EWBA as well as another £5K for the WBU.

Irene, you deserve a well earned retirement from organising bridge events, we wish you well in the future and are please to present this watch in recognition of your timeless service".

Secretary's note: sections in the Appendices below remain watermarked as 'Draft' because there were no editable versions available. They were nonetheless approved at the AGM.



Chairman

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Hon Treasurer

Keith Davison
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Tournament Organiser

(post vacant)

A.G.M. MINUTES: SUNDAY 9th MAY 2021

1. MEMBERSHIP

Present: Gareth Jones (Chairman), Anthony Stevens (Hon Sec), Bob Alderdice, Lee Collier, Irene Delahunty, Tony Disley, Judith Graham-Jones, Nicky Hancock, Tony Haworth, Nigel Astley, Hilary Davis, Emer Disley, Steve Jarvis, Julie Milewski, Peter Milewski, Eleanor Price, Mike Reed, Beryl Warner.

Apologies: Keith Davison (Hon Treasurer), Geoff Griffiths, Julia Griffiths, David Newman, Steve Burgoyne, Pat Francis.

Although attendance was poor the Chairman welcomed and thanked everyone present, declaring the meeting duly quorate. He noted that we had less than an hour before scheduled play in the John Isaac and Ann Dolan competitions.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

As the Covid emergency had eliminated any possibility of an AGM during 2020, the Minutes of the last AGM were of a face-to-face meeting held on Sunday 19th May 2019 at Tumble Hall as circulated, and proposed as a true record by Bob Alderdice and seconded by Judith Graham-Jones, passed *nem con*.

3. MATTERS ARISING

The members made no comments on the minutes of that meeting.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's figures (as recompiled for presentation by the Secretary) for the two year period were circulated in statements of Income & Expenditure together with a Balance Sheet representing the assets held by the WWBA (attached, *Appendix 1* for y/e March 2020, and *Appendix 2* for y/e 2021). In addition the Treasurer had prepared a written note of explanation (attached, *Appendix 3*). The meeting expressed thanks to both the Treasurer and Irene Thomas for her work on the accounts. The adoption of the accounts presented was proposed by Steve Jarvis and seconded by Tony Haworth, passed *nem con*.

5. SECRETARY / ATO REPORT

In the continued absence of an ATO the Secretary has been fulfilling these additional duties, including taking training on two computer programs to operate online games and our competitions. Given time constraints only a brief summary of our activities over the last two years was given, drawn from a full written report (attached, *Appendix 4*). The report was proposed accepted by Bob Alderdice and seconded by Peter Milewski, passed *nem con*.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman started by thanking Steve Burgoyne for his work as ATO in the earlier part of the period since the last AGM and expressed the hope we can find someone to take on this role in the Autumn. The work of the WWBA is undertaken by a small team and it takes hard work by all to keep events running. Gareth highlighted the annual Congresses and gave a particular thanks to Irene Thomas, Bob Alderdice and Jennifer Wardell for their contributions. He also particularly thanked the Secretary for his hard work over the year, noting that an extraordinary burden of communication had fallen on him this year through in effect having to do at least two jobs in difficult circumstances. In addition the Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his final period of service to WWBA after a long-expressed wish to retire. The Chairman also offered commiserations to David Newman, as his Presidency of the WBU had occurred in a very difficult year to step up. The WBU finds difficulty in finding volunteers, but the West Wales region certainly does its part – Gareth remarked on the many contributions of our stalwarts such as Tony Disley and Tony Haworth. He finally also thanked other office holders and committee members for their selfless contributions to Bridge in the region over the past year, and hoped for more progress in the year ahead as we may also hope for some kind of normality to look possible.

7. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1. Subscriptions: following the Committee recommendation that annual area subs of £2.00 be adopted to bring the region into line with the other area organisation, Judith Graham Jones proposed and Steve Jarvis seconded that this rate be adopted, passed *nem con*.
- 7.2. Bank Signatories: it was proposed by Gareth Jones and seconded by Anthony Stevens that the new Treasurer be delegated the authority to make such arrangements with a bank of his choosing (including the update of any required signatories) in whatever way he considers most practical, and this motion was passed *nem con*.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 8.1. Gareth outlined the proposed slate of officers to stand on the new committee, absent any last-minute additional volunteers:

- *Chair: David Newman*
- *Secretary: Anthony Stevens*
- *Treasurer: Bob Alderdice*
- *ATO: -- (tbc by co-option later in year)*
- *Web Manager: Christine Smith*

As no other names were put forward, the above slate of appointment was proposed by Irene Delahunty and seconded by Tony Haworth, passed *nem con* by the meeting.

9. AOB

Judith Graham Jones expressed concern at matters relating to the organisation of the AGM and requested that matters of timing and content of messages be kept in accordance with those expressed in the constitution. Gareth suggested they were and the Secretary promised to look carefully at this again in the future.

Irene Delahunty proposed and Tony Disley seconded a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his work over the year, passed *nem con*.

There being no other business, the meeting closed to facilitate the *John Isaac* and *Ann Dolan* events.

Appendix 1: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR WWBA AGM (MAY 2021)

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st March 2020

2019	Expenditure	2020	2019	Income	2020
£ 1,000.00	Perry, Spickett & PresCup	£ 748.88	-	Perry, Spickett & PresCup	£ 500.00
£ 132.20	Committee Expenses	£ 249.20	£ 673.50	Subscriptions	£ 644.00
£ -	Officer Expenses	£ -	-	n/a	-
£ 2,892.90	Tournament Expenses	£ 3,457.57	£ 2,568.50	Tournament Table money	£ 3,175.00
£ -	Porthcawl	£ -	£ 2,000.00	Porthcawl Congress	£ -
£ -	Celtic Congress	£ -	£ 700.00	Celtic Congress	£ 650.00
£ -	EWBA/WWBA Congress	£ -	£ 746.50	EWBA/WWBA Congress	£ 1,007.08
£ -	Equipment	£ -	£ -	Equipment	£ -
£ 30.00	Printing & Stationary	£ -	-	n/a	-
£ 61.20	Website	£ -	-	n/a	-
£ 750.00	Honoraria	£ 750.00	-	n/a	-
£ 19.00	Gifts to Officers	£ 20.00	-	n/a	-
£ -	Bank Charges	£ -	£ -	Bank Rebate	£ -
£ -	AGM Lunches	£ -	£ -	-	£ -
£ 31.00	Depreciation	£ 30.00	£ 11.59	Investment Income	£ 17.32
£ 4,916.30	Total expenditure	£ 5,255.65	£ 6,700.09		£ 5,993.40
	Surplus / [Deficit] income	£ 737.75			

Balance Sheet at 31st March 2020

Liquid assets

2019	(Yr start 01/04, Yr end 31/03)	2020
£ 18,406.63	L/Assets at 1st April	£ 20,189.98
£ 1,783.79	Surplus / [Deficit] for year	£ 749.94
£ 20,190.42	L/Assets at 31st March	£ 20,939.92

Fixed assets

2019	(Cost Less Depreciation)	2020
£ 15.00	Computer & printer	£ 10.00
£ -	Bridgemates	£ -
£ 190.00	Tables & cloths	£ 150.00
£ -	Bidding Boxes	£ -
£ 205.00	Total fixed assets	£ 160.00

Disposition of assets

£ 10,607.07	Bank - Current Account	£ 11,364.63
£ -	Cheques to be cashed	£ -
£ 9,393.32	Bank - Deposit Account	£ 9,412.29
£ -	Bank - prepaid expenses	£ -
£ 205.00	Fixed Assets	£ 160.00
£ 20,205.39	TOTAL ASSETS	£ 20,936.92

*This draft prepared by A Stevens (Hon Sec)
and certified a faithful transcription of
figures as supplied. 7th*

Anthony Stevens

Books kept for WWBA by K E Davison
(Hon Treasurer)

Overseen by R Alderdice and A Stevens *pro temp*, awaiting independent audit



Appendix 2: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR WWBA AGM (MAY 2021)

