

**WELSH BRIDGE UNION**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**of the Council meeting held on 1st November 2009**

President:	Alan Screen
Immediate Past President:	Jean Hand
Vice-Presidents:	Mike Best (EWBA) Chris Davies (WWBA) Allan James (NWBA) Mike Tedd (MWBA)
Area Delegates:	Judith Graham-Jones & Kate Craven (WWBA) Jean Cufley & Dewi Jones (MWBA) Joan Jenkins (EWBA) Jill Knight & Peter Hand (NWBA)
Chief Executive:	Neville Richards
Hon.Treasurer:	Linda Greenland

Apologies for absence: Noelle Bond, Gwynn Davis

The President welcomed members to the meeting particularly in view of the appalling weather conditions that had resulted in difficult journeys.

He apologised for late receipt of the Agenda for the meeting; this was due to a misunderstanding between himself and the CEO.

## **1 Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

Received, and after a query on one item at 7.3 agreed as now fait accompli, approved and signed as a correct record.

## **2 Matters arising from those Minutes**

### **1.2. Standing Orders.**

A paper from Judith Graham-Jones had been circulated and was received; she invited further contributions from Council members for additional matters that should be included within Standing Orders.

It was agreed that such Orders should not be finalised until any impending changes to the Constitution had been agreed.

4 An inquiry was made as to any progress in the matter of Bridge as a Mind Game/Sport and the Olympic committee; the CEO reported that he had heard nothing on the matter from John Wain.

Kate Craven informed Council that she had been very successful in obtaining Lottery money from the All Wales Lottery to finance the establishment of a new “social” bridge club. This had been achieved by emphasising the social aspects of the bridge Club.

### **3 National Tournament Officer’s Report**

Dewi Jones queried the abolition of the Veteran Pairs event. Supported by others it was agreed to re-visit this item for the 2010 Calendar.

The President reminded members that when Sheila Shea undertook the role of NTO she did so with the proviso that she had full autonomy on such matters. However it was regretted that the event had already been published in the current Calendar. Areas were asked to submit their views on the continuation of this event to the NTO.

There was lengthy discussion on the falling number of teams entering the Welsh and Cambria cups. Suggestions for improvement included a redistribution of Green points so that losing teams could win one quarter of a Green point per stanza won.

There was general approval for the move of National competition finals to the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells.

### **4, Chief Executive Officer’s Report.**

#### **4.1 Journal / Newsletter**

Mike Tedd opined that members deserved to have this direct contact with the WBU. Jill Knight offered to collect/collate material and the CEO offered to print and distribute.

#### **4.2 Directors’ Training courses.**

These will be held in each Area.

#### **4.3 WBU branded playing cards.**

Mike Best proposed a subsidy on these to ensure good take-up. Agreed nem.con.

#### **4.4 Scoring at trials.**

Mike Tedd reminded members that this is a matter for the Selectors, not the Council.

## **5 Correspondence.**

5.1 A request had been received from Brecon Bridge Club for a grant to enable it to purchase a Duplimate machine. Mindful of the precedent that such action could create, it was agreed to offer the Club an interest free loan provided that an Officer of that Club underwrites such loan.

5.2 Aberystwyth Club considered that their Congress would attract more entries if it was Green-pointed; the Master Points Secretary would have to be consulted. While Council would support such a change, it warned the organisers that such a move may not have the desired effect.

### **5.3 Buffet Cup**

A progress report had been received from Patrick Jourdain. While acknowledging that the WBU had already stated that no financial assistance would be forthcoming there was a request for loan of certain items including tables, screens, lap-top computers, and such loan was agreed.

WBU shirts for event helpers would be loaned, agreed by a considerable majority.

The WBU does not own any duplimate boards which were also requested; Areas owning such boards may wish to lend them.

5.4 The non receipt of a promised donation from Rabbi Helman in 2007 had been underwritten by Patrick Jourdain who had now offered to meet his commitment.

However the Treasurer said that she would not cash PJ's cheque and this suggestion was applauded.

## **6 Treasurer's Report.**

This was received. Remarks concerning the finances appertaining to the Welsh Foursomes event were discussed. Mike Best and Joan Jenkins who had been on the organising committee were dismayed at the lack of guidance for WBU events in particular the scale for prize money. Members sympathised with the volunteer organisers who had worked extremely hard to make the event a success.

## **7 Selectors' Report.**

In the absence of such a report the President informed the meeting that the recent Trials had run smoothly under the direction of Ian Mitchell

As yet, the Selectors had not chosen a new Chairman.

## **8 Report of the Structure Reform Committee.**

There was a lengthy debate on the proposals therein. The President invited each Vice-President to present the views of his Area

There was general agreement that the time had come to make the Council more quickly responsive to situations that arose in between the Council meetings that occur only three times a year.

However only one Area was in broad agreement with the working party's detailed proposals, with the exception of the proposal to abolish the existing Finance Committee.

There was useful feed-back on some of this detail. However it was felt that the first major change in the structure of the WBU since its inception in 1948 deserves more time for consideration and should not be rushed in a matter of three months as it should be done correctly first time rather than need subsequent fine tuning.

This view was supported by members of the Working Party who thought it would be wise to reconvene Council next January when Areas would have had time for further consultation. Area amendments should be sent to the members of the working party prior to the January meeting.

## **9 Any Other Business**

These items had been notified in advance to the President.

9.1 An explanation was sought from the Treasurer regarding WBU Grants Policy for the Senior Camrose. When this event was first suggested it was opposed by the WBU on the grounds of the additional costs incurred especially when hosting the event, but also when sending players to away events. However eventually these objections were over ruled.

It was proposed by Joan Jenkins, seconded by Dewi Jones that some form of grant be made to Senior Camrose players; rejected by a large majority.

9.2 Mike Best queried the level of table money at the recent Pre-Trials; the selectors had agreed among themselves to raise a levy with the intention of financing the training budget. They had informed the participants of this intention but subsequently it was rumoured that the money could be given to Senior Camrose players. This was received with shock. Considerable and lengthy debate ensued. It was pointed out that income received at Trials should be received by the WBU to defray the cost of the Trials and that the Selectors can always apply for extra money for the training budget. This policy was agreed nem.con.

The meeting closed at 3.25pm

JGJ 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009