

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
(subject to confirmation at next Council meeting)
HELD ON THE 23RD NOVEMBER 2008

Present:

Jean Hand, President; Judith Graham Jones, Past President, Neville Richards CEO; Linda Greenland, Treasurer; Ken Richardson, ATO; Peter Hand; Mike Tedd, Dewi Jones; Jill Knight; Alan James; Alan Screen; Kate Craven; Anne Davies; Steve Webb; Patrick Jourdain; Chris Davies; Margaret Van de Weyer

Apologies:

Beryl Warner; Noelle Bond; Catherine Spalding.

After some debate, with Judith Graham Jones the Immediate Past President in the chair, Council refused to accept Jean Hand's resignation as President and confirmed that she was to remain in office until the end of her term.

The President then joined the meeting.

The President addressed the meeting saying that the WBU must move forward and work for the future of the Welsh Bridge Union.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on the 20th July 2008

The minutes of this meeting had been circulated to all delegates. The following points arose

- a. Under item 9a of the CEO report all clubs must have in place a Child Protection Policy, it is imperative where under 18's are playing. Secretaries of the areas should be informed.
- b. It would be helpful if all the minutes and other papers had dates on them showing the date on which they were amended
- c. As a point of order, matters should not be discussed outside the Council meetings until the minutes were confirmed. It would help if minutes were published as soon as possible after the Council meeting. They should also indicate that they are draft minutes

There being no other matters arising the minutes of the 20th July were accepted and adopted.

2. Chief Executive's Report:

CEO had previously circulated his report.

- a. He expressed concern that the interest in competitions was on the decline. He suggested a sub committee to be appointed to look into making competitions more interesting and encouraging players of all abilities to take part. The NTO stated that the Tournament and Master Point sub committee has the authority to look at competitions but this committee has been poorly attended. It was suggested that dates be put in the calendar so members of the committee would be aware of the time and place of the meetings. It was confirmed that the committee does have the power to ask other people to attend so that everyone's views on how competitions should be run could be canvassed, also papers could be submitted outlining peoples' views for consideration. The Treasurer confirmed that the WBU was subsidising some competitions such as The Welsh and Cambria Cups. It was suggested that we should look at the Veteran's Pairs event, as it does not seem to be well supported.
- b. We should be looking to encourage the teaching of bridge in Wales and to help finance the teaching of bridge. We should have a list of all those teaching bridge and should have courses to help people teach bridge. The EBU run courses and we should be looking to do likewise or to help people attend the EBU courses. This should be referred to the finance sub committee to recommend the level of finance. Council agreed to adopt this approach and the areas would be asked to put forward those people interested in teaching bridge to the website manager and the CEO
- c. It was confirmed that Julian Pottage had resigned as editor of the bridge magazine. An editor is being sought for the next publication of the magazine. It was agreed that if anyone is interested in the post the CEO and the President make the appointment.

3. Treasurer's Report:

- a. We presently have £14,000 in the current account and £122,000 on deposit with Standard Life Bank. This is an increase but we do have our greater expenditure in the New Year, which will affect our budget. The Treasurer estimates that there will be a loss of £2,000.00.
- b. In order to protect our financial situation Council proposed that our money should be diversified. The financial sub committee to look into this and to prepare a report and advise Council of the details at the next meeting. The Treasurer's comments on the limit accounts available to us were noted.
- c. The Treasurer proposes to arrange a meeting of the financial sub committee prior to the next Council meeting. The Treasurer suggested that this should be by way of a conference call, which would be a lot cheaper.
- d. Council felt that it was essential that the Treasurer and Financial sub committee prepare a four-year budget for the use of the World Fund.
- e. **World Fund:** Bridge Great Britain gives financial assistance to the EBU, the SBU and the WBU. The funding was given to cover the new costs and obligations arising from the upgrading of the WBU to a National Bridge Organisation

on 1st January 2000" (World Fund). Acceptable expenditure includes relevant administrative cost, and training costs. Part of this money is used to pay some of the CEO's costs. The purpose of World Fund is not for ordinary WBU administration and the home internationals. This money is separate from members' money. Our participation in European and world events is thus funded out of this money without recourse to Members' funds. We should receive the money annually but sometime we get two payments in a year and occasionally no payments pending on when we receive the money.

- f. In the home international Council agreed that all non-playing captains should receive the same treatment. Council further confirmed that they would like to field all teams including seniors and juniors in the home internationals. In international Tournaments, we only send teams we are confident will represent us reasonably well; this might be about half the number of teams that are invited to play.
 - g. For the home internationals, we pay hotel and evening meal. These are fixed costs. If playing away we look to book cheap travel and the players do take into account the cost when arranging travel.
 - h. It is essential that Council publishes a policy stating how grants are calculated and full information on financial matters needs to be available to members. We need an open and transparent policy.
 - i. If we paid players' expenses, the funding for the Seniors Camrose for 2009 would be in the range of £1500 - £2,000.00. At present time, we do not contribute to the event that traditionally is played in Oxford. It was proposed by Chris Davies and seconded by Steve Webb that no grant should be given to the Senior Camrose Home International Team. This was agreed confirming Council's previous decision.
- Peter and Jean Hand, Patrick Jourdain and Mike Tedd withdrew from the room the discussion.

It was proposed by Judith Graham Jones that we thank the Treasurer for a very interesting report.

