

# **WELSH BRIDGE UNION**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2010 in Llandrindod Wells**

Present: The President, Immediate Past President, Vice President Mike Tedd, Hon. Treasurer, National Tournament Organiser, Master Point Secretary, Chief Executive, five other Members of Council and thirty other members.

The President welcomed those members present to the Meeting.

Apologies for absence: Mike Best, Chris Davies, Marie Topp, Collette Davies, Mike Bond.

### **1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

Approved nem.con.

### **2. Date and venue for the AGM 2011**

In East Wales. Because of a very late Easter in 2011 resulting in date changes to the regular calendar the timing of this event will be announced in due course.

### **3. Hon Treasurer's Report.**

The Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2010 were circulated.

The Treasurer highlighted the following:

By de-registering for VAT on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2009 a saving of £2000 had been made.

Two accruals from the Camrose and the Selectors had resulted in a credit of £5000.

Income is fairly static while expenditure increases every year; however an on-going policy is that the Union can stand a loss of up to £5000 p.a.

Turning to the Balance Sheet the Treasurer regarded it as unexceptional. There will be an anticipated loss of £3000 next year as Wales will be hosting the second Camrose weekend.

Mike Tedd queried the high costs of the Lady Milne hotel expenses; it was explained that an extra night's stay was necessary because of the remote location aggravated by the poor rate of sterling to the euro.

John Salisbury commented on the reduced income from the Llangolle Swiss Teams. The Chief Executive described the new arrangements for this event next November; he is optimistic that by changing the venue to the Bryn Howel hotel income will be greatly improved.

Roger Penton queried the reduced income from the Welsh Foursomes. It was explained that in an attempt to make the event more attractive a new pricing structure with more prizes had not resulted in increased income.

A question was raised regarding the rumoured threat to income from a reduction of the WBU “share” of proceeds from BGB Sims events. The Chief Executive outlined the desires of the EBU to obtain the lion’s share of this money; such a move is being heavily resisted by the other home NBO’s who may organise their own Sims events and take the profits.

Mike Close moved the adoption of the Accounts, seconded by Mike Tedd and agreed nem.con.

The President thanked Linda Greenland for her Report.

#### **4. National Tournament Organiser’s Report.**

Because participation in competitions had gone down the NTO had canvassed members re schedules and venues. As a result of feed back she had moved a number of events to the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells and this had been well received.

However costs had risen and she aimed to cover this by increasing competition table money from £20 to £25 a head.

Thanks were due to Laura Woodruff for her help with the Calendar.

A question from the floor concerned qualification to play in the Perry/Spickett competitions. This is confined to players with Welsh birth or residential qualifications. It was explained that this had arisen in the first instance because the event was regarded as being one where players could hone their skills in preparation for International competition. As this matter is part of the Constitution it was proposed by Mike Tedd, seconded by John Waller, that Council should review the topic.

Sheila Shea was thanked for her Report.

#### **5. Master Point Secretary’s Report.**

The full Report is on file, but the following information includes the highlights:

Points were entered for 835 players amounting to 1,523,404 Locals, 144,721 fewer than last year’s, and 4073 Greens 433 more than last year. There were three new Grand Masters, Simon Richards, Gordon Roxburgh and Laura Woodruff

Noelle Bond concluded her Report by thanking Mike Bond for all his help..

The President on behalf of the members thanked Noelle for her continued hard work.

#### **6. Membership Secretary’s Report**

The Report was read to the meeting and is on file.

During the year 142 new members were registered compared with 137 registered in the previous year bringing the total membership to 1847 in 54 Clubs. This includes Juniors and Honorary Life members. There were 34 Direct members.

Mike Bond thanked his wife, Noelle, for her assistance in making trips to the Post Office and Bank.

There being no questions the President thanked Mike Bond for his work and for the Report.

## **7. Presidential Handover**

The outgoing President, Alan Screen, informed the meeting that the main work of the Council over the past year had been concerned with an effort to streamline the management of the WBU; he hoped that there would be an EGM in the next few months to ratify the proposals.

Mike Clair asked if proxy votes would be allowed at the EGM but this is not permitted within the Constitution.

The President thanked in particular the members of Council and the Chief Executive; it had been a pleasure to have Neville Richards willing and able to give so much time to his role.

The President invested the in-coming President, Adrian Thomas, with the chain of office and wished him a successful year.

The new President explained that he was pleased to be able to have the opportunity to put something back in to bridge which is a passion of his. He hoped to offer his enthusiasm and interest and his theme would be the development of players especially “Club” players, i.e. non-tournament players.

## **8. Discussion**

The President invited points for discussion although he was aware that no decisions could be made in the absence of prior notice of a resolution.

Paul Gagne asked why table screens were not in use at competitions; the President noted this comment.

The meeting closed at 12.25pm