

PRESIDENT'S QUARTERLY REPORT ONE

SEPTEMBER 6TH 2010

Has it really been 4 months? What have I been doing in this time? Well it feels like lots but achievement wise it has been less than I wanted.

A lot of time is spent on answering a range of emails, on issues that arise. I do feel that I am aware of all current issues, and some past ones, involving the WBU, consulting wiser and more experienced members when possible (on this it has been great to witness Linda's re-emergence into Welsh affairs. Neville Linda and myself have quickly developed an excellent working relationship. In fact I cannot say that there is any member of Council or areas who have not given me support and this can only be good for the future of Welsh Bridge.

The 2 main areas have been

1) SELECTION- identifying and agreeing a new selection committee.

They had their first Skype meeting on August 23rd and will now deal with selection issues, up to then I had to coordinate the selection process fully consulting Council on the make up of this new team and answering many queries on the way. Inevitably this involves disagreements on issues such as exemption, dates of trials perceived favouritism.(see selector's blog for my final handover report to new selection committeee.

2) SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

This occurred on Sept 4th and the idea of a new Management committee was accepted with necessary changes to the Constitution. The hard work here was done by others but it was still very pleasing that from original proposals by the working party of 6, led by past president Alan Screen, Council and areas then suggested amendments which were listened to.

Yes there are still important issues which need attention in trying to consult with members, not least how WBU disseminate information. Some members present at the SGM were critical that this information was not getting through from clubs.

Other areas

3) WBU are hosting the final Camrose weekend in 2011 and a venue has been agreed, the Metropole in Llandrindod Wells. Neville, Jean Cufley and Alan Screen completed negotiating very good terms and Jean has agreed to be Match Manager.

4) Attending 3 congresses which I haven't been to for quite some time and one I regularly attend. One of the perks of being president is that they don't have to pay (I don't know if this is widely known but it is now). In return all it seems I have to do is give out a few prizes, shake a few hands, kiss a few ladies - hardly unenjoyable. Yet at the end of all the weekends I am

shattered, as I try to talk to as many people as possible and listen and try to remember various helpful suggestions members and visitors make. It is pleasing to report that numbers were up at all these congresses/weekends.

Issues that arise at these congresses then have to be further discussed and dealt with, consulting on the way, a main one of these being staying to collect prize money, which some English visitors were not happy about.

One month later at the Welsh Fours, with slightly different publicity of this; no complaints I am aware of.

5) Interview with Jill Knight for next newsletter

6) Arranging tours of clubs, a one week tour of West Wales in October and one for North Wales at the end of November.

7) Devising a Questionnaire aimed at seeking members views on a range of issues (this is nearly complete now)

8) Agreeing visits to local clubs - Brecon 4 visits agreed with lessons thrown in, Chepstow and Abergavenny in principle but no dates yet.

9) Working extremely co-operatively with EWBA and becoming a committee member of my local bridge club.

10) Trying to arrange some new initiatives – mid week senior trials, extra teams of club players to represent areas at same time and venue as Perry and Spickett weekend, ladies training development on Internet – these are all works in progress.

11) Rightly or wrongly keeping out of Buffet Cup organisation. I believe event coordinator Patrick Jourdain has plenty of helpers I think. Voluntary helpers for 3 days and I fully intend to support the event and work as required over the week.

Council agreed the WBU would give minimum financial support to a non WBU event, for overseas players but I hope as many members as possible will support the event by attending even helping on a day and making our visitors feel welcome. It is a truly unique opportunity to watch the world's best.

Anyhow that's about it and if your club wants to invite the WBU president this year or have suggestions you wish me to look at let me know.

Adrian