

WBU Management Committee

Minutes of Meeting 15th January 2013

Meeting held by telephone conference, 2pm to 4pm

Present

FN: Fiona Noyce (Treasurer)
JH: Jean Hand (National Tournament Organiser)
NR: Neville Richards (Chief Executive)
MT: Mike Tedd (Mid Wales nominee), Minutes
PB: Phil Bowers (East Wales nominee)
PM: Paddy Murphy (President), Chairman

1 Apologies

BA: Bob Alderdice (West Wales nominee).

2 Appointment of Minutes Secretary

MT agreed to take the minutes for this meeting.

3 Review of Actions from Previous Meetings

April 7 Behaviour Paper

The latest version has just been received.

Action ongoing: MT

May 8 Seeking sponsorship

NR has identified one lead.

Action ongoing: BA

December 3.3 EWBA

Still not filled some of their major offices

Action ongoing: EWBA

December 4 Corporation tax

Should not be a problem as we pay tax on interest at source.

September Club Scoring & Master Points

PB has conducted a survey of clubs' scoring methods and master points handling. His summary report was presented and will be placed on the website. It shows that most clubs use computer scoring and should be able to upload their master points (more than half our clubs already do). No one objected to the idea of doing this. PB will contact the remaining clubs and help them through any problems in moving to online uploading.

Action: PB

4 Chief Executive's Report

The Celtic Sims went reasonably well for a first occasion. There were 1286 pairs from 87 clubs. 25 Welsh clubs took part. We need to work on the publicity; in particular there should be a drive to recruit more Welsh clubs ahead of the third event when Wales will be doing the commentaries. We should also try to involve the Republic of Ireland.

Action: NR

5 Treasurer's Report

The possible use of an alternative auditor in future years was discussed.

The licence fee to be paid by congresses was queried. The policy that all green pointed congresses pay 12% of entry fees was reaffirmed (see minutes of MC meeting 9th November 2010). It would be desirable for the Finance Committee to meet and be reminded of this.

6 NTO's Report

The Mixed Pairs final looks to have a full complement of players.

We discussed the possible revival of the Graded Masters in 2014. The favoured idea is that we hold a two day event for the highest ranked players in a central location, issuing invitations to encourage entries. We would also hold a one-day event (probably on the same weekend) where two or more venues would play the same boards; this would be scored overall, with prizes for the highest ranked pair within each of a number of given ranking constraints ('flights'). Comments would be welcomed, and the details need to be worked out.

Action: PM, MT

7 Internationals

There was some discussion about the funding of representative teams. Some WBU members feel that too much of the WBU's resources go on a small number of players in these teams, and it was noted that the EBU is much less generous in this respect. In practice quite a lot of different people have represented Wales in the past few years; these players feel that they give up their time to do this and bear much of the cost themselves (some not claiming any expenses). The EBU relies on sponsors to support their teams, an option not open to the WBU (and probably not desired either).

We will be looking at the funding levels for the teams in a future meeting. It would be very helpful if players representing Wales did more for bridge in Wales. Writing articles for the Newsletters, encouraging clubs to enter the Welsh and Celtic Sims, attending clubs and giving talks as well as helping in the running of the WBU were all mentioned.

8 Selectors Report

No report received.

The selectors have asked about the possibility of offering support to one or more teams to play in the Spring Foursomes as a training exercise. It was agreed that support could be considered for suitable Junior and perhaps Ladies teams, who did not normally participate in the event. A case from the Selectors suggesting suitable candidates would be considered by the MC.

9 Master Points Secretary Report

The difficulties of mounting extra development work were discussed. The efforts of Bryn Richards are greatly appreciated, and we understand the difficulty of his finding extra time and recognise that the cost of fully-funded professional development would be prohibitive.

The master points holdings used to determine eligibility for competitions such as the Graded Masters should be those at the end of the master point year. These should be posted on the web soon after the end of the MP year (February 28th in 2013, then calendar years), as well as printed in the Journal. This allows a competition in say April to June to use a list which is more up-to-date than that in the latest Journal, almost a year old.

10 Year Book and Newsletters

Laura Woodruff has agreed to edit the Newsletter when Jill retires. She will need support in encouraging article submission, e.g. from each area.

Laura has also agreed to oversee the production of the Journal, with the usual contributions from NTO, MP Secretary etc. She will report to the MC on what changes are desirable. The need to put the MPs of members of each club in order of their holdings was noted.

11 AOB

Congratulations were voiced for the Welsh team that won Bridge Great Britain's Silver Plate.

12 Next Meeting

Tuesday February 5th 2013, 2pm by Skype.

Other Actions to be reviewed at later date

Logged	Action	Review
Mar.'12	University Contacts: Some interest in Bangor	
Sept'12	Review New Master Point Handbook (PB & MT)	March?
Nov'12	Financial Reports for MC Review (FN)	Feb/March
July 12	Review support for representative teams	Feb/March

MT 18/1/13, revised 29/1