

**Meeting of WBU Management Committee and Selectors**  
**Commodore Hotel, Llandrindod Wells on 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2013**

**1. Present**

Herbie Rowley	President	Paul Denning	Selector
Neville Richards	CEO	Julian Pottage	Selector
Fiona Noyce	Treasurer	Adrian Thomas	Selector
Jean Hand	NTO	Alan Stephenson	Selector
Geoff Evans	EWBA rep	Alan Screen	Selector
Bob Alderdice	WWBA rep		

**2. Apologies**

Paddy Murphy, Richard Hill, Linda Greenland

**3. Purpose of the Meeting**

A joint meeting was called in order to discuss how the WBU can improve the standard of bridge in Wales and enhance the pool of players capable of playing at International standard.

Two discussion papers acted as the basis for these discussions one from the Management Committee and the other from the Selectors

**4 Actions/Next Steps from the meeting**

	<b>Action/Next Step</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
<b>1</b>	Identify former international standard players not currently playing in Wales for future pool	All	Feb'14
<b>2</b>	Review Competition Structure	MC	Mar'14
<b>3</b>	Review Trial Structure	Sel/ors	Mar'14
<b>4</b>	Identify potential developing pairs for Celtic Congress at Carlow 2/4 <sup>th</sup> May 2014	Sel/ors	Mar'14
<b>5</b>	Proposed National Teams League Competition	PD/RA	Feb'14
<b>6</b>	Areas to consider more training and less competition	MC	Mar'14
<b>7</b>	Revamped Graded Masters to be re-introduced	MC	Mar'14
<b>8</b>	Seminars to be increased	MC	
<b>9</b>	Budget to be identified for Selectors which will include an increased training element and an honorarium for a Training Co-ordinator	MC	Dec'13
<b>10</b>	Proposal for rationalising international expenses	MC	Dec'13
<b>11</b>	Pursue sponsorship for major events	All	Mar'14

## **5 Short Note of discussions**

There was considerable unanimity regarding the issues that require to be addressed and acceptance that we require to have a 5 year window of development. In order to develop the playing pool during that time it was considered that:

- We try to encourage more former international players to support competitive bridge in Wales over the next few years to support a programme to improve the standards of other players of future area/international standard representation.
- Recognising our international standard at present, other than the Camrose, the WBU funds should focus more on training and development rather than representation at European and international events.
- The WBU will support a team to the Commonwealth Games tournament in Glasgow in 2014.
- We should initiate a National Teams League with teams/league of various standards and have promotion and relegation. All clubs will be encouraged to get most of their members to join a team at the appropriate level. The objective is:
  - Δ Use a Premier Division to increase the playing pool for Internationals
  - Δ Develop team playing skills
  - Δ Enthuse a greater number of players, with them playing against similar standard players in a competitive structure with promotion offering scope for development.
  - Δ Provide a framework for fast-tracking improving younger players
- Greater emphasis to be put on training of players at all levels, with Areas encouraged to look at training as an increasing element of their role as against purely competitions
- Opportunities for extending the use of Internet Bridge will be explored.

**Next Meeting :**

**Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014 in Commodore Hotel, Llandrindod Wells**