

Welsh Team League

Entries

I apologise for the leaving this communication so late; however, we have been trying to give teams as much opportunity as possible to be formed and enter.

WBU will be forming a league structure from Sept 2014, though matches will be mainly from Oct-Feb. EWBA will be running their own Leagues within this structure as will the WWBA. Unfortunately there are not sufficient entries from Mid or North Wales to allow Leagues to be formed. We will look at a way of trying to give the two teams from these areas to get some matches. We will arrange a play-off between the winning teams in the top divisions of the two area leagues.

We originally had 38 teams entered including the Premier League but at this stage are still trying to find ways of accommodating two teams.

It looks as if we will have:

- A Premier League of 8 teams
- A League 1 and 2 in East Wales
- A Championship, League 1 and League 2 in West Wales (including 2 teams from Cardigan)
- We would like to encourage a league potentially in the East of Mid-Wales particularly of less experienced teams and perhaps incorporating some N. Wales teams

Recognising geography it is understandable that N and M Wales presents problems. We are hopeful of more entries particularly from less experienced teams mainly around Newtown, Llandrindod Wells, Rhayader, Knighton and perhaps into Dolgellau. **Please consider entering if that region suits your team.**

Major Objectives

- To encourage active participation in team bridge by players of all standards and aimed at providing a basis for improving playing standards in Wales.
- Use team bridge as a basis for training and development by playing against teams of similar standard within Wales. Hence at the end of the 24 board matches we would like to encourage the teams to spend say 30 mins discussing how play could have been improved. This should be of an encouraging nature not challenging and in poor taste.

To accommodate that our priorities are:

- To minimise travelling for matches.
- To play against teams of close to similar standard even if it means smaller leagues.
- Not to disrupt existing competitive league structures.
- Non-affiliated clubs will be accepted such that they may come into the WBU “fold” in future.

Consequently some “regional” leagues cross areas to meet the above objectives and encourage leagues to start

Through promotion and relegation we hope that players/teams will aspire to higher standards. The nature of this into the Premier Division has still to be determined but will be clarified before the season starts

EWBA

A long established league structure has existed and we do not intend to disrupt this; hence within their league structure will be some premier division players who have played in established teams in the past and we wish to encourage continuation of that league structure. EWBA will be communicating their details in the near future

We will resolve the issue of potential promotion/relegation to the Premier Division over the next few months

West Leagues Entries and Match Timetables

There will be a 7 Team Championship, 5 Team League 1 and 5 team League 2.. A venue (Tumble Community Hall) has been booked for Sun 9th Nov to provide a “neutral” central venue for further travelled team matches which would be difficult in midweek nights e.g. Haverfordwest v Bridgend teams and Cardigan v Bridgend teams.

The teams in each section are shown below.

Structure of West Matches

1. Each match will consist of 2 x 12 boards with the pairs changing opponents after 12 boards. It is suggested that in club matches refreshments should be encouraged by the hosts after 12 boards.
2. Each board will be IMP scored and the overall match result converted to VPs.
3. While the make-up of the teams in the Play-offs for the Premiership has to be determined we envisage that this will involve 3 x 28, 4 x 24

boards or 5 x 16 board matches dependant on the number of teams on a weekend in March/April.

4. Clubs are to be encouraged to make their facilities available for matches at minimum cost to help the development of bridge e.g. normal table money.
5. Matches will be arranged between Captains and all played by the end of Feb. 2015. We will suggest windows for each match. Some matches of more distant teams may require a weekend day/s. This apply in the West leagues.
6. The Premiership will be played instead of the Open Trials on 20th/21st Sept and 4th/5th Oct 2014.

Issues to be resolved

The following issues have still to be considered and will be resolved before the end of October 2014:

- a) The nature of teams participating in any play-off.
- b) MP allocation for each league.
- c) The extent to which non-affiliated clubs are encouraged in the lower divisions with the aim of future WBU membership.

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