

# **WBU Management Committee**

## **Minutes of Meeting 5th October 2010**

Meeting held at Llanddewi Ystradenni Community Hall.

### **Present**

MB: Mike Best (East Wales nominee)  
CD: Chris Davies (West Wales nominee)  
LG: Linda Greenland (Treasurer)  
NR: Neville Richards (Chief Executive)  
SS: Sheila Shea (National Tournament Organiser)  
MT: Mike Tedd (Mid Wales nominee)  
AT: Adrian Thomas (President)

### **Apologies**

Marie Topp (North Wales)

### **1 Chairman and Secretary**

The group appointed Adrian Thomas as Chairman and Mike Tedd as minutes secretary.

### **2 Status of Meeting & Interface to Council**

Until Council has actually appointed the Management Committee (MC), this group has no formal authority. So this meeting is to discuss how the MC will proceed when appointed, to consider priorities and to discuss actions which can be taken without formal authority.

Explicitly, we felt it was inappropriate to discuss or try to make decisions on financial issues at this meeting.

It is highly desirable that Council formally appoints the MC as soon as possible. Hopefully this can be done by consulting Council members by email and telephone.

Council is scheduled to meet on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Although Council will clearly need to review the work of the MC, this was felt to be too early to allow useful review, so it was suggested that this meeting be cancelled, and that Council be advised to hold a review meeting early next year – the scheduled March meeting could be used for this purpose, unless Council members feel the review should be earlier.

It was agreed that AT should send these minutes to Council members, asking them to appoint the MC and to agree to hold a review meeting in March.

***Action: AT***

### **3 Conduct of Meetings**

#### **3.1 Meeting Dates**

The group will meet on the first Tuesday of every month, between 2 and 4pm, by telephone conference, unless otherwise agreed. The Skype facility to record such meetings will be used.

#### **3.2 Minutes**

The secretary will endeavour to circulate draft minutes to attendees within 48 hours of the meeting. Members should comment within 48 hours (not including weekends) and the minutes will be revised if necessary. When the Chairman and Secretary agree that the minutes are fit to publish, they will be posted on the WBU website. The target is to achieve this within 7-10 days of the meeting.

#### **3.3 Feedback**

The group welcomes suggestions, comments and feedback from WBU members, by email, letter or personal contact. Only where appropriate, an immediate response might be made; the group will also discuss at its meetings important matters raised by members. There is a concern that the volume might become hard to manage, but the group will try to be as responsive and open as possible.

#### **3.4 Dealing with reports & emphasis of meetings**

Reports should be circulated at least a week before meetings, and will be assumed to have been read before the meetings. Email should be used to circulate reports and issues before meetings with members commenting this way, so that meetings can concentrate on focused discussions and making timely decisions.

#### **3.5 Standing Orders**

LG had previously circulated draft standing orders for the MC. A few comments had been made. LG will revise and circulate the standing orders, for publication on website.

*Action: LG*

### **4 Priorities**

The highest priority for the MC should be what the WBU should be doing for ordinary club members, who are typically more motivated by the social side of bridge than the competitive game.

To this end, the group commended AT for his programme of club visits, and looked forward to responses from the questionnaires that he will take with him.

Some immediate actions to address this priority were identified under the headings below. The possibility of holding events which are primarily social was discussed.

## **5 Communication**

### **5.1 Journal**

Discussion of the Journal's contents came to the conclusion that nearly everything is desired by some groups of our members. Lots of feedback has been received, and next year's Journal needs to be improved in various ways.

### **5.2 Newsletter**

This is a prime service that the WBU provides for its members. Jill's work in reviving the newsletter was commended, and AT was asked to talk to Jill to understand what support she needs to achieve a quarterly rate of publication.

*Action:* AT

### **5.3 Club contacts**

We suspect that not all club secretaries are as good as they might be at keeping their members up to date with WBU news etc. We would like to have a good contact in each club for this, not necessarily the secretary (who might not be a WBU member). NR will contact clubs to establish a good list of club contacts.

*Action:* NR

At a future time it might be appropriate to arrange get-togethers for club representatives to exchange experiences.

### **5.4 New members**

We should reinstate the practice of sending a welcome pack to new members (welcome letter, latest newsletter, Journal ...)

*Action:* NR

### **5.5 Review of Competitions?**

SS and MB have been working to make our competitions more attractive, and we are seeing a welcome improvement in participation, so we should not rush to make dramatic changes to the programme for next year (2011-12). Using better venues is costly, so it is recognised that competition income will only make a modest contribution this year. A full review of the programme might be appropriate in 12-18 months, in good time for the 2012-13. Comments to SS on how we might improve individual events are very welcome, of course.

## **6 Promoting Bridge**

### **6.1 Teaching**

Accreditation of teachers might be a long-term goal, but cannot be tackled in the short-term. However we should establish a database of people who give or could give lessons (beginners, improvers ...); this could form part of NR's contacting clubs. And we should

look at the possibility of offering courses for people who want to learn how to conduct bridge teaching.

*Action: NR*

## **6.2 TD training**

We should be organising courses for WBU members who wish to become tournament directors. Imparting skills to run a social evening in a club is a priority.

*Action: NR*

## **7 Target groups for promotion**

The efforts to promote bridge to juniors in Wales are commended, but it was felt that we might try to reach the 30-40 age group, perhaps by targeting major work-places.

## **8 Masterpoints**

Interfacing to the EBU means that we must be able to credit points directly in 2½ years time; direct crediting by clubs should also be less work and allow individuals to access their up-to-date positions. We will still need our Masterpoints Secretary to manage the scheme and deal with problems, including entering points for events that cannot be credited directly, which will happen at least in the short-term. NR was asked to work with Noelle to establish a timetable to make progress towards direct entry.

*Action: NR*

## **9 Finance**

It was noted that ideas for attracting sponsorship would be very welcome. A number of finance issues need to be addressed as soon as the MC is formally appointed, including: honoraria for WBU officers; financing of representative teams after 2010-11.

## **10 Matters Brought Forward**

### **10.1 Selectors**

The Selection Committee is working on its own terms of reference; a draft should be brought to our next meeting.

*Action: LG*

The issue of appeal against Selection Committee decisions was considered. The group is unanimous in saying that the Selection Committee has full authority to select teams, and an appeal process should not be created. No one can appeal Capello's decisions!

### **10.2 Laws and Ethics – level 5 permissions**

The policy is and should remain that event organisers can decide, in consultation with the NTO, at what level of permissions they should be run. Thus events should not be forced to adopt level 5. In discussion it was felt that level 5 was correct for Open Trials and

might be considered for the Invitation Pairs and perhaps for Llangollen, but the initiative in each case should come from the event organiser.

### **10.3 BGB negotiations**

LG and NR gave us an update on the negotiations with the EBU.

### **10.4 Calendar 2011-12**

A draft has been created by SS and there has been input from Julian Pottage on behalf of the selectors. The draft calendar will be published on the website with a request for comments. MT will take charge of the calendar as a document, while SS remains responsible for the calendar decisions.

*Action: MT*

### **10.5 Camrose 2011**

We must ensure that Jean has all the support she needs.

*Action: NR*

### **10.6 Lady Milne 2012**

We need to book a venue urgently. Llangollen?

*Action: NR*

## **11 Next Meeting**

This will be on November 9<sup>th</sup>, between 2 and 4pm, by telephone conference. (AT is not back from India on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.)

MDT 7/10/10, revised 8/10/10