4. National Tournament Organisers' Report;

- a. There are some changes to the Calendar which will be put to the sub committee
- b. Council should consider whether to relax the rules relating to mobile phones at Congresses and Competitions. At present, there is an automatic deduction of two Victory points. Council accepted that the use of mobile phones and the penalties arising should be at the discretion of the Tournament Organizers and the Directors.
- c. As the Senior Camrose is the weekend of the 29-31st May it is proposed that we put the Men's and ladies weekend on the 6th and 7th June this was accepted
- d. Senior Trials to take place on the 21st and 22nd February
- e. The South Wales Veterans Pairs will be withdrawn due to lack of entries but the North Wales Veterans Pairs will go ahead there being 10 tables.

- f. The Llangollen Congress does not appear on the EBU website. This congress does need to be marketed for next year as this year again the numbers were reduced.

5 Welsh Juniors Report Elaine Sharp

- a. The Junior co coordinators report had been distributed to Council members
- b. Council agreed to subsidise £50.00 to those juniors attending the annual junior teaching event held at Loughborough.
- c. Wales finished 49th in the World mind games in Beijing. A good effort on behalf of the junior team.
- d. Juniors players did well at Llangollen and Porthcawl
- e. Two juniors will take part in the Lady Milne Trial
- f. Concern has been expressed that those juniors under the age of 18 may need chaperones when travelling, and would Council be prepared to allocate money for this purpose. The Chaperones (may require two if there are boys and girls travelling) minimum costs would be met. Query whether the npc could also act as Chaperone. The Chaperones will require CRB checks. The junior co coordinator to check whether the events in which they are to play provide Chaperones. The non playing captain will also require a CRB check
- g. Anne Davies was appointed by Council as our Child Protection officer responsible for the Child Protection Policy
- h. Council agreed a reduced fee for juniors entering Welsh Competitions or Congresses. Confirmed that juniors will get free entry for an event run by the WBU or funded by the WBU. Congresses that are funded by the areas can deduct any contribution to the juniors' fees for their licence fee. Council recommended that non-Welsh juniors would pay half the fee. The balance would be borne by the holders of the event.
- i. Council confirmed that Alan Jones would be the new Junior Co coordinator with Elaine Sharp being assistant junior co coordinator.
- j. Council approved in principle teams to be sent to the European Junior events, provided, Elaine Sharp and Alan Jones believe that the team is of a standard required to compete.
- k. Council thanked Elaine Sharp for her report and all the work she has done for the junior teams as the junior co coordinator.

A report has also been received from James Ewington on the World mind games was excellent and thanks to him for preparing this report.

6. Selectors Report:

A report was received from John Salisbury a selector.

Under the WBU constitution, we can have seven selectors there are three vacancies. Council accepted Paul Denning and Paddy Murphy as two additional selectors.

Judith Graham Jones proposed that the report be received and placed on file.

Two other reports having been received from the Ethics Committee and Liam Sheridan on Beijing be accepted and placed on file.

7. Report from Mike Bond:

Mike Bond requires permission to put the name of members of the WBU and their numbers on the website. This would be done by way of a link from the WBU website to Noelle Bond's website. This was accepted.

8. Procedural Update:

Council accepted the need to review the WBU constitution to include resignations. The minute's secretary would look into this and bring proposals to include this change to the next meeting. At the same time, the whole of the constitution should be looked at including the change in the qualification rules for the Spicket Bowl and Perry Shield.

9. Standing Orders:

Some of the problems facing Council may have been avoided if we had standing orders. Judith Graham Jones felt that these were urgently required. It was suggested that there should be a working party of three people, Judith Graham Jones and Ken Richardson agreed to be on the working party.

10. Chief Executive Officer's Role:

A clear job description defining this role needs to be put in place. Linda Greenland, Neville Richards and Mike Tedd would form a sub committee to set out the scope of the CEO's authority.

11. Liam Sheridan:

Council considered the letters received from Liam Sheridan and his request for extra grant money for going to Beijing. Alan Screen who was part of the team would listen to the discussion but would take no part in the discussion. Alan Screen left the room when the voting took place. The area delegates expressed their concern over the situation and the area views were discussed including perhaps an offer of £1,500.00. It was proposed that Council reaffirm the decision made by Council at the July 08 meeting that the grant for the seniors going to Beijing should be 0% although the entry fee would be paid. This proposal was unanimously agreed.

12. Camrose Report prepared by Margaret Lane:

- a. Council accepted that we should buy small presents for the helpers. Help is urgently required to meet people and take them to The Park Inn Hotel Llanederyn.
- b. The CEO reported that it would be cheaper for him to purchase reconditioned laptops rather than hiring laptops. This was accepted by Council. The laptops could then be given to clubs requiring laptops for their use. The laptops would remain the property of the WBU and would be returned to the WBU if required for other events. The CEO authorized to spend £1,000.00
- c. Council requested that the CEO look into insurance for public liability and insurance to cover the officers of the WBU against loss including loss arising out of litigation.
- d. The BGB limit the charges for the hotels and meals. If we exceed the cost, the host nation must pay the difference.
- e. Council thanked Margaret Lane for the report and Linda Greenland for the support given to Margaret Lane.

13. Correspondence:

- a. A letter has been received from Filip Kurbalija raising the issue of a training budget for the selectors. Council accepted the need for a training budget and agreed the sum of £1,000.00 for the year 2009; this money would come from the World Fund.
- b. Council sometimes requires assistance as to whether to field a team for a particular event. Guidance and consideration must be given by the selectors as to the quality of that team and whether they can reasonably compete with others in the field.
- c. It is clear that Council requires proposals for the distribution of grants. There is a requirement for an equitable and open policy. Consideration may be given to the open team, as all players are eligible to play in that team not being restricted by age of sex and is a true representation of the WBU. A bigger grant may be available to the Open Team over the other teams, although maintaining a balance between the respective teams. Chris Davies agreed that he would look into the issues and prepare a short report for the next Council meeting.

Draft Minutes 6th December 2008.