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Committee Meeting Minutes: Tuesday 18th August 2026 at 10.0 a.m.

Held via Zoom

1. Present:

Steve Jarvis (Chairman), David Nicklin (ATO), Christine Smith (Webmaster), Peter Milewski (Secretary), Tony Disley (Bridgend), Nigel Astley (Merlin), Nicky Hancock (Tenby), Lee Collier (Haverfordwest).

Apologies were received from Tony Haworth RosemondHalls and Sophie Sheppard.

2. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising:

The minutes of the meeting held via Zoom on 3rd July were circulated by email prior to the meeting. They were passed by general assent as a fair record.

3. Matters Arising:

Equipment. Steve has bought two storage boxes and boardsets for delivery to David.

Teaching.

1) Teaching course. Steve asked us for interest in the teaching course that he requested of the WBU, to be held online on 18th October online and 1st November in Cardiff. This is an EBED course which is the teaching arm of the EBU. Peter has circulated the poster to club secretaries, and has agreed to attend with Steve.

2) Teaching in Haverfordwest. Steve discussed this. He proposes to purchase the EBED books, to start a course in November. It was agreed that payment would be requested of attendees to ensure commitment. They would be asked to purchase the books which are approximately £30 each. There are also flippers for ready reference, and Steve will purchase boardsets for dealing and labelling by Peter and storage in Uzmaston. The idea is that the sets would comprise permanent themed deals of eight boards each to match the topics in the books, which would minimise the need for preparation by each teacher. Uzmaston may not be easily accessible to some, but it was suggested that the U3A in Narberth might be a source of attendees.

3) Carmarthen: Rosemond is continuing her beginners' teaching.

Co-option. Peter approached Tony Haworth who would like to remain as a co-opted member, we have already agreed to this.

Afternoon Tea event. Tony questioned whether this was a success, as though enjoyable, it didn't seem to have brought in more entries to our other events. Will review next time.

Action: Steve, Peter



4. Secretary's Report

Prizes. Peter has now paid prize money to the first and second pairs in the John Isaac, and made a donation from the WWBA of £50 to the RNLI on behalf of the winners of the Club League.

Porthcawl. Peter has emailed Ceri, Sarah, Oliver with the flyers and a request for them to publicise. He has also taken flyers to the Llandudno Congress, giving some to Oliver Cowan and some to Andrea Knox. Additionally he has phoned Sara Amos who has agreed to distribute them at the forthcoming Bridgesteddod, and posted them to her. As entries are pretty thin at the moment, Peter will contact Ian Mitchell our director and post him some flyers too.

Forthcoming events. Peter is due to send out reminders for the Swiss Pairs, and to bring out a poster for the Vince Bevan Pairs the following month. Steve is planning a regular free Realbridge event starting September 3rd.

Club League 2026-27. Peter has engaged with the captains and others regarding next year's competition, and taken account of comments from various quarters. A description of the results is rather lengthy, so has been placed in an Appendix below.

Action: Peter

5. Treasurer's Report.

Sophie currently unable to attend, has sent a report as follows:

- CASH ASSETS

- Total cash = £20,861 (plus Porthcawl £2,143)

- Account balances = Current £500, Reserve £10,936, Savings £9,425

- Total net change from last meeting = net decrease of £417

- CASHFLOW

Costs:

- Buying teaching equipment: £258

- Afternoon Tea event: net cost of £93 = £3.33 per player, much cheaper than last year's pilot event. Lower catering cost pp, well done Lee.

- Inter Club League: £50 donation to RNLI paid via Peter

Income:

- John Isaac held online: unless I've misunderstood the accounts, it was actually a net profit not a loss: net +£74 (table money +£204, director -£100, prizes -£30).

- income: ~£27/month interest on savings

- ADMIN

- Many thanks to everyone who has been doing a bunch of the Treasurer duties while I'm overwhelmed, especially Peter with payments and Steve with Porthcawl.

- Current Account was getting low (£167) so I topped it up (to £500) from the Reserve Savings.

Action: none



6. ATO Report

Need a deadline for Swiss and Vince Bevan. If we have to cancel Vince Bevan face to face, we could consider holding later on Realbridge. Christine awaiting opportunity to discuss next year's Laidlaw Murray Teams to be held at the Swansea club.

Action: none

7. Webmaster's report:

Nothing further to report

Action: none

8. Chairman's report:

Porthcawl. Only 9 pairs and 4 teams entered so far, with only 12 room bookings, far short of the 40 needed. After discussion, Peter and Steve were delegated with the decision whether or not to cancel, with a deadline of September 1st to 6th. In future we may change to venue-only booking if a satisfactory alternative can be found (the neighbouring entertainment venue is currently being upgraded).

Also see Matters Arising above

Action: as above

9. AOB:

none.

10. Next Meeting (on Zoom): Tuesday 29th September 2026 at 10.0 a.m.



Appendix: Club League 2026-27

Following communication with captains and various members about last year's competition, the following transpired:

- 1) Difficulty with arrangements. Peter will request participants to prioritise Wednesday evenings for the matches, as previously discussed.
- 2) Manners. Peter has had feedback from various quarters that they found playing the matches online rather unfriendly. He will circulate the clubs requesting a more friendly approach.
- 3) Barometer (BBO). Some players would prefer a running IMPs score (known as a Barometer on BBO), others would not. Peter will suggest each competing pair of captains to come to an agreement on this (they might as well also agree on whether to allow kibitzers).
- 4) Carmarthen. Unfortunately Rosemond has been unable to identify interest in taking part next year, apart from three members (Mike and Celia Reed, and Jonathan Williams). Peter has suggested that they could help out Llanelli if they have problems, and obtained agreement from Philip Snaith the Llanelli captain for this, though last year their own players took part in every match.
- 5) Number of matches. There is no longer a Direct Members ('Outlaws') team so that the participating clubs will number only six. Playing only five matches in ten months seems rather few, so Peter has suggested each pairing play twice, giving the first loser a chance for revenge. The response has been more positive than negative so, pending a response awaited from Swansea, we may go for a ten match option.
- 6) December. Nigel pointed out that making arrangements in December is always difficult, so maybe the timings could take account of that.
- 7) Setting up matches. BBO have introduced changes whereby only Premium members can set up team matches, but also they have given various users free Premium membership. This includes Julie and Peter Milewski, and Steve Jarvis. Therefore captains may need to request setup from one of us. Alternatively clubs might agree on a face to face venue, or even use Realbridge (which Peter or Steve can also set up for them using the WWBA account).