

**MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE WELSH BRIDGE UNION
ON THE 20TH JULY
AT
THE NEW INN NEWBRIDGE UPON WYE**

Present:

Jean Hand
Judith Graham Jones
Neville Richards
Linda Greenland
Ken Richardson
Patrick Jourdain
Steve Webb
Chris Davies
Anne Davies
Beryl Warner
William Pink
Alan Screen
Jean Cufley
Gill Knight
Allan James
Peter Hand
Margaret Van de Weyer

President
Past President
CEO
Treasurer
NTO
Delegate East Wales Chairperson
Delegate East Wales
Delegate West Wales Chairperson
Delegate West Wales
Delegate West Wales
Delegate Mid Wales
Delegate Mid Wales
Delegate Mid Wales
Delegate North Wales
Delegate North Wales
Delegate North Wales
Minutes Secretary and Delegate for East Wales

1. Apologies for absence:

Noelle Bond; Catherine Spalding; Betty Brookes

2. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 2nd March 2008

- a. The minutes of the above meeting having been distributed was accepted as a true record of that meeting
- b. There were no matters arising from that meeting only that it was noted that there had been no costing done for distribution of the magazine by post.

3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 18th May

- a. The minutes of this meeting was held to be a true record save that the minutes to be amended to add “the nominated selectors”
- b. The only matter arising was that the Treasurer had spoken to the retiring NTO as to his annual fee. The NTO had agreed to take half his fee which amounted to £650.00

4. Draft AGM minutes and matters arising:

Although these cannot be accepted as a true record Council acknowledged the accuracy of these minutes.

It was confirmed that the Perry Shield and Spickett Bowl will be at the Beach Hotel Prestatyn in 2009.

5. EGM held on the 13th July 2008

No minutes were yet available for this meeting but it was confirmed that the Changes to the Constitution were passed. These changes must now be made to the constitution as it appears on the website with confirmation of the date on which the Constitution was last amended.

6. Election of Subcommittees:

- a. **Finance:** John Wain (North);
Dewi Jones (mid);
Bob Alderdice (West);
Anne Jones (East)

b. Tournament and Master Points Secretary:

J. Wardete (West);

Steve Webb AT0 East and Diana Jones Master Points Secretary East

c. **Law and Ethics:**

Anne Jones

David Stephenson

Ken Richardson

d. Selectors:

Peter Garner Gray	Chairperson
Tom Reddy	East Wales
Peter Hand	Executive North Wales
Paul Gagne	Mid Wales
John Salisbury	Executive
Jim Luck	Council Nomination

It was accepted that a seventh selector be appointed who is not interested in playing for the Seniors. At least 3 Selectors should have no interest in the team that they are selecting

8 Appointments:

a. Tournament Director and Co coordinator

Ken Richardson

b. Membership Secretary

Noelle Bond

c. WBU representative Great Britain

Neville Richards

d. Newsletter Editor

Julian Pottage

e. Minutes Secretary

Margaret Van de Weyer

9 Reports:

A. Chief Executive:

The CEO's report had been distributed to all members prior to the meeting. The following points were discussed:

1. It is essential that the Selectors produce a written policy on the selection procedure as soon as possible. This draft policy must be available at least three weeks before the November Council meeting and a select group of the Council to review this policy prior to the November meeting.
2. A draft Child Protection Policy has been prepared and this was adopted by the Council with the policy to include the words Guardian. It must be brought to the attention of all WBU clubs that they must have a Child Protection Policy in place and appoint a person to oversee and review this policy. The WBU will appoint its own Child Protection Officer.
3. We need to put in place a public liability policy as soon as possible.

B. Treasurer's Report:

1. It is always quiet this time of the year and there is little change in our financial position. The administration chaos in competitions last year has had a negative effect on income. e.g. Webber entrants were down so there was a loss of £500.00
2. There are still a number of clubs who have not paid their subscriptions to date.
3. The International Fund would go towards paying part of the CEO's remuneration and entry fees for certain events.
4. The licence fee increase of 2% will not apply until the Porthcawl Congress in October and will thereafter apply to Spring Congress 2009 and Swiss Pairs.
5. Overall the financial situation is sound with £8,500.00 in current account and £121,000.00 on deposit.

