



Chairman <i>Steve Jarvis</i> steve08@hotmail.co.uk	Secretary <i>Peter Milewski</i> wwba.sec.pjm@gmail.com	Hon Treasurer <i>Sophie Sheppard</i> wwba.treasurer.ses@gmail.com
Tournament Organiser <i>David Nicklin</i> wwba.ato.dn@gmail.com	Webmaster <i>Christine Smith</i> chris.smith1@ymail.com	

Committee Meeting Minutes: Friday 1st May 2026 at 10.0 a.m.

Held via Zoom

1. Present:

Steve Jarvis (Chairman), Sophie Sheppard (Treasurer), David Nicklin (ATO), Christine Smith (Webmaster), Peter Milewski (Secretary), Lee Collier (Haverfordwest), Nicky Hancock (Tenby), Nigel Astley (Merlin), Rosemond Halls (Carmarthen), Tony Disley (Bridgend). (No apologies received).

2. Treasurer's Report (considered first to allow Sophie to leave early):

- CASH ASSETS

-- Total cash = £21,817

-- Account balances: Current £1,134, Reserve £11,237, Savings £9,346, Porthcawl £100.

-- Total net change from last meeting 13th March = increase of £11

- CASHFLOW

-- pay out: £20 to Bancyfelin

-- income: £31 monthly interest on savings

- EVENTS

-- Laidlaw Murray: with few entries, we cancelled at the last minute.

Bancyfelin do require a week's notice for hall hire cancellations: they very kindly gave us a discount by only charging £20 this time, and very politely reminded us that future short-notice cancellations will be charged at the full price of £120.

- ADMIN / bonus info

-- ACCOUNTS AUDIT: Mat Greener due to scrutinise.

-- QUESTION: shall I ask him to look over my Porthcawl records too, or only for the main accounts?

(Steve answered the question: yes, we would like Mat to scrutinise the Porthcawl accounts too).

Action: Sophie, Mat

3. Previous Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held via Zoom on 13th March 2026 were passed by general assent as a fair record.



4. **Matters Arising:**

Porthcawl. Lee advised us that Oliver Cowan, while unable to run the event, is willing to run the marketing, and will be talking with her shortly to arrange terms. It was agreed that this year we should not try to arrange a Holiday competition, in view of the lack of entries previously. Steve would like Peter to compose a preliminary flyer for him to distribute at the forthcoming Perry and President's Cup competition. Peter was in touch with Ian Mitchell who is willing again to act as Director for the event. There was a feeling in the Committee that we would again like Jenny Vaughan to act as Assistant Director and Lee will contact her about this. A meeting of the Porthcawl Group from this Committee to be set up, ideally with Oliver, possibly 11th or 12th May.

Action: Peter, Lee

5. **Secretary's Report**

Carmarthen representative. Peter welcomed Rosemond Halls who has now replaced Mike Reed as the representative from the Carmarthen Club. Peter has already written to Mike thanking him for his good work over the years, both in helping this Committee, and supporting the Carmarthen club.

WWBA AGM. To be held on Thursday 4th June 2026 at 10 a.m. on Zoom.

John Isaac Pairs. To be held on Sunday 21st June 2026 at 10 a.m. online.

Club League. All clubs about to complete the first six matches. After the final (seventh) matches are complete Peter suggests ask the winners for photos, as well as proceeding with a donation for the club's charity of choice. Nigel and Nicky commented that arranging for each match is something of a nightmare, due to the to-ing and fro-ing between at least eight different players in two different areas. After some discussion, the suggestion was made that we could set a specific day and time for next year's matches – perhaps Wednesday evenings. Peter will give some thought to this, correspond with the club captains, and come back to the committee on this matter.

Perry Spickett and President's Cup. Our Perry team will be Steve Jarvis with Nick Forrest and Kevin Maddox with Simon Richards. Our President's Cup team will be Howard Goss with Rosie Preece and Nigel Astley with Mat Greener. There was one other expression of interest, from Bill Elsdon of Swansea, but he was unable to provide a partner. Peter has written to him explaining the selection, thanking him for his interest, and suggesting he might like to try again next year with a regular partner. We have received no expressions of interest for the Spickett. Regarding subsistence, Tony Disley suggested that this should be increased to £75, which met with general approval.

Afternoon Tea Event 12th July. Lee is willing again to provide this, but may not have Rachel to assist her. Nicky offered her assistance. It was agreed that this year the event will be open only to WBU members, and that the charge should be £10.

Action: Peter, Lee



6. ATO Report

Handsheets. David highlighted that it is expensive and time-consuming to produce these, and of doubtful necessity since the hands are placed on the website later. It was pointed out that people like them to be available for discussion of the first session over lunch. It was agreed that a reasonable compromise would be for David to print a few for the first session and to photocopy further ones on request. David also made a request for a higher mileage allowance to account for escalating costs.

Action: David

7. Webmaster's report:

Christine will start work on the entry forms for Porthcawl, and we will need to advertise the AGM, John Isaac and Afternoon Tea events.

Action: Christine

8. Chairman's report:

President's Cup qualification. The WBU Management Committee has relaxed the requirements so as to allow in any regular WBU affiliated club player who has not taken part in national trials.

Free packs of cards. There are 10,000 available. Peter to let Rosemond and Nicky have the President's email address so they can make their requests.

Bidding box inserts - already distributed.

Bridgestedfodd. This is going ahead 20th-23rd August 2026 at the Cardiff Holiday Inn. The timetable will include Men's and Women's Pairs on the Thursday, Mixed Pairs on the Friday, Open Pairs on the Saturday, and Open Teams on the Sunday.

Teaching. Bridge is strong at Cardiff University, and they want Swansea to follow suit. Peter is emailing Steve separately about teaching locally.

WBU Selectors. Tony Disley has been nominated as a selector.

WBU Council is meeting on Wednesday 13th May at 11.0 a.m. with attendance requested if possible of not only Area Chairmen but also two local colleagues – Steve suggested Tony and Peter from this area.

Cake Club. Can we tell the clubs about this, it is in two sessions on Realbridge with an interval for tea and cakes. Suitable for novices and there is no need for a partner, one can be found. Next session 13th May.

Free online BBO sessions. There is not enough demand to continue, and probably Realbridge is more suitable for beginners – see Cake Club.

Action: all committee members



9. AOB:

Local promotion efforts. Rosemond asked what we are doing. Nicky has been round local schools who have so far shown no interest. Nicky and Lee found some limited interest at the Pembrokeshire College some time ago, but it didn't materialise into more players, probably because there are no longer any club evening sessions. Students and those who are not retired are mostly not able to attend in the afternoon. Nicky identified the head of St David's school (Rachel Thomas) who may be interested, and will let Steve know her contact details. Peter will write separately to Steve about ideas for local club sessions. There is the possibility of joining the English Bridge Education Department and using their structured courses. Rosemond suggested the possibility of accessing Trinity College Carmarthen.

Proposed amendments to the WBU Constitution. This is available in a group email sent by the WBU. Peter has downloaded it in case anyone wishes to see it. Tony Disley asked for a committee view on para. 8.2.2.1 regarding extension of a President's tenure beyond three years, expressing disquiet regarding the idea that not all areas may agree if there is a majority of members voting at the AGM. The committee agreed with his view. Also para. 8.4.1.4 in which it is suggested there may be between three and five members of the Laws and Ethics committee, Tony believes it should remain at three.

Action: Peter, Nicky, Steve

10. Next Meeting (on Zoom): Friday 3rd July at 10.0 a.m.