

WBU Management Committee

Minutes of Meeting 9th November 2010

Meeting held by telephone conference, 2pm to 4pm

Present

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

1 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed members to our first meeting using Skype to set up a telephone conference. Skype recordings of such meetings are being made to assist in accurate minute writing.

Jill Knight was particularly welcomed now that she has been nominated for the MC by North Wales. It was noted that North Wales felt that it was important that their nominee should not be one of their Council representatives, to avoid the situation where the MC members dominated the voting if ever there were a conflict with Council. We discussed the desirability of other areas doing the same, and noted that good continuity between Council and MC was desirable; indeed the President, three current area chairman, the NTO and the Treasurer are all ex-officio members of Council. To meet the concern expressed by North Wales, members agreed that they would abstain if Council were to vote on a motion of no confidence in the MC.

2 Review of Actions from Previous Meeting

2. Council Appointment of MC

AT circulated the minutes of our last meeting to Council members, who agreed to formally appoint the Management Committee (MC), to cancel the Council meeting scheduled for 31st October and to use the scheduled March 20th meeting of Council to review the progress of the MC.

2.5 Standing Orders for MC

These have been revised. LG will circulate to members to check, and MT will publish on website.

Action: LG, MT

5.2 Newsletter

JK is now on track to publish the next issue in December. She will think about what we might have to do to publish more often. NR offered to help with layout etc if that load became too much for Laura. It was suggested that more newsy pieces would be better than more bridge hands. Club secretaries will be encouraged to contribute club news items.

Action: JK

5.3 Club contacts

NR has been progressing this and now feels he has a pretty good list of club email contacts. The list will need continuous updating, of course.

5.4 New members

All recent new members have been contacted (by email or otherwise). Inter alia they have been sent WBU pens (with contact information on them) which have recently been purchased with Llangollen in mind.

6.1 Bridge teaching

NR has acquired materials from Tony Howarth that can be freely used by bridge teachers. The map of clubs which can be reached via <http://welshbridgeunion.info/club-locations/> has been augmented with information about sources of bridge teaching with pins to show where they are. NR will add more such as he is informed of active teachers.

6.2 TD training

Again NR has a collection of relevant material which he is sending to people known to be interested in TD training. He will try to arrange one or more courses in February or March next year.

Action: NR

8 Masterpoints

We understand that Noelle plans to retire after the AGM next year. The debt we owe her is considerable! We are aware of one person who might take on the post who would be excellent, but we cannot just appoint. The appointment is made by the AGM and nominations should be invited in advance of that meeting. (The MC can make interim appointments should that be necessary, but that should not be needed here.)

10.1 Selectors Terms of Reference etc.

LG will circulate these to the MC. Then they will go to Council in March.

There will also be a code of practice to which players representing Wales will be expected to conform.

Action: LG

10.4 Calendar 2011-12

There are a few issues best dealt with before the draft is published on the website. These will be addressed and the draft published.

Action: MT

10.5 Camrose 2011 Arrangements

We need to ensure Jean Cufley gets all the support she needs.

Action ongoing: NR

10.6 Lady Milne 2012

We need to book a venue urgently. Llangollen?

Action ongoing: NR

3 Honoraria

Council has passed to the MC consideration of the honoraria to be paid to the people who play major honorary roles for the WBU. In discussion it was noted that the honoraria are marks of recognition for the vital functions undertaken, and should not be thought of as reasonable payment for work done – as hourly rates they would be derisory! It is important that the honoraria are appropriate in the light of the work undertaken, and should change when the nature of the role changes.

Some members of the MC are in receipt of honoraria, so should not be involved in these decisions. MT undertook to consult with other disinterested members and bring recommendations for appropriate honoraria to the next MC meeting.

Action: MT

4 Licence Fees for Congresses Etc

The MC was asked by Council to look at these fees. The current situation is this:

- Non-green-point events pay a licence fee of 5% of entry fees.
- With two exceptions, green point congresses pay a licence fee of 12% of entry fees (less the cost of food if included in the entry fee), and the organisers have any profit or loss after the fee has been paid.
- The exceptions are Llangollen (run directly by the WBU) and the Welsh Foursomes (run by EWBA on behalf of the WBU) where no licence fee is paid, but the full profits go to the WBU. Just the Llangollen profits used to be allocated to the World Fund, but for some now-gone VAT reason have been allocated to normal WBU members funds for several years.
- One day events (North Wales in the Autumn, and East Wales in August) pay a licence fee of £6.50 per pair per session, which has been allocated by the WBU to the World fund, but this year Council decided that the August licence fees should go to members funds. These fees are 17-18% of entry fees.

To clarify the picture it was proposed and agreed that all green point events except Llangollen should pay a licence fee of 12% of entry fees (less the cost of food if that is included in the entry fee). In the case of Llangollen the full profit should still go to the WBU. All licence fee income should be allocated to normal WBU members funds. It

was recognised however that this aspect might need to be reviewed if BGB income were to diminish.

‘No fear’ events should be licence fee free.

5 Entry Fees for Juniors

Our current policy is that event organisers are expected to offer half price entry to juniors, whether or not in full time education, carrying the cost of doing this. For WBU juniors entry is free, and the WBU refunds event organisers for the second half of the entry fees.

The MC reaffirmed this policy.

{Note: This was on the understanding that other Unions, specifically the EBU, had a similar policy towards juniors. Subsequent to the meeting, we discovered that this was not the case, so it is likely that the MC will revisit this policy at the next meeting.}

6 Financing International Teams

Discussion on this was deferred until we better understand the BGB situation. There is a BGB meeting to discuss it in mid-January.

7 Seniors Camrose and Sponsorship

Our BGB representatives should try to ensure that the Seniors Camrose weekend is not that of the May bank holiday (June 4th in 2012!) so as not to clash with our Seniors Congress.

We discussed the desirability or otherwise of allowing a sponsored team to be allowed to win the trophy, without coming to a firm conclusion.

8 Welsh Lady Milne Teams 2012

We need to decide in good time whether the WBU will field two teams in the 2012 Lady Milne. We will need to be guided by the selectors as to whether they believe we can field two teams of an appropriate standard. Although there are a limited number of entries for the Ladies Trials this year, AT said he was encouraged by them, and it was noted that some development activities were happening. It is hoped that other strong Ladies Pairs will play in 2012.

So at this stage we remain hopeful that two teams can be fielded. As with the Camrose 2011, both teams would be funded on the normal basis.

9 Next Meeting

This will be on December 7th, between 2 and 4pm, by telephone conference.

MDT 10/11/10, revised 16/11/10