

MINUTES of EWBA MEETING at CARDIFF BC on 3rd OCTOBER 2019

Present: Geoff Evans (Chair)

Simon Gottschalk (Treasurer)

Mieke Deschepper (Web) Apologies: Helen Houston (Tournament Organizer)

Sarah Amos (CBC) Adrian Trickey (EWBA League Organizer)

Leighton Williams (GBA) Richard Welsford (Western League Organizer)

Mike Best (Secretary)

1. Minutes

In order that items from a non-quorate meeting should not be considered exclusive or conclusive this is something of an ongoing newsletter rather than formal minutes. Ideas are invited, preferably not retrospectively.

2. Tournament Organizer's Report

This became a lengthy debate (lament) about the decline in tournament entries.

The Stan Berger Area Pairs Championship (at CBC) was won by Steve Webb and Tim Barsby, runners-up Sarah Amos and Geoff Evans. 8 tables, a decline of 15%

The Patrick Jourdain (formerly Louis Lermont) Area Teams Championship was won by Kevin Maddox, Tony Haworth, Geoff Evans and Mike Best, runners-up Debbie and Simon Richards, Ceri Pierce and Aida Aris. 6 tables, a decline of 50%.

(Note: The teams event comprised 40 boards. We would wish future two-session tournaments to have 45-50 boards)

So the teams entry was particularly disappointing. Although GBA was the venue this did not attract entries from the east of our area. This raises the question whether there should be a bias towards Cardiff as venue. Comments are invited.

In years gone by there were club qualifiers for these events ! More recent events have been open to West Wales players. Now it is proposed that, apparently as necessity, OUR East Wales Championships should be open to EBU players. Again, comments are invited.

Entry fees will remain £10

To buck the trend – it is not too late to enter the EWBA Mixed Pairs on 9th November at CBC

3. August Congress

Many thanks to those whose work contributed to a pleasantly enjoyable congress.

Invited written feedback being sparse, it is assumed that there was general satisfaction, though later enquiry did reveal problems with communication between rooms separated by stairs when there was only one director.

This will be ameliorated for the next congress, particularly if the downstairs room is not required after lift modifications allow satisfactory wheelchair access. Consequent cost reduction means that alternative venues are not presently being sought.

Profit for EWBA funding was halved by a traditional arrangement in which that is shared equally with WWBA, though this event was entirely organized by this area. A fairer arrangement is being negotiated.

4. February Congress 8/9th at Lysaght Institute

This will be a multiple teams event (as an experiment) with a qualifier on Saturday and two finals on Sunday, each with a prize structure.

5. Champions of Champions

The inaugural event last year was a success. This will be held at the Metropole hotel, Llandrindod Wells on 15th March, entry fee £25 including a sandwich lunch. A letter to club secretaries recommends that this opportunity should be offered to their club champions or runners-up.

6. Website Increasingly colourful and comprehensive. Suggestions for additions or modifications welcome.

7. Western League A promising start for the 'A' division with 50/60 vps from 3 matches. The winners of this division have an opportunity to compete in the British interregional final.

The 'C' division offers an opportunity to experience teams bridge against opponents with comparably limited experience. To date participants have been mainly from the Newport area but pairs from other clubs should express interest by contacting the organizer, Richard Welsford, at rtw76@sky.com

8. Restricted Teams Here is another opportunity to try teams bridge. An event open to players below regional master will be held at Cardiff BC on 20th January. Invitations have been sent to club secretaries by Cardiff BC.

9. EWBA League We welcome three new teams from Lisvane, Sully and Chepstow - so the three divisions comprise 6,7,6 teams. The competition is more enjoyable if ongoing positions can be compared when matches have been played on schedule.

10. Tollemache qualifier selection

Gwynn Davis (Captain) & Sue Ingham, David Birt & Gilly Clench, Geoff Evans & Liz Atkinson, Simon Gottschalk & Chris Rochelle, Mieke Deschepper & Adrian Thomas will represent East Wales.

11. Bridge Teaching An initiative by Cardiff BC has led to the possibility of holding a two-day course for teachers, to be delivered by an EBED teacher, with much follow-up material. The course will cost £2000 plus the teacher's accommodation and travelling expenses. Ten students, each paying £200, will be required. Brian Quinlan will contact club secretaries with greater detail. If the course is viable EWBA will contribute 10% of costs.

12. University Freshers Fair Stall About £1500 has been invested in trying to attract younger players into our game. An excellent presentation attracted much recorded interest. This will require delivery of a structured follow-up programme.
13. Privately arranged events A Ladies event recently organized by Gilly Clench was very successful. Though such events will usually be self-funding EWBA will contribute when necessity has been indicated.

The next meeting will be held at 3pm in Cardiff BC on 16th January