C. National Tournament Organisers Report:

The NTO prepared a detailed written report for Council.

A.

1. Journals have been published and distributed.
2. The EBU has changed the dates for the issue of Master points for the year and perhaps we should consider changing our date. It was agreed by Council that the date would now be the end of March for accreditation of Master points for the year. The NTO will inform the Master points Secretary of the change and for her to confirm when implemented.
3. There is a suggestion whether to change the number of boards played per day in the National Open Pairs final and the Mixed Pairs final. The number of boards played on a Saturday reduced by 12 and the Sunday session increased accordingly. This would mean that Sunday play would increase by approximately 1 1/2 hours. It was agreed that members would take this back to their various committees to discuss further
4.
 - a. Note that the Graded masters will be in the middle of January at Awel y Mor Porthcawl. Query whether the Graded Masters could change to mid Wales a more central venue accessible to all of Wales in an attempt to increase the number of players taking part as there is concern to the actual players now taking part in this event. This is to be considered further when we see how many take part in the 2009 Graded Masters.
 - b. The change of venue is due to the increase cost of the Rest Porthcawl. Although the WBU have no tables at the Rest, East and West Wales do. If these tables are being used should not some remuneration be received by these areas?

Council congratulated the NTO for all the hard work done to date and in particular producing a Calendar of events.
Further points arising from the NTO's report:

B.

1. The forthcoming Journal will list winners of all events that were not published in the previous Journal
2. It was proposed and accepted that as we do not present trophies at the AGM the NTO will prepare a list of all winners of events for the past year
3. There have been two seminars one in South Wales and one in North Wales advising of the changes which will be implemented on the 1st August. Law Books have been distributed and the change to the Laws and interpretation of these change are on our Web Site. Note there may be a review of Law 27 insufficient bid. The NTO feels that there should be an exception to the new rule that cards must be shuffled before being replaced in the boards in that where there is a player with disability the cards being passed to him/her may be put in suit order. (NTO's own interpretation of rule).

4. The Junior Camrose is the 19-21 February and we should consider getting a convener on board. Margaret Lane must be informed to book Hotels and Venue
5. The National Men's Pairs event was cancelled this year but the NTO felt that this was due to lack of publicity. We should look to run it in 2009 in conjunction with the National Ladies Pairs. Pairs on Saturday teams on Sunday.
6. There is a proposal before Council from East Wales to remove the restriction on the number of teams from each club that can enter for the Club Teams of 8 qualifiers but no more than two from each club can go through to the final. It was agreed that this would be referred to the Tournament Committee to consider whether this restriction should be removed.
7. The NTO will set up web page showing who has entered for each event and who has paid their entry fees
8. The Welsh Invitation Pairs will take place on the 19 – 20th September 2009
9. It is not always to be totally accurate on the dates in the Calendar from 2009 as full details are not published that far in advance and so the dates from September 2009 are provisional.
10. It was noted that the start times of some events were incorrect. The Club teams of 8 will start at 11.30 but the Perry/Spickett will start at noon.

C. Eligibility for the Perry/Spickett

1. East Wales had to “de select” a player for the above event as that player no longer lived in the area which he had represented in the past. Council should perhaps consider a change in the requirements for playing in this event and bring them in line with the laws governing players representing their Country. The members should go back to their areas to consider this further. If approved a change to the constitution will be needed at the next AGM

D.

1. The Llangollen Congress is run by Mike Amos and this should continue. An incentive is being proposed that if a team encourages another team to enter then that team should have a reduced entry fee. This is done with the view of encouraging more teams to enter. Mike Amos is also looking to implement an early bird session, so that 2 sessions will be run at different times to accommodate those who wish to have a longer break between sessions. Council accepted that this experiment should go ahead.
2. Please note that changes to the Orange Book published by the EBU to be implemented at the 1st August. Notices have been sent to clubs.

