

Minutes of EWBA AGM held at Cardiff Bridge Club Sunday 12th May 2024

- 1. Attendance:** Mieke Deschepper welcomed 42 members to the AGM. Best wishes for speedy recoveries were extended to Webmaster Paul Cunningham and Director Sarah Amos, Angela Gilbert was thanked for agreeing to act as Director at short notice
- 2. Apologies were received from:** Martin Joseph and Maggie Pierce
- 3. Minutes of AGM Sunday May 14th 2023:** taken as read
- 4. Matters Arising:** none
- 5. Treasurer's Report:** Richard Plackett
 - a) At year end Restricted funds, to be used solely for training initiatives, stood at £1,024, £916 having been expended during the year. Richard encouraged clubs to apply for funding for training
 - b) At year end Unrestricted Funds totalled £20,180 – EWBA hosted the Perry/Spickett in 2023 resulting in a deficit but all other EWBA events produced surpluses
- 6. Report from the Chair:**
 - a) Mieke thanked Martin Joseph, Liz Atkinson and CBC for providing the venue and services for the AGM
 - b) Mieke thanked Sophie Cunningham for her service as Chair, Mieke had taken over at short notice a few months ago
 - c) Mieke's priorities will be to encourage more players, to this end more Club Reps have agreed to take part in Zoom committee meetings and training initiatives are being developed following the success of support for women's bridge across Wales and junior bridge at CBC

Questions from the floor:

 - Expenses for players representing EWBA? – to be discussed at next Committee meeting
 - Why do Wales' regions all have their AGM's on the same day? – for historical reasons
 - WBU is ineffective? – EWBA Committee to make representation to WBU
- 7. ATO Report by Jennifer Wardell:**

Jennifer presented her report detailing the events held with the names of winners - the joint winners of the Victor Ludorum were, as last year, Gwynn Davis and Sue Ingham – they and all other winners were congratulated

Mieke thanked Jennifer for her successful organisation and enthusiasm
- 8. Western League reported by Mike Best:**

"A" Team won the league and will go forward to the Regional Final, the Committee to consider payment of the entrance fee for this event

9. EWBA League reported by David Smith

- a) The league competition is almost complete with final matches to be played before the end of May but the winners have already emerged:

League 1: Cardiff All Stars

League 2: Penarth Menagerie who also won the KO Cup

League 3: Chepstow Archers

- b) David will canvass team captains to determine whether next year's League competition should remain hybrid with each team deciding to play f-t-f or online

10. Election of Officers

No new nominations were received, the following were re-elected unopposed:

Chair – Mieke Deschepper: Treasurer – Richard Plackett:

Secretary – Keith Edwards: ATO – Jennifer Wardell:

Master Points Steve Webb:

Paul Cunningham, Webmaster: David Smith, League organiser: Mike Best and Richard Welsford, Western League organisers, all indicated that they are willing to serve for another year

11. Election of Auditor

Leighton Williams agreed to continue in post

12. Motions from Members and Committee

The Motion tabled by the Committee to reduce the quorum for Committee meetings from 8 to 5 members was adopted unopposed. Clause 11 (c) of the EWBA Constitution will be so amended

13. Any other Business

- a) Mike Best congratulated Paul Cunningham on the clarity and upkeep of the EWBA website

- b) Steve Webb made the following remarks:

- WBU memberships are now due, members were asked to remind club secretaries to send renewal lists to Steve Webb asap
- Steve Webb is giving a zoom lecture on Masterpoints for anyone interested. Contact him for details
- A reminder that the Porthcawl Congress run by Sarah Amos, is returning as a face-to-face event with holiday bridge also available
See WWBA website for details

- c) Tony Campbell:

- Drew attention to the upcoming Porthcawl Green pointed and "holiday bridge" events
- Asked who will represent EWBA in the President's Cup – Mieke is currently canvassing clubs to create a team
- d) A vote of thanks was extended to the Officers

14. Date of Next Meeting

Sunday 11th May 2025, venue tbc

Mieke closed the meeting at 14.35 hours