

WBU Management Committee

Minutes of Meeting 8th May 2012

Meeting held by telephone conference, 2pm to 3.40pm

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)
KR: Ken Richardson (East Wales nominee)
NR: Neville Richards (Chief Executive)
MT: Mike Tedd (Mid Wales nominee), Minutes Secretary

1 Apologies

Ours to JK. Our technology let her down, so she was only with us for 10 minutes.

2 Review of Actions from Previous Meetings

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 ongoing: AT

April 6 Consultation with Members

AT has prepared a useful summary of the main points from the analysis of members' questionnaires. After a little polish this will be published in the Newsletter.

April 7 Behaviour Paper

The paper is on the website, and a reasonable number of comments have been received already and are still appearing. These will be fed back to the working group. Comments are still very welcome – a deadline of the end of May was set.

April 9 Eligibility for events such as the Perry Shield

We agreed to continue the discussion by email.

Action ongoing: All

3 BGB Meeting – Seniors Camrose

NR reported on the recent BGB meeting.

There is still some doubt whether the other countries wish to participate in the Seniors Camrose. Sponsorship is being sought. Noting that we are making substantial savings by not sending teams to the junior internationals, or hosting them, Wales has said that it is prepared to host the

Seniors event in 2013 if it goes ahead. We have had an offer to contribute to our costs above a reasonable contribution and to organise the event if our match manager would prefer to sit out this one. A limit to our financial contribution of £2500 was agreed.

BGB has pencilled in dates for the Seniors Camrose in future years, which clash with our usual dates for the Perry/Spickett/President's Cup/AGM. It was recognised that this clash would have to be avoided (see also item 5 below).

4 Celtic Sims

Scotland has agreed to take the lead in this for the first time, probably in December. Anna Gudge will organise it with enthusiasm. Wales will do its best to support the event, and we hope both parts of Ireland will do likewise. We can offer to write some future booklets.

5 Auditing / Accounts / Date of the AGM

Following the sad loss of Barrie Robinson, our long-standing Honorary Auditor, Andrew Scott has agreed to take on the task. The MC approved his appointment as Auditor for the 2011-12 accounts; his appointment as ongoing Honorary Auditor will be proposed at the AGM.

The last information needed to prepare the accounts for 2011-12 has only just appeared. LG has sent the accounts to the Auditor. While it was hoped that auditing can be completed by the AGM, it was agreed to send out the unaudited accounts in advance of the AGM. They show a decent profit for the year, which was expected because this year does not include any hosting of international events.

Getting audited accounts to the AGM has been a recurrent problem, and it may be harder for a new treasurer. One possibility might be to change the WBU's financial year. Another idea would be to move the Perry/Spickett/President's Cup/AGM into June, where there are a couple of free weekends.

6 AGM Notice & Reports

Written reports have been prepared ahead of the AGM to speed up the meeting. It was agreed that the notice of meeting and the reports should be put on the website.

Action: MT

7 Events

The Women's team was congratulated on its good performance in the Lady Milne. The excellence of Jean Cufley's organisation of the event was praised.

The recent Webber Cup Final was marred by the temperature in the Llanidloes hall. The hall management was caught out by the unseasonably cold weekend, and the heating only reached full blast on Sunday; the room temperature was certainly uncomfortable for bridge. This was the only venue available and the alternative to carrying on would have been to cancel the event. A number of people have commented to us; nearly all of them accept that this difficult situation was handled as well as it could have been.

Although cost was not a factor on this occasion, to use more expensive venues would need us to increase entry fees, which members resist. So the MC encouraged the NTO to continue to make the most cost-effective arrangements possible.

The Ladies weekend is in the balance. Some players will only take part if it is just one day, some only if it is two days. Some prefer pairs, some teams ...

8 Future Funding for International Teams

In view of the likely funding available to us, it has been decided only to send more than one team to European Championships in exceptional circumstances – we are doing this in Dublin, since Wales won both the Camrose and Seniors Camrose in 2011. But Welsh successes continue – the women's team has done well in the Lady Milne and a Welsh team has again done well in the Spring Foursomes (beating the England team for Dublin). So it is highly desirable that we seek additional sources of funding which might make more teams affordable. The Celtic Sims may help. BA volunteered to undertake a search for sponsorship.

Action: BA

9 Newsletter

The latest newsletter is being prepared for printing.

10 Master Points

3-4 more clubs are using direct online submission. Other clubs are hanging back to use up their stocks of certificate books, unaware that we will give them credit for unused books. At some point we should set a date beyond which all clubs are expected to submit online. It might also make sense to change the master point year; the EBU now use a calendar year. It was noted though that this could mean that the points in the Journal will be 18 months old by the end of the playing year. These matters should be discussed with the new MP Secretary, who could be invited to join us for a discussion of such issues.

11 Next Year's Committee

We are losing LG and AT so there will be at least two new members (KR has agreed to continue representing East Wales for the time being). It was agreed that an early face-to-face meeting of the new committee would be a good idea.

12 AOB

12.1 Dublin

AT will represent the WBU at the EBL General Assembly. It was agreed to support the Scottish candidate for the EBL Executive Committee.

12.2 2012 Journal

KR has agreed to prepare this. All input must reach him by 1st June so that it can be printed in July.

13 Thank Yous

Members expressed their great appreciation to Adrian and Linda, for whom this was the last MC meeting. Linda has served the WBU for many years, not only as a very effective Chief Executive and a conscientious and professional Treasurer but also an invaluable font of knowledge and wise advice. As President for two years, Adrian has set an example which future Presidents will find it impossible to emulate, visiting so many clubs and being at the heart of many initiatives. We will really miss them.

14 Next Meeting

This is provisionally arranged for Tuesday June 5th 2012, between 2 and 4pm, if that is convenient for the new members.

MT 8/5/12