

# **WELSH BRIDGE UNION**

## **Minutes of the Council meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

Present:

President:	Adrian Thomas
Immediate Past President:	Alan Screen
Vice-Presidents:	Bob Alderdice (WWBA) Ken Richardson (EWBA) Mike Tedd (MWBA) Marie Topp (NWBA)
Area delegates:	Kate Craven & Irene Thomas (WWBA) Jean Cufley & Dewi Jones (MWBA) Mike Clare & Peter Hand (NWB A) Anne Jones & Bill Parkinson (EWBA)
Chief Executive	Neville Richards
Hon Treasurer:	Linda Greenland
National Tournament Organiser:	Jean Hand
Minute Secretary:	Judith Graham-Jones

The President welcomed members to the meeting and invited them to indicate their perceptions as to who or what runs the WBU. When the responses were analysed it emerged that no two voters had the same view thus demonstrating a degree of confusion which must be resolved.

Apologies for absence: Noelle Bond

### **1 Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Kate Craven proposed the adoption of the Minutes: Agreed nem,con

Council was reminded that matters discussed in Council must remain confidential until the draft has been approved. It was agreed that the Minutes should be finalised and circulated as soon as possible after the meeting and certainly no more than two weeks later.

### **2 Review of the Management Committee operation and progress to date.**

Bob Alderdice introduced this item by requesting that this meeting should not get bogged down in detail. WWBA wanted clarification on the roles and relationship between MC and Council. In what way could Areas assist during this transitional period?

Council agreed that MC is producing good ideas but if they are rushed through without consultation with Areas and experienced players general support would be lost. It does not desire a great stampede for change and lower level players' opinions should be considered.

Kate Craven spoke eloquently as one who had voted against the new structure yet is generally happy with the way things have developed. However she was disappointed that there was no MC progress report available to this meeting.

Neville Richards reminded Council that these are early days and that everyone is finding their feet.

Mike Tedd stressed the importance of MC carrying the membership with it and Alan Screen observed that much goodwill is needed to implement change.

There was confusion about the frequency and timing of Council meetings. Council must meet at least once a year in line with the Constitution; the value of the short pre AGM meeting was emphasised. It was agreed that M/C should circulate by e-mail to Council members a list of targets, followed by progress reports.

There was extensive discussion and the following points were made and should be considered by the MC:

- The President has asked for someone other than himself to set the MC agenda and to chair the meetings; Alan Screen commented that rotating Chairs were usually unsatisfactory.
- The establishment of a working group to consider competitions was queried and the demise of the Tournament & Master points Committee was regretted by some.
- It was noted that the Finance Committee has not met for some time.
- Emphasis was placed on the importance of Area Representatives expressing the views of the Area but at least three of the Areas recognised that their representatives should act in the best interests of the WBU as a whole.
- The suggestion that the Open Pairs qualifier should involve a Simultaneous scoring element was queried; it was regretted that the current system is advertised in the Journal but a majority of those present agreed that the Sim scoring concept should be trialled this season.

Best behaviour working group: The background to this group and what it was trying to do was explained. Council expressed its support for the initiative. Anne Jones was concerned about the composition of the working group; the importance of involving club players was noted, and AT undertook to ensure that the L&E committee were able to comment on the issues raised.

### 3 BGB financing.

Neville Richards reported that the SBU had decided to accept the EBU's proposals for new financial arrangements for the British Sims, leaving us with no alternative but to do likewise, so the new contract had been authorised. WBU will now receive 10,000 for 2012-3 and 2013-14. In future the EBU will organise the Simultaneous Pairs. The meeting regretted that Anna Gudge would not be doing this, having served the NBOs so well, and it was suggested that WBU, IBU, NIBU work with Anna Gudge to create a Celtic Sims, investigating the market in the USA and elsewhere.

Note: On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December the EBU will have a free trial Sims.

#### 4 Wales future participation in Home Internationals.

Council received a comprehensive paper from the Treasurer.

4.1 Seniors Camrose. It was proposed by BA seconded by PH that in principle WBU should participate but that there should be discussion in March 2012 because even in six months time the situation could have changed. On a vote the proposal was carried.

#### 4.2. Junior Camrose

It was proposed by AJ seconded by MC that WBU withdraw from this event for four years subject to review in three years time in the hope that by then there may be a Junior Co-ordinator and more viable Junior players. Agreed nem.con

#### 4.3 European Championship Teams.

The Selectors had recommended that in view of the exceptional circumstances viz. Camrose and Senior Camrose successes, Wales should send an Open and a Seniors team next year to Greece. Since Council had already agreed in principle that in future only one team would be sent to these Championships, they wished to record that there will never be a more exceptional time than this to send two teams. After a short debate KC proposed that the M/C should determine the matter in March 2012 when the availability of players could be ascertained. Agreed nem.con

#### 5 Electronic Master Points

KR reported that Peter Goodman would be willing to assist in the up-date of this programme.

AS proposed, PH seconded that Council endorse the MC commitment to the electronic registration of Master Points. Agreed nem.con.

#### 6 Other Business

Once again the dangers of widespread circulation of e-mails originally intended for one recipient only were emphasised. It was suggested that they should be ignored and that only blind copies be despatched.

Anne Jones emphasised the importance of making clear the percentage of income donated to Charity when advertising the WBU Charity Simultaneous Pairs.

The President closed the meeting at 14.10 hours

Judith Graham-Jones

Minutes Secretary     1<sup>st</sup> November 2011 (then revised slightly after members' comments)