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st March 2021

2020	Expenditure	2021	2020	Income	2021
£ 748.88	Perry, Spickett & PresCup	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	Perry, Spickett & PresCup	-
£ 249.20	Committee Expenses	£ -	£ 644.00	Subscriptions	£ -
£ -	Officer Expenses	£ -	-	n/a	-
£ 3,457.57	Tournament Expenses	£ 343.55	£ 3,175.00	Tournament Table money	£ 438.00
£ -	Porthcawl	£ 1,883.00	£ -	Porthcawl Congress	£ 2,600.31
£ -	Celtic Congress	£ -	£ 650.00	Celtic Congress	£ 416.75
£ -	EWBA/WWBA Congress	£ -	£ 1,007.08	EWBA/WWBA Congress	£ -
£ -	Equipment	£ -	£ -	Equipment	£ -
£ -	Printing & Stationary	£ -	-	n/a	-
£ -	Website	£ 122.40	-	n/a	-
£ 750.00	Honoraria	£ -	-	n/a	-
£ 20.00	Gifts to Officers	£ -	-	n/a	-
£ -	Bank Charges	£ -	£ -	Bank Rebate	£ -
£ -	AGM Lunches	£ -	£ -	-	£ -
£ 30.00	Depreciation	£ 160.00	£ -	Investment Income	£ 3.82
£ 5,255.65	Total expenditure	£ 3,008.95	£ 5,976.08		£ 3,458.88
	Surplus / [Deficit] income	£ 449.93			

Balance Sheet at 31st March 2021

Liquid assets

2020	(Yr start 01/04, Yr end 31/03)	2021
£ 20,189.98	L/Assets at 1st April	£ 20,936.92
£ 749.94	Surplus / [Deficit] for year	£ 449.93
£ 20,939.92	L/Assets at 31st March	£ 21,386.85

Fixed assets

2020	(Cost Less Depreciation)	2021
£ 10.00	Computer & printer	£ -
£ -	Bridgemates	£ -
£ 150.00	Tables & cloths	£ -
£ -	Bidding Boxes	£ -
£ 160.00	Total fixed assets	£ 0.00

Disposition of assets

£ 11,364.63	Bank - Current Account	£ 11,970.74
£ -	Cheques to be cashed	£ -
£ 9,412.29	Bank - Deposit Account	£ 9,416.11
£ -	Bank - prepaid expenses	£ -
£ 160.00	Fixed Assets	£ 0.00
£ 20,936.92	TOTAL ASSETS	£ 21,386.85

*This draft prepared by A Stevens (Hon Sec)
& certified a faithful transcription of figures
as supplied. 7th May 2021*

Anthony Stevens

Books kept for WWBA by K E Davison
(Hon Treasurer)

Overseen by R Alderdice and A Stevens *pro temp*, awaiting independent audit



Appendix 3: WWBA Treasurer's Financial Report submitted to AGM (May 2021)

This has been a difficult year as a result of Covid with consequently significant variation in income and expenditure. Recognising Covid's impact on local clubs, the committee chose not to charge any Area subs for 2020/21. This contributed to the slight drop in surplus from the previous year (£737.75) but the Area still showed a small surplus of £449.43, mainly due to the officials declining to claim normal honoraria.

Additionally, as the 2020 Perry & Spickett competitions were cancelled we did not incur the considerable anticipated deficit of acting as hosts/ organisers.

Bridgewebs neglected to send an invoice for 2019/20 and as a consequence our 2020/21 accounts incurred two years of charges.

Recognising the age and low value of our minor assets it seemed appropriate to write them off within this year, but they will continue to be recognised as 'Nil value' assets in future accounts.

While the accounts were audited as they stood at the end of March, there is still some income and prize expenditure to be resolved in relation to the Porthcawl Congress over the last two years, which will require completion such that a final set of audited accounts are completed in the next two months. We would like the AGM to approve these interim accounts and delegate approval of the final audit by the Committee with a report to the 2022 AGM. The auditor confirms that the cash assets in the bank are correct as of 31st March.

