

WBU Management Committee

Minutes of Meeting 7th December 2010

Meeting held by telephone conference, 2pm to 4:15pm

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 Review of Actions from Previous Meetings

1.1 Items from October meeting

2.5 Standing Orders for MC

These have been revised and LG has circulated to members to check.

We discussed the circumstances in which a MC decision might need to be changed, for reasons such as a decision being based on inaccurate information or a major factor having been overlooked. Such changes should be avoided as much as possible, they can't be ruled out. It was agreed that should such a reason be identified in the brief interval before the minutes are published, the questioned decision should remain in the minutes but be flagged as likely to be revisited (see item 5 of the November minutes for an example).

MT will publish the standing orders on the website.

Action: MT

5.2 Newsletter

The December issue is at the printers. Members have seen it and complimented Jill on a very good issue.

Jill hopes to publish more often, noting that this would mean each one would be smaller.

It was noted that the Newsletter editor has authority to decide what is published in the Newsletter but that it would not be sensible to make significant changes to the substance of individual articles without the agreement of the contributor.

6.1 Bridge teaching

NR has acquired more materials from Scotland.

6.2 TD training

Neville will try to arrange one or more courses in February or March next year.

Action ongoing: NR

10.1 Selectors Terms of Reference etc.

LG has circulated these to the MC. They can be placed on the website and will go to Council in March.

Action: MT

10.4 Calendar 2011-12

A draft has been published on the website and has attracted a few comments, which will be addressed. It should be possible to approve a final version at our next meeting when SS has reacted to these comments.

Action: SS

10.5 Camrose 2011 Arrangements

Jean Cufley is well in control, and Neville will ensure she gets any needed support. Jim Luck is organising the commentaries, and Patrick Jourdain will be Chairman of Appeals.

Action ongoing: NR

10.6 Lady Milne 2012

We still need to book a venue urgently. The Llangollen hotel we had in mind does not have enough bedrooms.

Action ongoing: NR

1.2 Items from November meeting

2 Honoraria

MT is consulting with other disinterested members and will bring recommendations for appropriate honoraria to the MC.

Action: MT

5 Entry Fees for Juniors

This item was reopened because our understanding that the EBU offered half price entry to Welsh juniors proved to be wrong.

It was decided:

- a) To continue to offer free entry to WBU juniors on condition that they are eligible to play for Wales and that bookings are made in advance. The WBU will refund half the cost of this to event organisers.
- b) Not to offer reduced-price entry to EBU juniors at this time.
- c) To press the EBU to adopt a more generous policy to Welsh juniors, in which case we would be prepared to reciprocate.

Action: BGB representatives

6 BGB meeting

This is on January 18th 2011. The EBU have sent an agenda to the WBU and SBU but no details of what the EBU is proposing. AT has written to the EBU asking for prior notice of any proposals. The Scottish president has expressed a similar view.

2 Adding a Third Teams Event to the Perry and Spickett

It has been proposed by AT that as well as the Perry Shield (inter-area open teams event) and the Spickett Bowl (ladies) a third very sociable event be held at the same time. Areas would be expected to choose teams who would contribute to the enjoyment of the event rather than being very competitive – not people who nearly made it into the Perry & Spickett. For example a large club or a group of clubs might be represented, with this being rotated round the area.

It was agreed to experiment with this event for four years in the first place. To help with the costs, the WBU will make a grant of £500 to the host area in each of these four years.

3 Laws & Ethics Committee & Level 5 Systems Permissions

The L&E committee had earlier recommended to Council that a significant number of WBU events including area-organised congresses be run at level 5. The recommendation had been passed to the MC and was considered at the October meeting, where the MC had believed this was an issue for event organisers, but felt that level 5 should only be allowed in a limited number of ‘expert’ events.

It is now realised that the WBU constitution gives the authority to the L&E committee to make these decisions, rather than just making recommendations to MC or Council. In discussion, the committee reaffirmed unanimously its opinion that allowing unusual system methods would be off-putting for most WBU members and could compromise attendance at events like area congresses.

It was decided:

- a) To suggest to the L&E committee that they review this issue
- b) To explain our reservations to the L&E. LG agreed to coordinate a paper to this end.

Action: LG

It was noted that the Chairman of the L&E intends to retire at the AGM. We are aware of a senior player who would be prepared to serve on the Committee, whom we could nominate to Council (who appoint the L&E). The MC noted the desirability of having at least one member who was representative of ‘grass-roots’ bridge, as well as the importance of members of the L&E not being involved in decisions for which they had a strong personal interest.

4 Bad Behaviour at WBU Events

One issue that keeps being raised, notably as our President visits clubs, is that poor behaviour by some players compromises the enjoyment of others, and contributes to lower turnout at WBU events.

LG agreed to prepare a paper on what we might do about this for discussion at a later meeting.

Action: LG

5 Increasing Income

AT had circulated a note about how we might do this. We agreed to conduct an email discussion about the issues raised.

Action: All

6 Other Topics for Future Discussion

- Funding of International Teams
- Sponsored teams in Senior Camrose, Commonwealth Nations etc

7 Next Meeting

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

MDT 7/12/10, revised 13/12/10