

WBU Management Committee

Minutes of Meeting 5th September 2011

Meeting held by telephone conference, 2pm to 4.55pm

Present

AT: Adrian Thomas (President), Chairman
BA: Bob Alderdice (West Wales nominee), for this meeting
LG: Linda Greenland (Treasurer)
JH: Jean Hand (National Tournament Organiser)
JK: Jill Knight (North Wales nominee)
NR: Neville Richards (Chief Executive)
KR: Ken Richardson (East Wales nominee)
MT: Mike Tedd (Mid Wales nominee), Minutes Secretary

1 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Bob Alderdice to this his first meeting.

2 Review of Actions from Previous Meetings

March 8 The needs of club players

The analysis of the questionnaires from AT's tour of Welsh clubs is still underway.

Action ongoing: AT

July 5 Council meeting items

Progressing the Council minutes and the Honoria paper. Draft minutes have now been sent to Council members for their approval.

Action ongoing: MT

August 4 Next Council meeting?

Council members have been asked whether they want an October meeting, with mixed responses. We will ask those members who want a meeting what they would want on the agenda for such a meeting. If held it would be on October 30th.

Action: NR

August 5 Bad Behaviour Working Group

The group will look at the detailed feedback from the MC.

Action: AT

3 Uniform for TDs at WBU events

{This was discussed in the August meeting but didn't reach the minutes.}

It would be a good idea if tournament directors at WBU events wore an identifiable 'uniform'. TDs have been consulted and like the idea. NR will progress this.

Action: NR

4 Bridge Great Britain etc.

We have told the EBU that we are happy with the proposed BGB agreement so long as the final paragraph is deleted, but have had no reply so far.

5 Future Sims

Some planning has taken place for a possible Celtic Sims.

The possibility of identifying the leading pairs up to a given rank in a Sim was discussed, with the thought that we might give prizes, or just publish such names, to encourage entries. NR & MT were asked to consider this.

Action: MT, NR

We discussed the idea of a very lightweight ‘Sim’ where (probably smaller) clubs meeting on the same night could play the same hands and compare their results, say once a month. This could be attractive. NR and AT were asked to contact clubs who might be interested and to consider the implementation.

Action: AT, NR

6 Laws and Ethics Committee

The MC has been asked to consider whether the WBU should mimic the EBU rule that the Chairman of their L&E should not be an active member of their TD panel. Note that this has NOT been discussed at any previous MC meeting.

In a small union, to have such a rule would be difficult – the best Chairman could well be an active TD, as Anne Jones has shown. The WBU’s L&E committee should elect its own Chairman, without such a constraint.

7 Calendar Issues

Difficulties arising from having two Welsh events on adjacent weekends were discussed. It was agreed that this should be avoided wherever possible.

Any area wishing to change the date of a congress should consult with organisers of other congresses likely to be affected. If the change is to be permanent, full agreement should be reached before final action is taken.

8 TD Training

Following the two successful courses already held, the next course will concentrate on the Laws. People who are interested in future courses should contact Neville. If an area has a group of 8+ interested, it should be possible to arrange a course for them.

9 WBU Competitions

9.1 Cambria Cup

It had been proposed that the Cambria should have area qualifying events, for a four-team all-play-all final on a designated weekend. Following feedback received, this was reconsidered. The all-play-all final will be retained, but knockout matches (drawn to avoid excessive travel) will be used to reduce the field to the final four. JH will make the arrangements for the final, LG will take entries, and MT will administer the knockout stages.

9.2 Welsh Foursomes

The David Lloyd Centre is now unsuitable for this event, with the reduction in size of the room. It also has too many rounds and so suffers from ‘over-Swissing’; this points to fewer matches of 8 (or more) boards. We noted the need for brochures to include a statement that the format of an event might need adjusting to cope with unexpected numbers.

9.3 Masterpoints

The working group will consider masterpoint awards, which need some revision.

Action: JH, AT

9.4 New event with Ireland

AT is working with West Wales and Ireland to create a new annual event which would involve matches at various levels, alongside a congress held alternately in Wales and Ireland. The first one would be in Fishguard probably at the end of June 2012.

10 Online Submission of Masterpoints

More clubs are expected to start submitting points online. There is still some work needed on reports, like identifying promotions.

11 Health and Safety

The extent to which the WBU and its clubs would be responsible if an accident occurred at an event was raised. The WBU carries suitable public liability insurance and has arranged a suitable policy which clubs can take up quite cheaply. Clubs are very much encouraged to take this out.

12 WBU Journal

This is about to go to the printers, now that the final decisions about the competitions have been made. The draft includes an alphabetic listing of members and their Masterpoints as well as the usual listing by rank. This increases the number of pages and hence cost. It was decided to have just one list.

13 Other Matters

13.1 An award like the EBU's Dimmie Fleming?

This is used by the EBU to recognise exceptional contributions particularly at the County level. The MC felt that administering such awards would be difficult, and that we should leave it to areas to recognise exceptional contributions in their areas.

13.2 Teams for the European Championships in Greece June 2012

The policy we have established is that only one team should be sent to European events unless there is very good reason to send a second team. In the light of our Camrose and Senior Camrose successes, the selectors have recommended that we should send both an Open team and a Seniors team to Greece, provided that a good team is available in each case. The MC agreed to this. (MT took no part in this discussion.)

13.3 Next newsletter

JK is preparing the next newsletter, and would like more articles. She hopes to include contributions from each area. These are needed before the end of the month.

Action: BA, MT, KR

14 Matters for Future Discussion

- Should the Perry, Spickett & President's Cup still rotate round the areas? (See May item 2, where areas were asked to consider this.) Planning is well underway for 2012 in West Wales, so this is only an issue for 2013 on.
- Future involvement in the Seniors Camrose (see May minute 3.2, and subsequent email discussion)

15 Next Meeting

This will be on Tuesday October 4th, between 2 and 4pm, by telephone conference. {This date might have to change if we wouldn't be quorate.}

MT 7/9/11, revised 13/9/11