D. Bridge Great Britain:

1. The minutes of the last meeting have been distributed. We will be receiving approximately £2,768.60 from the April Simms.
2. there is a new Senior Bridge International event and it is hoped that one table will be on bridge.com
3. there is now a Senior Home International Event. Senior players are happy not to accept grants for playing. It was proposed by East Wales that non playing captain should receive a small grant of £100.00. this was accepted by Council.
4. The EBL is considering changing its eligibility rules which may have consequences for Wales. We must not have a situation where a player is eligible for Scotland in the home internationals and eligible for England in the Europeans. It is essential that we be aware of any proposed changes.

E. Junior Co coordinators Report:

This had been distributed to Council members:

1. Concern was expressed by Council that our juniors were not taking part in Welsh events, even when they are being invited to do so. Contrast this with Junior English teams. It is essential that juniors practise in teams events. Two pairs did play in Poland and they had financial assistance from the Educational budget and a small amount from the training budget.
2. Council agreed to continue with the training budget but
 - a. that juniors must play in at least two national events or Congresses in Wales each year and
 - b. When the international team is selected consideration must be given to those who have played as a team
3. We are still waiting confirmation that the juniors will have free air flight to China on Air China. There were no entry fees for the juniors.
4. Council members are concerned as to whether enough is being done to encourage bridge in schools. Difficulty occurs with the National curriculum and people prepared to go into schools to teach children. There is an incentive called “mini bridge”. Part of Elaine Sharps remit is to encourage people in University to play bridge.

10. Correspondence:

1. A letter has been received from Noelle Bond expressing gratitude for being made a honorary life member. Patrick Jourdain also expressed his thanks for being so honoured.
2. Tim Rees expressed concern about the recording of bridge hands which took place at the Pau where a lot of countries turned up without a recorder. It is very difficult to play and record hands at the same time. To employ a recorder would have cost 25 Euros. Luckily Patrick Jourdain was able to call in some favours and people helped with the recording as did a player's husband as did another Lady there with the Ladies team
Council queried whether recording should be part of the entry fee, but it was felt that the entry fees would be increased and this would not be in Wales's favour as they do not qualify for the last rounds
Clarification should be sought before entering teams as to whether a recorder is required
There is a federation of smaller bridge unions and we should contact them to discuss how they propose to tackle this problem and to write to the EBL pointing out that recording is a significant cost for small countries.
3. A letter had been received from Sheila Shay asking to be recompensed for the car hire and a similar letter from Gilly Clench asking or some remuneration/grant as to their costs

11. Correspondence:

A formal motion was put to the Council by East Wales:

“The East Wales Area proposes that “a grant of £300 be paid to each member of the WBU Open and Womens Team at the 2008 European Championships in Pau from the WBU International Fund, and that this grant should be outside the cap on total 2008 International Fund expenditure proposed at the March WBU Council Meeting”

This motion replaces the one offered in advance of Pau by the Chairman of East Wales who therefore withdraws his earlier one.”

A lengthy discussion took place as to

- a. the implications of accepting this motion.
- b. Concern was also expressed as to whether we were ageist in excluding the Seniors although historically Seniors have never received a grant.
- c. the shambles caused by selection in that the Ladies in particular did not know what would be offered to them as in the past they were told prior to selection.

d. As we are not going to be sending so many teams to Beijing there is still £1,500.00 available before we reach the cap

After discussion the motion was amended to include all teams and limited to £250.00. This was voted upon and carried by a majority.

Council agreed that retrospective payments were not acceptable but in view of the mismanagement of selection and promises made it a grant would be given. This again shows the need for clear policies on selection covering also grants etc.

It was proposed and carried that

“ the grant for any team going to Beijing (save for the Junior team) be set a 0% (zero).

12. WBU Affiliation/Associated Membership

Council referred to the excellent report prepared by the NTO.

It was noted that Bedwas has applied for direct affiliation.