The Treasurer acknowledges the support of Irene Thomas who audited the books and accounts as they were at 31st March 2021, and the support of Anthony Stevens not only as Secretary but taking on many of the ATO's duties in the last year.

Recognising our comfortable financial position, in spite of the WBU and other areas charging subscriptions for 2021/22, the WWBA Committee feel it is appropriate that for our clubs' benefit this year we again forgo such an area charge.

I would like to thank everyone on the committee for their patience and support over the last seven years and their help at competitions assisting in collecting monies at events.

Proposal for the AGM: In the current situation not all clubs are able to collect Area and WBU subs as in the past, so a facility for players to pay directly to the WBU has been set up. To facilitate this it is planned that all area subs be unified at £2/pa, though the WBU proposal for their 2022/23 subscriptions are not yet known. So we propose that annual WWBA subscriptions be £2/pa from 1st April 2022.

Financial matters to be considered by the AGM and new Committee:

- The new Treasurer will need to obtain new banking signatories recognising that Jennifer Wardell, one of our current signatories, has moved from the area.
- The Committee has been intending to move WWBA bank accounts from RBS (no longer any branches and there is little income from savings). The Treasurer recommends delay until the change in signatories is completed and the Area decides the best way forward with the new Treasurer. At present the Treasurer is able to complete transactions through NatWest.
- Most competition entries currently take place via the BESS computer system created by Simon Gottschalk (and currently generously provided to us at no cost). In order for this to work efficiently we need to be able to accept electronic payment. We currently have a temporary agreement with WBU to process Stripe payments via their account, but plan to open our own.

Keith Davison, May 2021
Hon Treasurer

Appendix 4: Secretary/ATO Report submitted to AGM (May 2021)



This has been a completely unprecedented time for all of us, in which collisions of our private and public worlds have sometimes become unavoidable. This has certainly been true for me with two close family members dying during the last 17 months which also entailed two moves of house. This has been the background for me that even the magic of Zoom filters cannot entirely hide. Like many of you also, I am sure, Bridge came to assume if anything an even larger part of my concerns in an uncertain world, and not least because latterly I have endeavoured to fill in for our vacant ATO position.

Since we last convened an AGM I can remind you of the following events from our calendar:

Celtic Congress: 24-26th May 2019 at Fishguard Bay Hotel.

- Ladies Pairs: 5 tables, winners Gill Howells & Jenny Harris, pursued by Lee Collier & Sarah Amos and Christine Smith & Eleanor Price.
- Men's Pairs: 3 tables, jointly winners Tony Disley & Adrian Thomas with Dai Hayes & Keith Bellamy, then Bob Alderdice & Ian Grove.
- Mixed Pairs: 9 tables, winners Lee Collier & Anthony Stevens, chased by Christine Smith & Ian Grove and Eleanor Price & Bob Alderdice.
- Teams: 11 tables, winners Tony Disley & Mike Best and Adrian Thomas & Mia Deschepper, followed by Christine & Eleanor with Bob & Ian, and Peter Milewski & Anthony Stevens and Lee Collier & Jenny Vaughan.

Swiss Pairs: 29th September 2019, Open Green-Pointed event at Tumble

TD for the second year was Sarah Amos. Well run with 14.5 tables. [15.5 in 2018] Winners were Glyn Meredith & Jo Copping, followed by Jennifer Wardell & Keith Davison, Gareth Jones & Phil Roberts.

Vince Bevan Pairs: Sunday 27th October 2019 at Tumble

Entries at 7 tables were sharply down on previous (Jan) date. [15 in 2018] Winners: Peter Milewski & Anthony Stevens, followed by Linda Pinnock & Bill Turner and Steve Burgoyne & Keith Davison.

Porthcawl Congress: 15-17 November 2019. Thanks as always to the indefatigable Irene Thomas!

