

WBU Management Committee

Minutes of Meeting 10th May 2011

Meeting held by telephone conference, 2pm to 4:45pm

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

Oct.6.2 TD training

The first course will be in Penarth on June 4/5. One in Brecon will follow soon after, with more to come.

Action ongoing: NR

A concern had been expressed about one of the course leaders. The MC accepted that the sensitivities of other members are understood and addressed as far as possible. In this case the MC discussed the issue carefully and agreed that the course leader had the relevant expertise and the experience required and was an appropriate person to deliver the training.

Feb.3 Bridge Great Britain

In the BGB meeting on 26th April the EBU took a hard line on the future of BGB Sims. Since that meeting they seem to have softened their stance. We remain convinced that the best way forward for all parties is to collaborate on the Sims. NR and LG will continue to negotiate on our behalf. The ball is currently in the EBU's court.

March 2 Job Descriptions for Key Roles

Mostly done. Not the most urgent task for us.

Action ongoing: NR

March 3 Vacant Posts

We are pleased to hear that Noelle would like to continue as Masterpoint Secretary. There is also a good candidate for the NTO role.

March 6 Bad Behaviour

The working group has made good progress and has a fairly comprehensive document under discussion. When the group is happy with it, the paper will come to the MC and then be made available on the website for comments.

March 7 On-line Submission of Master Points

The technical side of this continues apace. Two technical issues with ScoreBridge have been identified and are being addressed.

NR will prepare a paper on this, with dates for the main stages of the implementation, from pilot use through dual working to full switchover. Clubs should be reassured that help and support will be available, if they need it, as they move to on-line submission.

Action ongoing: NR

March 8 The Needs of Club Players

The analysis of the questionnaires from AT's tour of our clubs will now be done.

Action: AT

April 2 Council meeting

The paper on Players' Responsibilities is on the website with comments invited by the end of May.

MT has still to progress the Council minutes (with JG-J) and the Honoraria paper.

Action: MT

2 Perry, Spickett & President's Cup

A formal suggestion has been received from Dewi Jones (Mid-Wales treasurer) that these events should be organised by the WBU in a central location. At present, the cost (apart from a subsidy from the WBU for the President's Cup) falls on each area in rotation, which is a large bill for that area in that year. By holding the event centrally, and less lavishly, we should be able to reduce overall costs. By avoiding the greatest travel distances no one should need to travel on Friday incurring an extra hotel night.

In such an arrangement, the cost of staging the event should be shared between the areas and the WBU itself, perhaps by charging an entry fee for each team.

With one member dissenting, the MC was in favour of this suggestion but it was felt that the areas should be asked to consider it. Each area is now asked to consider the proposal before a decision is taken.

Action: Area nominees

3 Seniors Camrose

3.1 Support for team members

This issue has caused a lot of hot air for some years! By a majority the MC decided that support of £100 a head should be offered towards the team members' expenses from 2012. There was some concern that to offer any support would encourage more demands. While believing that some limited support should be offered to reduce the differential between the support levels for the various teams, the MC emphasised that it would not be prepared to increase the support if such demands were made.

3.2 Future of the Seniors Camrose

The current sponsored arrangement runs out in 2012, and the WBU will have to decide whether it is prepared to continue, perhaps with increased costs and a need to host the event every five years. Our attitude to possibly involving a sponsored team needs to be resolved. We agreed to conduct an email debate ahead of our next meeting. LG will prepare a paper to spark this debate.

Action: LG

4 AGM

Arrangements for the AGM were discussed. With help, AT will prepare the agenda and supporting papers to go out.

Action: AT

5 Review of WBU Competitions

We now believe that a full review of our competitions should be undertaken as soon as the next NTO is appointed. A working party will be set up with the new NTO to achieve this.

The importance of having and implementing entry deadlines was noted. We need to change the culture on this.

6 Departing Members

Sheila Shea and Mike Best were profusely thanked for their contributions to the work of the MC, and for everything else they have been doing for bridge in Wales, notably the organisation of National and East Wales events.

7 Next Meeting

This will be on July 5th, between 2 and 4pm, by telephone conference. No meeting in June.

MDT 12/5/11, revised 17/5/11 & 19/5/11