

WBU Management Committee

Minutes of Meeting 10th October 2011

Meeting held by telephone conference, 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Present

BA: Bob Alderdice (West Wales nominee)
LG: Linda Greenland (Treasurer)
JH: Jean Hand (National Tournament Organiser), Chairman for this meeting
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 Apologies

Adrian Thomas (AT).

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

August 4 Next Council meeting

AT will call a Council meeting for October 30th. The minutes of the March meeting will be considered then.

Action: AT, NR

August 5 Bad Behaviour Working Group

The MC applauded the inclusion of the EBU's policy statement in the Journal. The working group is looking at the detailed feedback from the MC.

Action: AT

September 5 Sims

Alan Screen is trialling the idea of a lightweight 'Sim' involving a couple of clubs. It is believed that the scoring software will handle this. The experience can then be spread to other groups of clubs.

September 9.1 Masterpoint awards

The awards for WBU competitions will be reconsidered when entry numbers are known.

September 9.4 New event with Ireland

BA reported on progress. This will be on the weekend of 30 June. Arrangements are well in hand; a hotel is booked with attractive rates. A programme should be available at the end of the month. The importance of moving it in future years to a date not adjacent with the North Wales event was noted.

September 13.2 Teams for Greece

At the September meeting, the MC agreed the selectors' recommendation to send both an Open team and a Seniors team to Greece, provided that a good team is available in each case. It was confirmed that the two teams, if sent, would be funded on the same basis. (MT took no part in this discussion.)

3 Bridge Great Britain etc.

We will join Scotland in signing the proposed agreement on British Sims. We await responses from the EBU on other matters.

4 Online Submission of Masterpoints

More clubs are submitting points online. Noelle needs a copy of MS-Excel which Neville will supply. LG is unable to spend much time on this, so we may need to ask someone else to help at some stage.

Action: NR

5 WBU Journal

The printers are steadily delivering copies which are being distributed.

6 Perry, Spickett & President's Cup

Areas were asked to consider whether the Perry, Spickett & President's Cup should still rotate round the areas, rather than be organised in a central place. (See May item 2, where areas were asked to consider this.)

Only Mid-Wales favoured this, so we will continue to rotate round the areas. It was felt, however, that the costs of hosting these events had escalated unreasonably. The areas are asked to consider ways in which the costs could be reduced – perhaps reducing hospitality and/or looking for cheaper venues.

7 Future Involvement in the Seniors Camrose

(See May minute 3.2, and subsequent email discussion)

The present sponsored arrangement finishes in 2012. We have to decide whether the WBU would like to play a full part in this, hosting it every 5 years. This would be an additional load on our organisers and budget, unless some other way were found to reduce costs, such as withdrawing from the Junior home internationals. It was decided to put this question to the Council meeting at the end of the month. LG will prepare a paper for that meeting.

Action: LG

8 Newsletter

Contributions are still coming in; more needed. Since the Journal has been so late it may be better to delay the Newsletter a little.

9 Other Items

9.1 Transition to next President

The undesirability of an abrupt replacement of the President as a member of the MC was noted. We decided that as soon as the President-elect is known, he or she should be invited to take part in MC meetings, without voting status.

9.2 Youth Coordinator

Catherine Evans has resigned. NR will prepare a job description which can be used to advertise the post on the website.

Action: NR

9.3 Complaints against WBU members

We discussed the handling of such complaints. The body that deals with these is the Laws & Ethics Committee, not the Management Committee. The procedure is that a written complaint is made to the Chief Executive who passes it to the L&E. The L&E decide whether there is any substance in the complaint, and if so hold a hearing to resolve it. Should any member of the L&E be involved in any way they take no part in this; the L&E can co-opt if necessary (with the President's approval).

9.4 Unaffiliated Clubs

We should encourage such clubs to affiliate in the first place – this is very cheap for them. Examples were given of clubs who, having affiliated, moved on to full membership.

9.5 Lost members

Clubs should be reminded of the desirability of monitoring lost members. This could be discussed in each area.

10 Next Meeting

This will be on Tuesday November 1st, between 2 and 4pm. The advisability of holding some meetings face-to-face was noted. However this November one will be by telephone conference unless agreed otherwise.

MT 13/10/11, revised 18/10/11