- Ladies Pairs: 7 tables, Margaret Lane & Jennifer Wardell were equal third with Wendy Heaton & Barry Thorne (?!)
- Men's Pairs: 4 tables, Tony Disley & Adrian Thomas, then Tony Haworth & Kevin Maddox and Mike Reed & Jerry Hall.
- Mixed Pairs: 11.5 tables, winners Vivienne Mabley & Richard Lingham, then Christine Smith & Ian Grove and Mel Thomas & Adrian Thomas.
- Championship Pairs QR: 20 tables, winners Peter Milewski & Anthony Stevens, then Mark Roderick & Mike Best with Norma & David Newman not far behind.
- Dragon (A Pairs final): 5 tables, winners Vivienne Mabley & Richard Lingham, followed by Norma & David Newman and Peter Milewski & Anthony Stevens.
- Little Dragon (B final): 5 tables, winners Ian & Mike Walsh, 3rd Kevin Maddox & John Beard.
- Open Pairs: 5.5 tables, winners Anne Marie Zangouras & Pam Evans.
- Championship Teams QR: 22 tables, winners Gary Hyett & Alan Cooke and John Jones & Adrian Fontes, then Tony Ratcliffe & Julian Pottage and John Salisbury & Filip Kurbalija, 3rd Peter Milewski & Anthony Stevens and Nick Cowland & Alan Webster.
- Teams Final: 7 tables, same top 3 places as the QR!
- Teams B: 7 tables, winners Gillian Toogood & Jean Lowe and Barbara Biggin & Susan Gudgeon, then Ian & Mike Walsh and Mike Fletcher & Graham Horscroft, 3rd Mike Reed & Jerry Hall and Wendy Heaton & Barry Thorne.

WBU Graded Masters: Sunday 8th December 2019

[Section 1 winners Tony Disley & Adrian Thomas] In our heat: Section 2 Ian Grove & Bob Alderdice came 4th with Keith Davison & Jennifer Wardell in 5th, Section 3 John Gardner & Phil Roberts 2nd.

Scoring issues were painfully difficult to resolve. 7 tables [6 in 2018]

Mixed Pairs: Sunday 23rd February 2020 at Tumble. This ran smoothly with 9 tables [9 in 2018] Winners: Keith Richards & Eleanor Price, closely pursued by Wendy Heaton & Mike Reed and Irene Delahunty & Anthony Stevens.

To8 Qualifier: Sunday 1st March 2020 at Tumble. Ran smoothly with 4 teams [n/a] Winners: Pembroke Red (Steve Jarvis & Mike Baker and Anthony Stevens & John Seal) – second were Swansea, 3rd Bridgend, 4th Pembroke Blue.

WBU National Pairs Heat: 29th March 2020 at Tumble. This event was arranged at short notice, so it was most unfortunate that we were forced into a last-minute cancellation due to slow WBU decision-making in extreme weather conditions. It highlighted the importance of having emergency contact details of all contestants for our events as some were already on their way to the venue.

Our ATO at the time Steve Burgoyne noted that “some participants believe we should play more boards in these events. In the mixed pairs for example we would have needed to have played 51 boards for an all-play-all movement. I tend to take the advice of the director on these matters as they have to arrange the movements, but if the members wish to mandate us to ask the directors to ensure all play all whenever possible, they can do so.”

With the Spring and Summer events perforce cancelled, we tried to keep the Calendar going by moving a range of options online. Particular credit must go to Irene Delahunty and her Pembroke team of helpers who did such a lot in this period to keep Bridge alive in the region by nurturing online games and maintaining social contacts – certainly more than the WBU managed for ages. At the start of September 2020 Steve Jarvis and I initiated a regular Monday night game on BBO which we wanted to make available for all the players in the region who for whatever reason were not already enjoying the opportunities of online Bridge – these ran every week until recently when it was apparent that numbers were insufficient. Many other online games are now available and many are indeed growing in popularity, and there was a reasonable uptake of most of the WWBA games attempted:

Vince Bevan: Sunday 10th October 2020 on BBO. Ten tables played in a good event [7 in 2019] Winners: Peter Milewski & Anthony Stevens, closely pursued by Mike Baker & Steve Jarvis and Keith Maddox & Tony Haworth.

