

WELSH BRIDGE UNION
DRAFT MINUTES

Annual General Meeting
Held on Monday 30th May 2011 at John Lloyd Centre, Cardiff

Present

Adrian Thomas (President)	Isobel Evans
Linda Greenland (Hon. Treasurer)	Geoff Evans
Neville Richards (Chief Executive)	Margaret Richards
Joe Patrick	Ted Hill
Colin Nash	Peter Milewski
Steve Webb	Mike Best
Elizabeth Wennell	Barry Wennell
Wyn Williams	Ken Welch
Patrick Jourdain	Joan Jenkins
Jennifer Wardell	Eleanor Price
Bob Alderdice	John Jamieson
Ken Richardson	Vida Halford
Glyn Williams	Irene Thomas
Jenny Vaughan	Graham Jones
Chris Davies	Sue Ingham
Gwynne Davis	Sheila Shea

1. Apologies

Jean Hand	Jill Knight
Mike Tedd	Judith Graham-Jones
Beryl Warner	Alan Screen
Jean Cufley	Noelle Bond

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Copies of the Minutes for the AGM held on Sunday, 16th May 2010 had been distributed prior to the meeting.

Patrick Jourdain commented that at the end of the first paragraph of Item 3 the statement ‘the Union can stand a loss of up to £5,000 p.a.’ was possibly incorrect and should read ‘for the year’ rather than per annum. Linda Greenland confirmed that the original wording was correct.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

Gwynne Davis asked whether a meeting of Council had been held prior to the AGM this year. The President stated that a Council meeting had been held in March and that it had not been deemed necessary to hold another immediately prior to the AGM. GD asked that the Minutes of the last Council meeting be published on the WBU website. The President considered this a valid point and undertook to ensure that both sets of Minutes were available to members prior to the AGM in future.

4. Date for future AGM

At present the 2012 AGM is set to take place in West Wales but there is consideration that it should be moved to a central venue.

The date of Sunday 20th May 2012 was set for the next AGM. Venue to be confirmed.

5. Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2011

Copies of the accounts were available for members. The Hon. Treasurer invited comments and as none were forth coming the President asked for approval of the Accounts. There was a unanimous show of hands to approve the Accounts.

6. Membership Subscriptions

At the Council meeting in March it was proposed that the annual subscription rates should remain the same for 2012-13 with Ordinary Members £6.00 and Direct Members £12. The President again asked that members show their approval by raising their hands and again it was unanimous.

7. National Tournament Organiser's Report

The Report had been distributed prior to the meeting and had also been on the website for a while previous to the meeting. Questions were invited and a discussion ensued around venues for competitions and the costs incurred for various venues.

It was agreed that when the new NTO was in post a Working Group would be formed as soon as possible to seriously consider the viability of some of the WBU competitions which would also include looking into venues and costs.

Masterpoint Secretary's Report

The Report was distributed to members. Due to the absence of the MPS the management committee invited questions but drew attention to the fact that the MPS had asked people to contact her direct if they had any concerns.

Concerns were raised over the content of the report and a subsequent reply to the report by the Chief Executive. The President outlined the circumstances whereby the MPS gave notice of her intention to resign at the end of 2010-11 but at the last management committee meeting, withdrew that resignation, which the management committee accepted. There had been a willing volunteer to take over from Noelle but that offer had subsequently been withdrawn. The content of the current MPS Report was a surprise to all.

Patrick Jourdain raised the subject of MP awards for events, especially the Welsh Cup. A discussion ensued around competitions, entry numbers and MP awards.

It was agreed that WBU masterpoint awards were, in the main, very generous.

The President agreed that the points raised would receive due consideration - that there needed to be a top event, that masterpoint awards need to be reviewed and that competitions needed to be improved in order to get more people actually playing in the events.

8. President's report

The President stated that it would normally be his duty to hand over to the next president but due to the fact that the West Wales Bridge Association and the WBU had asked him to continue he was very honoured to remain as President for another year. Development has happened in many areas this year - the Welsh Team won the Camrose for the first time ever and yesterday the Welsh Team won the Senior Camrose for the first time ever; a new team of selectors has been appointed and this has already paid dividends; a training day has been organised, policy adopted and new online facilities put in place; at the Perry and Spickett a new level was introduced

'The presidents Cup' in order to introduced new layers to competitive Bridge. Novice events and 'No Fear' events are being introduced throughout Wales along with more social events which are proving very popular. Many teaching events are being included in Club programmes.

The Presidential tour of clubs had proved very popular and the President highlighted the work done by Rex Acton in Abergavenny, who shies away from committee attendance but gets on with the work regardless. 21 years he has been a committed member and in his spare time helps out at Brecon. Well done Rex. The President thanked all those stalwarts who worked consistently for their local clubs and ensured continuing success. However recruiting new members is still a concern in all clubs. The new management committee is a success and meets regularly.

Congresses in the various areas are still well attended and the Camrose at Llandrindod was very successful, not only because of the result but for accolades received from the competing teams regarding the organisation by Jean Cufley and her team. The moving of the BGB Teams event to the Bryn Howell was also a great success.

The President praised the work done by the administrative core especially the CE, Neville, who is available virtually 24 hours a day, 7 days a weeks. Neville has been involved in the production of teaching notes which are now available on the web, Directors Courses, involvement in BGB discussions and automatic MP updating. Also mentioned for their continuous hard work for the WBU and their local clubs were Joan Jenkins, Ann Jones, Sheila Shea and Mike Best. And the President mentioned the sad loss of John Wain, a stalwart from North Wales.

One of the results from the presidential tour is a working party producing a document, which should be ready for comment shortly, which highlights acceptable behaviour at the Bridge table – bad behaviour at the table was a concern mentioned many times by members of social clubs as a reason for putting people off playing Bridge.

The President intends to conduct another national tour of the clubs and to do all in his power to move the WBU forward. He thanked members for their continued support. The full report will be available on the website.

9. Election of Officers

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposer</u>
President	Adrian Thomas	Chris Davies
Hon Treasurer	Linda Greenland	Man. Comm.
NTO	Jean Hand	Judith Graham-Jones
Hon MPS	Noelle Bond	Man. Comm.
Hon. Auditor	Barrie Robinson	Man. Comm.

All the posts were approved by a show of hands.

10. Area Association matters

No matters had been submitted prior to the meeting and none were received on the day.

11. Correspondence

None submitted.

12. AOB

13. Trophy Winners

Ladies Pairs

Ladies Welsh Cup

Teams of Eight

Graded Masters 1

Graded Masters 2

Graded Masters 3

National Mixed Pairs

National Open Pairs

Webber Cup

Phillip Angel

Joan Jenkins/Jane Brook

Mary Moore/Wendy Williams/Val

Kennewell/Margaret Lane

Mike Best/ Mark Roderick

Chris Rochelle/Atkinson

Jennifer Wardell/ Christine Norman

Aida Aris/Adrian Thomas

Diane and Filip Kurbalija

Patrick Jourdain/Tony Ratcliff/

Tie

Roger Bowles/John Waller/

Sue Ingham/Gwynn Davis/Ken

Richardson/Chris Rochelle