

Minutes of WBU Management Meeting on 5th Feb 2013
Skype Meeting from 1200 to 1330hrs

Attendees

Paddy Murphy:	President
Neville Richards:	CEO
Fiona Noyce:	Treasurer
Mike Tedd:	MWBA Representative
Jill Knights	NWBA Representative
Phil Bowers:	EWBA Representative & NMP Secretary
Bob Alderdice:	WWBA Representative
Laura Woodruff:	Invited to join meeting for selected topics

1. Apologises

Jean Hand National Tournament Organiser

2. Review of Actions from Previous Meeting

- a) ***Funding:*** BA reported that Admiralty and Principality had declined the opportunity to sponsor any WBU event etc. in this financial year.
- b) ***EWBA*** have still to appoint replacements for their vacant office-bearers.
- c) ***The Behaviour Paper and Policy*** was accepted and will be published on the web-site and a summary brief provided to clubs encouraging their adoption as good practice. **Action: Mike and Laura**

3. CEO's Report

- a) The ***Tournament Directors Courses*** are proving very popular and new courses for more advanced level are being organised
- b) ***Sponsorship.*** Bernard MacGee will be providing sponsorship/advertising
- c) Discussions with Paul Porteous regarding the success of the CBAI in terms of high membership numbers and successful congresses highlighted:
 - That 80% of their Congress Table Money was given as Prizes.
 - All events had excellent local sponsorship which allowed the above.

Discussion took place regarding some WBU members who had a close relationship with the CBAI conducting a comparative review of the CBAI with the WBU to establish potential improvements that the WBU could pursue. At this stage it was not considered appropriate to pursue such a study.

- d) ***Celtic Simultaneous.*** It is likely that the Northern Irish Bridge Union will not participate in future as they suggest they don't require the income and that organising the event is too honourous. The EBU are refusing to recognise/reciprocate MP's gained in Celtic Simultaneous Events. A meeting is proposed in March aimed at discussing potential "licensing costs" for this event
- e) ***Journal/ Circulation:*** Considerable discussion took place on the poor distribution of Journals. These had been given out at the mid Wales Congress and clubs in each area were given journals for other clubs not represented. There seemed to be a failure of circulation from these clubs. No conclusion was reached, though potential costs of postage will be investigated.

4. Treasurer's Report

- a) ***Seniors.*** A deposit was paid for the hotel. The total cost will be ~£4000 but it is anticipated that sponsorship will cover the costs of the event and repayment of the deposit to WBU.
- b) ***Annual Subscriptions:*** It was agreed that there will be no change in subscription next year. We should look at perhaps increasing this to £7 in 2014/15.
- c) ***International teams.*** It is recognised that last year was an unusually high expenditure year as a result of having two teams in the European Championships. It is felt that the current income will support 1 team every two years; however, if the Celtic Simultaneous Pairs support is maintained/improved we could provide greater support. Expenses of players will be monitored to ensure that each is adopting a consistent practice
- d) ***Membership requirements.*** While there is a desire to provide "more" for the membership there is no clear steer as to their desires/requirements. We may look at providing some matched funding for equipment for new clubs who wish to join the WBU and increase membership.
- e) ***Credit cards.*** It was agreed to provide the CEO with a credit card with a £1000 limit.
- f) ***Auditor*** Discussions had taken place with Andrew Scott and it was agreed that a new Auditor will be proposed at the AGM to provide more convenient support to the Treasurer...

5. NTO Report

- a) ***Welsh Cup.*** One qualifying team had chosen to withdraw on establishing their opponents. Discussion took place on potential replacements e.g. 2nd in the same qualifying triple, or the team who had highest IMPs who had been second. It was agreed that no

substitute team should be put forward and that the team that had withdrawn should be made aware of our dissatisfaction.

- b) **Webber Cup.** After much discussion regarding the Competition rules having been designed for club qualifying heats rather than Areas it was reinforced that this year ALL areas must conform to the rules as stipulated in the Journal e.g. only if there were greater than 10 teams would 2 heats be conducted and these should be randomly drawn.
- c) **President's Cup.** It was reinforced that this year no person with 25+ GP will be eligible for the President's Cup as introduced in the rules. Consideration will be given next year to including one player of a higher standard "coach/encourage" the less experienced players.
- d) **Competition Rules.** It was agreed that all competition rules should be reviewed for consideration for changes for the 2013/14 season

Action: Mike/Laura

6. **Internationals** No report

7. **Selectors Report** No report

8. Master Points Secretaries Report

- a) **Blue Points.** The WBU will adopt these in reciprocity but for recording in our systems they will be classified as "Black" Points and reclassified as "blue" when the software/database is modified.

9. Journal/Newsletter

These will be distributed at the Mid-Wales congress and a more effective distribution on non-represented clubs will be introduced.

Changes being examined are:

- Putting Competition rules at the back.
- Entry Forms discontinued as these should be done on-line or printed from computer...
- MP in ranking order with clubs identified. Club information will not be in ranking order.

Members are to be encouraged to use on-line information regarding MP ranking etc.

Next Meeting: 12th Mar 2013 at 1400hrs