Swiss Pairs: Sunday 31st October on StepBridge. The drop to 10 tables [14.5] may be partly explained by the feelings of some players about the platform used. *(My personal opinion is that the WBU were very misguided to try to push this platform and the obvious options now are BBO and RealBridge.)* Winners: Vida Halford & Glyn Williams, narrowly beating Keith Davison & partner.

Porthcawl Congress: 27-29th November 2020 on BBO. Thanks as always before to the unsurpassable Irene Thomas for her swan-song promotion of this special Congress.

- Ladies Pairs: 9 tables [7], winners Tracy Capal & Liz Commins, then Claire Marsh & Celia Day, 3rd Val Kennelwell & Margaret Lane.
- Men's Pairs: 6 tables [4], David Griffiths & Graham Norris, then Tony Disley & Adrian Thomas, then Paddy Murphy & Mark Roderick.
- Mixed Pairs: 11 tables [11.5], winners Mike Best & Mia Deschepper, then Gilly Clench & Andrew Woodcock, 3rd David Sherman & Rhona Goldenfield.
- Novice Pairs: 6 tables [n/a], winners Anne Dalziel & Liz Richardson
- Swiss Teams: 40 tables [22], winners Mark Roderick & Paddy Murphy and Tony Disley & Adrian Thomas, then Fiona & Paul Littlewood and Derek & Celia Oram.
- Championship Pairs QR: 20.5 tables [20], winners NS Tony Disley & Mike Salisbury, EW Justin Hackett & Martin Taylor
- Red Dragon (A final): 7 tables [5], Gary Hyett & Alan Cooke, then Tony Disley & Mike Salisbury.
- Little Dragon (B final): 7 tables [5], winners Paddy Murphy & Mark Roderick, then Graham & Berry Hedley.

- Open Pairs: 5 tables [5], winners Judy Lewis & Liz Crockford

Mixed Pairs: Sunday 2nd May on BBO (initially trialled on StepBridge in but postponed due to lack of entries), and after several cancellations got 5 tables [9 in Feb 2020]. Winners: Linda Pinnock & Steve Burgoyne.

So as you can see there have been some mixtures of success and failures in attendance at events – the committee is still learning lessons in the online world, but ultimately it's down to all club members. If you want the option of friendly and competitive games of Bridge to be available, you need to support these ventures frequently and consistently: otherwise the game might yet wither on the vine.

In conclusion of my events reporting can I just add thanks to Steve Burgoyne who faced a sometimes bumpy start to his ATO experiences but always worked hard to overcome difficulties so we could all enjoy good Bridge – and to Tony Haworth who does a lot to help keep Bridge wheels turning behind the scenes; and also to Simon Gottschalk who has put such a lot of work into making his online bridge database tool (freely) available to us. Thank you, all three, for your vital contributions.

I will restrict my other remarks to greater brevity. Over the course of the period since the last AGM I have taken on the role of nominated Data Controller for the WWBA. I have been in telephone contact with every Bridge Club secretary in Wales (and some bits into England) in order to compile a usable database of contacts on a permissive basis, so that there can be no chance of club players not knowing for example when we offer an open Swiss Pairs. I would expect this to start yielding some further results as the next year ticks over. I am also keen to make sure we gather sufficient data from regular contestants, both to avoid the organisational headaches that regularly occur through inability to easily get hold of say all members of a team and also to ensure that we don't miss out contacting you next year if you play for example in the John Isaac this year. Whilst most Club secretaries do an excellent job of passing on information to their members, some occasions demand more direct contact... when an event is being snowed off was a case in point.

We fought off an attempt by the WBU to take a large slice of our funds during the last year as it seemed to your committee to be borne of a case with no underlying strategic vision and muddled tactics. More information is available on request.

I have also trained to direct on BBO and learned a raft of new techy stuff that I didn't expect to ever need – ho-hum! A bit more time has also been devoted to the website, but that is a task crying out for separate oversight – and thankfully I think we will now gain this for the year ahead.

