

Minutes of EWBA AGM Cardiff Bridge Club Sunday 14th May 2023

1. **Attendance:** Sophie Cunningham welcomed 34 members to the AGM
2. **Apologies were received from:** Simon Gottschalk, Helen Houston, Ray Kemp, Mieke Deschepper
3. **Minutes of AGM Sunday May 8th 2022:** taken as read
4. **Matters Arising:** none
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Richard Plackett
 - a) A generous donation had been received to encourage clubs to recruit and train new players
 - b) The Autumn Congress had been successful and broke-even as a deposit for the hall had been carried over because COVID had caused cancellation in a previous year
 - c) The duplimate machine had been successfully repaired
 - d) There is an increase in funds over the year of approx. £1k
 - e) The signed audit report was available for inspection
 - f) Gwynn Davis stated that the days of EWBA running a Congress attracting out-of-area players have passed, there was general agreement that efforts should be focussed on running events for local players
6. **Report from the Chair:**
 - a) Sophie C thanked William Parkinson for his years of service as Secretary
 - b) Sophie thanked Helen Houston for her 7 years as ATO
 - c) Thanks were extended to Liz Atkinson, the Director for the day – Liz had overcome many administrative problems during the day
 - d) Thanks too to CBC for providing the venue for the AGM
 - e) Sophie was pleased that members had supported the AGM and the congresses, GBA had proved to be an excellent venue
 - f) Sophie encouraged other clubs to follow Brecon's lead in applying for training grants – Brecon already has 31 "students"
 - g) Sophie congratulated Richard Plackett on his victory with team Orca playing in the European Winter games
7. **ATO Report:**

Jennifer Wardell presented the report prepared with Helen Houston

 - a) The emphasis has been on providing face-to-face events and although the number of participants has been relatively low, numbers are beginning to increase.
 - b) The one day October 2022 Congress was held at Lysaght Institute but the costs of hiring an external venue had "exploded" and the 2 day February 2023 Congress held at GBA was considered to be a success
 - c) The joint winners of the Victor Ludorum were Gwynn Davis and Sue Ingham – they and all other winners were congratulated

8. Western League reported by Richard Welsford:

- "A" Team: 8th
- "B" Team: =2nd
- "C" Team: 5th

9. EWBA League reported by Mieke Deschepper

- a) Knock-out competition was won by Ace of Clubs from Div 3 who beat Chepstow Chancers of Div 1 into 2nd place
- b) The league competition is almost complete with final matches to be played before the end of May
- c) Whilst most matches this year have been played online it is hoped that the social aspect of the league will be enhanced with a return to face-to-face next session

10. Election of Officers

No new nominations were received, the following were re-elected:
Chair - Sophie Cunningham: Treasurer – Richard Plackett, Secretary – Keith Edwards: ATO – Jennifer Wardell

11. Election of Auditor

Leighton Williams agreed to continue in post

12. Motions from Members

None received

13. Any other Business

- a) It was noted that EBU Congress numbers are also well down on those pre-COVID
- b) It was suggested that efforts be made to encourage members from ALL EWBA Clubs to enter competitions

14. Date of Next Meeting

Sunday 12th May 2024, venue tbc