

WBU Management Committee

Minutes of Meeting 1st December 2011

Meeting held by telephone conference, 2pm to 3.20pm

Present

AT: Adrian Thomas (President), Chairman
BA: Bob Alderdice (West Wales nominee)
LG: Linda Greenland (Treasurer)
JH: Jean Hand (National Tournament Organiser)
JK: Jill Knight (North Wales nominee)
MT: Mike Tedd (Mid Wales nominee), Minutes Secretary

1 Apologies

Ken Richardson (East Wales nominee) and Neville Richards (Chief Executive)

2 Review of Actions from Previous Meetings

September 9.4 Fishguard congress

The brochure is out. Teams for the various matches alongside the congress will be considered early next year.

November 4 Competition review

AT has convened a new working party which expects to make recommendations by the end of February on WBU events in 2012-13. The WP has already met, and a report of this meeting was given to the MC. An invitation to submit ideas has been put on the website.

November 6 Finance committee

This is likely to be held in February.

November 7 Investigating Celtic Sims

Ongoing

Action: NR

3 Master Points

3.1 Automatic submission

Eight clubs are now uploading points directly, or are about to do so. Ecats and Ian Mitchell at the EBU have agreed to upload. Peter Goodman is actively considering the reporting issues.

3.2 EBU meeting

The EBU has suggested a meeting with the WBU and SBU to discuss new 'blue' points and to avoid divergence of the three countries' schemes. We are happy to do this and agreed to suggest a meeting in Birmingham. We will probably be represented by JH or MT.

3.3 Master point awards for national events

Having taken on the responsibilities of the tournament & master point committee, the MC is now responsible for deciding the awards for national events.

These awards all need review in the light of smaller original entry numbers. It was agreed to do this, for next season, after the meeting with the EBU.

Action: JH, MT

The Journal indicates the awards for the National Open Pairs as 16, 12 etc. This is felt to be somewhat high now, but it was decided not to change the awards ahead of the review.

Awards for the Welsh and Cambria Cups are not defined in the Journal. They were sharply reduced in 2010-11, and it was felt that the reduction was too great – certainly the Welsh Cup, our major knockout teams, should have a reasonable quota; on the other hand numbers are down again. It was agreed that the awards for the rounds of the Welsh Cup in 2011-12 should be 1+1 (triple matches), 2, 3, 5. Awards for the Cambria still to be decided.

4 Bad Behaviour Working Group

The latest draft report has been circulated to the MC. It needs a few small improvements and more about suggested penalties. AT will send the next version to the L&E committee for their input, and then it can be published on the website for members to consider.

Action: AT

5 Newsletter

The next edition is largely complete, although reports from two areas are urgently needed. The intention is to publish by late January, so that attendees at the Lady Milne trials can help with distribution.

6 Next President

North Wales have decided their nomination for the next President. The nominee will be invited to future MC meetings.

7 Revision of the Laws of Bridge

We have been asked by Grattan Endicott to contribute to the next review of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. This will be passed to the L&E committee to consider in the first place.

Action: NR

8 Alerting Procedures

It has been suggested that the Orange Book prescription for alerting, as it relates to artificial bids above 3NT, should be changed. It was agreed to suggest that the L&E committee look at this. However it was pointed out that there are considerable practical difficulties if the WBU were to diverge from the EBU on such matters; we have many English participants in our events, and use EBU TDs.

Action: AT

9 Club Visits

It is important that we keep up good contact with all our clubs. AT's programme of visits has been invaluable but we cannot expect future Presidents to be so active. It is suggested that areas try to ensure that all clubs that are not regularly represented at their area committee are visited at least once a year by an active member of the area committee.

10 President's Cup

The idea behind this event is to be mainly social. The teams should be composed of players who are not regular players in tournaments, and will enjoy the opportunity to take part. As a guideline, it would be surprising if players with master point rank higher than Regional Master would be appropriate for these teams.

11 Any Other Business

LG informed the meeting that she will step down as Treasurer in May, having decided to move to Kent for family reasons. She will be greatly missed!

12 Next Meeting

This will be on Tuesday January 10th 2012, between 2 and 4pm.

MT 2/12/11, revised 6/12/11