Let's hope we can all look forward to a better year ahead, and one in which we can enjoy both online and face-to-face Bridge. My final thanks are to all the other committee members, especially Gareth and Keith as they look forward to a quieter life! Best wishes to you all.



Anthony Stevens
Hon Sec, WWBA

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE WEST WALES BRIDGE ASSOCIATION OF THE WELSH BRIDGE UNION

1. NAME

The organisation shall be known as the 'West Wales Bridge Association of the Welsh Bridge Union' hereinafter called the 'Western Area'.

2. OBJECTIVES

To control and promote Contract Bridge in the Western Area of the Welsh Bridge Union.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Membership of the Area is open to any person who has satisfied the conditions of membership laid down by the constitution of the Welsh Bridge Union and who has paid the specified Area subscription for the year.

3.2 The Committee may appoint Honorary Members in recognition of previous services to Area bridge.

3.3 If a person being considered for Honorary Membership is no longer a member of the Welsh Bridge Union, the Committee must apply to the WBU for approval of WBU Honorary Membership and eligibility to earn Masterpoints.

4. THE AREA COMMITTEE

4.1 The affairs of the Area shall be run by the Committee of the West Wales Bridge Association hereinafter called 'the Committee'.

4.2 The Committee shall consist of the officers of the Area, club representatives and co-opted members.

4.3 The Officers of the Area hereinafter called 'the Officers' are:

- (a) The Chairman
- (b) The Honorary Secretary
- (c) The Honorary Treasurer
- (d) The Honorary Tournament Organiser
- (e) The Honorary Webmaster
- (f) The Honorary Auditor

4.4 Nomination of Officers must be proposed and seconded, countersigned by the nominee, and received electronically or in writing by the Secretary at least fourteen days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

5. CLUB REPRESENTATION

5.1 Club representation shall be chosen by clubs within the Area which are affiliated to the Welsh Bridge Union.

5.2 Each club with less than 40 Area members shall be entitled to one representative on the Committee. Each club with greater than 40 members shall be entitled to two representatives on the Committee.

5.3 No representative may represent more than one club.

5.4 Each club entitled to representation shall notify the Secretary annually (prior to the A.G.M.) electronically or in writing, of its representative(s).

5.5 Any change in such representation shall also be notified electronically or in writing to the Secretary.

5.6 At the discretion of the Committee, a club may be requested to hold an election of its representative(s) or forfeit representation.

5.7 In the event of sickness etc, clubs may nominate substitutes to attend Committee meetings. Such substitutes shall have full voting rights.

5.8 The Committee has full power to co-opt extra members who should have some function within the Area.

5.9 Co-opted members who are not Officers of the Area shall cease to be members of the Committee at the time of the A.G.M.

5.10 Committee Meetings

5.10.1 The Secretary shall notify all Committee members of such meetings giving at least one week's notice.

5.10.2 The Quorum for a meeting shall be at least one third of the Committee members one of which shall be the Chairman of the Area or a Committee member designated by him to perform the duties of the Chairman for that Meeting.

5.11 Online bridge

5.11.1 The following policy is subject to review dependent on any future negotiations with the WBU.

5.11.2 The online section of WBU-affiliated clubs that run events both face to face and online, or WBU-affiliated clubs that play purely online, may apply to the Committee for their members to be Area members and if accepted, will be required to pay the Area subscription for each member.

6. VOTING POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE

6.1 The Officers of the Area and each club representative shall have a vote.

6.2 Co-opted members who are not Officers of the Area shall not have a vote except at the discretion of the other members of the Committee.

6.3 The Chairman shall only use his vote as a casting vote.

7. POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE

7.1 The Committee shall determine the annual subscription of the Area at the first convenient meeting subsequent to the A.G.M.

7.2 The Committee shall determine the allocation of the finances of the Area.

7.3 The Committee shall appoint other officials of the Area and elect officials of the Welsh Bridge as delegated by the Welsh Bridge Union.

7.4 The Committee shall be responsible for the running of Area events and the organisation of all such matters as delegated to the Area by the Welsh Bridge Union.

8. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AREA

8.1 Time of Meeting

The meeting shall be held prior to the 30th June each year.

8.2 Quorum

A quorum shall be fifteen Area members one of which shall be the Chairman or an Area Committee member designated by him to perform the duties of Chairman.

8.3 Notice of Meeting

The Secretary shall give at least twenty-eight days' notice of the meeting, electronically or in writing, to each club in the Area affiliated to the Welsh Bridge Union.

Any member of the Area may request a vote on a particular motion to be taken at the A.G.M. subject to eighteen days' notice electronically or in writing to the Secretary accompanied by the signatures of two Area members. The Secretary shall inform all Area clubs of such notices at least eight days prior to the meeting.

8.4 Voting

8.4.1 Each member present at the A.G.M. except the Chairman shall have one vote.

8.4.2 The Chairman shall have the casting vote.

8.5 Agenda

8.5.1 The A.G.M. shall contain a report from the Officers on the previous year, including a proper presentation of the finances and expenditure of the Area.

8.5.2 Any change to the Constitution of the Area shall be effected subject to the approval of two thirds of the members present following which the Committee may require, at its discretion, a poll of Area members in which an absolute majority shall be decisive.

9. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

9.1 Such a meeting will be called subject to either
(a) a request electronically or in writing to the Secretary accompanied by the signatures of at least twenty Area members, or
(b) a vote of the Committee.

9.2 Subject to the specified requirements, the Secretary shall:
(a) arrange the meeting within twenty-one days of receipt of such notice, and
(b) inform all Area clubs electronically or in writing of the meeting and its purpose, at least fourteen days prior to the meeting.

[Originally] Typed by Lloyd Lewis in July, 1995; and verified to be correct by John Isaac, Max Powell, and Tony Haworth.

This version typed by Peter Milewski in May 2022; and verified to be correct by David Newman, Bob Alderdice and Tony Haworth.

Appendix 3 to Minutes of 2022 AGM. Audited accounts for 2021-22.

West Wales Bridge Association

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ended

<u>2021</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2022</u>
500.00	Perry & Spickett	0.00
343.55	Tournament Expenses	538.44
1883.00	Paid on behalf of Porthcawl Congress	1124.75
	Printing & Stationary	0.00
122.40	Website	61.20
	Honoraria	0.00
	WBU Master Points	19.25
	Auditor Expenses	0.00
160.00	Depeciation	0.00
	Total Expenditure	1743.64
	Excess Expenditure over Income	-237.29
3008.95		1506.35

31st March 2022

<u>2021</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>2022</u>
	Subscriptions	-
438.00	Competition surplus	180.67
2600.31	Porthcawl Congress	1124.75
416.75	Other congresses	200.00
3.82	Interest in Deposit account	0.93
3458.88	Total Income	1506.35

2021 Accumulated Fund

<u>£</u>		<u>£</u>
20936.92	Balance at 31/3/21	21386.85
449.93	Less Loss for the Year	-237.29
21386.85	Total	21149.56
	Represented by	
11970.74	Cash in Bank - Current	11732.52
9416.11	Cash in Bank - Deposit	9417.04
21386.85	Total	21149.56

Current Assets

21386.85	Assets in Bank	21149.56
	Debtors - Porthcawl Congress	1124.75
	- Prize money	10.00
	- Mixed Pairs 'Potential Surplus	208.00
0.00	Fixed Assets	0.00
21386.85	Total	22492.31

<u>2021</u>	<u>Fixed Assets</u>	<u>2022</u>
£		£
0.00	Computer & Printer	0.00
0.00	Bridgemate	0.00
0.00	Bridge Tables	0.00
0.00	Bidding Boxes	0.00
0.00	Duplimat Machine	0.00
0.00		0.00

Auditors Notes

I have examined these accounts and in my opinion they represent a fair statement of the affairs of the WWBA

Auditor:

Phil Roberts

P Roberts

3rd May 2022

Treasurer:

R. Alderdice

R. Alderdice

3/5/22