

CEO Report for Council.

Thank you for your attendance today at Council and a special thanks to those who have served on the Management Committee these last twelve months. I also thank the officials of our Clubs who play a very large part in ensuring that we have the membership we enjoy. We have increased our insurance cover for Officers and Directors to include all members with an office at their Clubs. The WBU have absorbed the extra premium cost so that there is no cost to our Clubs for this valuable insurance cover.

I can report that the Master Point upload facility on the online database is now in use by the majority of Clubs. Phil Bowers our Master Point and Membership Secretary is getting the most out of it, and Clubs are getting Master Point statements produced by him from the program. There are more enhancements in the pipeline which will slowly filter through. You may not know that the program has so far cost the WBU nothing and neither has the hosting.

The EBU took over the running of the BGB Sims and this has led to a drop in entries from Welsh and Scottish Clubs. The WBU share of the profits was used to support our International Teams and you will see from the Accounts that quite substantial funding is required to facilitate this. Our neighbours at the EBU have already given up funding their team expenses and sponsors have been found.

In association with the SBU and the NIBU we have inaugurated the Celtic Sims to help with the funding and I would urge all Clubs to participate. The last Sims produced about £1300 for the WBU which of course is nowhere near to the £10,000 that the BGB Sims produced for us. The EBU have also refused to accept Welsh, Scottish or Irish Master Points earned by their Club members playing in England and this has resulted in a sizeable drop in our income as the WBU Sims were well supported by EBU Clubs.

I have been successful in securing sponsorship from the company 'First for Bridge'. Initially this will be prize holiday vouchers to be won for the first time at the Welsh Foursomes. They are also going to sponsor the printing of WBU playing cards. Obviously sponsors hope for a return on their outlay and should you be considering a Bridge Holiday I would ask you to consider 'First for Bridge'.

The Teltscher Trophy event (Seniors Camrose) was held in Cardiff and successfully managed by Patrick Jourdain who to his credit managed to organise the entire event within the sponsorship budget. I have thanked him on behalf of the WBU and our thanks should also be extended to Simon Gottschalk, Tim Rees and all the other volunteers who gave their time so freely.

Jean Hand as NTO has worked tirelessly to stage our Competitions, and together we have sought out venues and tried to bring added value to the events. We have done our best, but we cannot hope to please everybody. To those who have given praise we offer our thanks, to those who have complained we say –

If you can do better come and help, we are after all volunteers and you could be as well.

Finally I must also thank Jill Knight, Laura Woodruff, Fiona Noyce, Mike Tedd, the Selectors and all our volunteers for the work they have done and do to keep the WBU running.