

WBU Management Committee

Minutes of Meeting 3rd April 2012

Meeting held by telephone conference, 2pm to 3.30pm

Present

AT: Adrian Thomas (President), Chairman
BA: Bob Alderdice (West Wales nominee)
LG: Linda Greenland (Treasurer)
JH: Jean Hand (National Tournament Organiser)
KR: Ken Richardson (East Wales nominee)
MT: Mike Tedd (Mid Wales nominee), Minutes Secretary
PM: Paddy Murphy (President-elect), in attendance

1 Apologies

JK: Jill Knight (North Wales nominee) and NR: Neville Richards (Chief Executive)

2 Review of Actions from Previous Meetings

November 7 Investigating Celtic Sims

Ongoing.

Action: NR

January 3.3 Licensing of Bridge Holidays

We have responded to the EBU with our proposals and await their response. NR and LG are handling this.

February 4 Auditor

LG has talked to the possible nominee as auditor who is happy to take on the role.

February 6 Mind Sports Games

The venue has been decided to be Lille. The possibility of Cardiff has receded.

March 10 Contacting Universities

AT has agreed with Gwen Hurst that we should write to each university, having first identified a local contact that they could liaise with if any interest is shown.

Action: AT

3 Self-funding Teams Representing Wales

This issue was revisited (see March 11.3). Should we ever consider self-funding teams, without any WBU financial support?

Remembering past difficulties of such teams seeking funding after the event, and how badly some Welsh teams have done, some members of the MC feel that we should not allow self-funding teams to represent Wales.

Noting Council's view in July 2010, and the representations from some selectors, the MC majority view is that we should consider self-funding teams, so long as:

- the players enter into a binding agreement that they will not seek financial support from the WBU, and
- the players undertake to be ambassadors for the WBU, and to abide by all other aspects of the WBU's policy on Players Responsibilities, and
- the Selection Committee approves the team as suitable representatives of the WBU.

In respect of the last of these points, the MC considers that the Selection Committee should only approve teams which are of clear suitability to represent Wales with credit in the events in question. The MC recognises that such decisions are for the Selection Committee to make.

4 East Wales Congress Venue

This was held at the YMCA conference centre in Newport. Feedback forms from players show that the venue was liked and it is cost-effective. It will be used for the Seniors Congress, the August GP events, and next year's East Wales Congress and will be considered for the Welsh Foursomes.

5 Master Points

MT and JH reported on the recent meeting with the EBU and SBU, which was very constructive. It was agreed that we should:

- review the awards for our Sims and for our National events
- adopt the EBU's recent innovations, including the 'blue points' scheme and fractional points
- update our master point handbook to take account of recent developments
- pursue a formal agreement with the EBU on reciprocity

MT will oversee the updating of the handbook, consulting as necessary. (Noelle has agreed to help.)

Action: MT

6 Consultation with Members

AT will pick out the most important messages from the analysis of members' questionnaires with a view to publishing this on the website.

Action: AT

7 Behaviour Paper

Alan Lightbody, AT and MT have revised the paper to take account of comments received. It was agreed that this should now be placed on the website for consultation.

Action: MT

It was noted that, if and when we come to formalise a version of the paper as WBU policy, the paper is too long to expect every member to read. At that point a short summary should be prepared for wide distribution, probably in the Journal, with the full policy available to clubs and on the website.

8 Newsletter

There is a shortage of articles for the next one – contributions always welcomed! It was considered that we should try to publish regularly even if it is thin. It is a service to our members who value aspects such as the lists of results and forthcoming events.

9 Eligibility

We discussed some aspects of this, such as eligibility to play for an area in the Perry Shield. It was agreed to continue the discussion by email.

10 Finance Committee

LG reported on the Finance Committee meeting on 16th March. It was agreed that the minutes of this should be put on the website.

Action: LG, MT

It looks as though we will have a small surplus in 2011-12, not having hosted any internationals in the financial year, although our competitions may only have broken even. The committee's recommendations include:

- the annual subscriptions to the WBU should not be increased next year,
- there should be a working party to review future funding for international teams,
- guidelines will be developed on the running of the Perry, Spickett & President's Cup to contain costs to hosting areas,
- the competition group should plan our competitions to deliver a reasonable profit.

11 Lady Milne

Volunteers are still needed for commentating on BBO. This can be done from home.

12 Competitions

12.1 Cambria Final

How we decide the ordering of the finalists needed to be prescribed. Aggregate scoring is the flavour of this event, but it would be unsatisfactory if a team won all its matches and was not considered the overall winner because another team had a higher aggregate.

It was decided that the teams would be ordered by the number of matches won, with ties on that basis decided by considering the total aggregate score in the match(es) between the two or three teams involved.

12.2 Webber Final

JH as NTO was encouraged to use her discretion (described in the Journal) to keep up the number of teams in the final, even if this meant that more than 50% of the teams qualified from one or more heats.

12.3 Matches with Ireland at the Fishguard Congress

The Irish will have five teams, including one near-international team and a ladies team. The selectors are being asked to pick Welsh teams for these two, and BA and AT will arrange the other three.

Action: BA, AT

13 Next Meeting

This will be on Tuesday May 8th 2012, between 2 and 4pm.

MT 3/4/12