

Minutes of WBU Management Meeting on 3rd Sept 2013
Commodore Hotel, Llandrindod Wells from 1100 to 14300hrs

Attendees

Herbie Rowley	President
Neville Richards:	CEO
Fiona Noyce:	Treasurer
Michael Hill:	MWBA Representative
Geoff Evans:	EWBA Representative
Bob Alderdice:	WWBA Representative
Phil Bowers	MP Secretary (invited)

Apologies:

Jean Hand NTO

1. Actions from Previous Meeting

- 1.1 ***EBU Reciprocity.*** The WBU MP allocations consistent with the EBU is taking longer as some EBU and WBU competition allocations are outside the guidelines of the EBU. Proposals will be presented at the next MC Meeting

Action. MP Secretary

- 1.2 ***Advertising. Action Complete.*** First for Bridge (Arena Travel) have sponsored 2500 sets of WBU duplimating cards, consequently these will be made available to membership clubs and areas. . They provided £500 holiday vouchers for prize-winners in the Welsh Foursomes.
- 1.3 ***Telscher Trophy Seniors Home International.. Action Complete*** Neville sent a letter of thanks to Patrick Jourdain for his organisation.
- 1.4 ***Competition Rules: Action completed*** by Mike and Laura and these have been re-written.
- 1.5 ***Newsletter: Action complete.*** As agreed Mike included the NTO's Annual Report on the web-site.

2. CEO's Report

2.1 *Welsh Foursomes:* This was run successfully in the Commodore Hotel with 27 teams. Martin Lee was complimented on his effective role as TD. The response of attendees suggested that additional accommodation may be required next year.

2.2 *WBU Tutor partnership.* The MC agreed that the WBU will support new training initiatives and information can be obtained from the CEO. In essence such support will take the form of:

- Provision of some hardware for new training groups e.g. cards, boards, tables etc.
- A set of the WBU Acol Training Course consisting 6 sets of 10 lessons, teaching notes, power-point slides, and hands played handouts and a quiz.

- Free membership of the WBU for the “learning club/group” for a year and 50% fee for the second year. MPs can be issued for play within the “training groups”
- If enough groups are established then a simultaneous pairs can be organised specifically for such “training groups”

Proposals of how we manage and incorporate such “training groups” within the WBU membership and MP system will be prepared for agreement by the MC

Action: Phil

Bowers

One such group has been established in Lampeter with the hope of eventually encouraging them to join Lampeter club

The MC will review the “free membership” policy etc. after a year to insure that no-one/clubs are abusing this initiative . **Action: MC**

2.3 Education Officer. An advert has been included in the Newsletter for this position. This “job-holder” will oversee the WBU Tutoring Partnership as part of their role **Action: MC**

2.4 EBU Blue Book. This will be the basis of the WBU rules in future to avoid confusion with different books e.g. orange/green/yellow etc.

2.5 WBU Equipment. The WBU has purchased 6 additional tables and 30 small side tables

The MC agreed that the CEO purchase a duplimator on behalf of the WBU

2.6 New Alerting Rules A summary is attached

2.7 WBF VP Scale. The WBU MC agreed that we will adopt the new WBF proposals in line with other national associations. This means that:

- All national team events will use the incremental VP scales which will be incorporated in the computer scoring systems. (Scorebridge refuse to change their programmes)
- Area and Club events will use the Discrete VP Scales of the WBF (Full Numbers) These are attached and will be available on the WBU web-site

3. Treasurer’s Report

3.1 CEO’s Credit Card. The failure to get this has resulted from Lloyds TSB losing all paperwork. This will now be re-submitted

Action: Fiona

3.2 International Playing Expenses. Clear guidelines will be discussed and agreed with the selectors based on fairness and indicative costs established based on booking transport and accommodation etc in a timely/cost effective manner e.g. Not last minute bookings **Action: Neville**

3.3 Honoraria and Payments The following were agreed:

- Honoraria will remain the same for 2013/14 including the Newsletter and Yearbook
- Prize-money increases for the Welsh and Cambria Cup will increase in line with any increase in entries. Clubs and participants require to encourage participation.

4. NTO Report

- 4.1 2013/14 Finals** The NTO's report confirmed that the finals for the Open and Mixed Pairs are booked for the Commodore Hotel and the Teams of Eight and Webber Cup for Llanidloes Community Centre
- 4.2 Ladies Welsh Cup.** The £15/player fee for 28th Sept was agreed. Additional entries are being encouraged.
- 4.3 Graded Masters.** Proposal for this event in 2013/14 are still required. **Action Jean/Paddy**
- 4.4 President's Cup.** With a number of issues being raised about the basis for selection and continuation of this trophy a discussion paper will be prepared for MC review with comments sought from Adrian Thomas who launched the initiative. **Action: Bob**
- 4.5 Webber Cup Final.** Recognising that the venue can accommodate significant numbers the MC asked that the NTO should establish the maximum number of teams that could participate in the direct entry final within the current competition rules such that this determines the cut-off for entries. **Action: Jean**

5 MP Secretaries Report

- 5.1 Computerised MP Registration.** Only 5 Clubs are failing to register their points on line, Mumbles, Sully, Deesside, Flint and Cricceich. Areas are being asked to assist the MP Secretary in getting support to these clubs to allow everyone to be compliant by the end of the calendar year
Registration of 3 Areas now seem to be being incorporated but at present the WWBA do not appear to have submitted/awarded MPs for Area events and at present the ATO has not responded to requests to submit them or obtain support from the ATO if help is required. **Action: Areas**
- 5.2 On line MPs.** The MC agreed to examine the appropriate future policy with regard to recognition of on-line MPs and its balance and "value" related those earned and paid for in WBU registered club, area and nationally events.

- 6 Selectors Report.** Two training weekends have been arranged but there is concern about only 7 pairs putting their names forward for Open Team Trials

7 President's Report

The President has enjoyed his first few months and attended all summer congresses. He aims to attend as many clubs as [possible during his year and welcomes any communication aimed at improving Welsh Bridge.

It was agreed that in the 2014/15 Yearbook the Welsh Language Heading will be above the English "Welsh Bridge Union"

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Next Meeting: Tues 15th Oct. 2015 at 11am in Commodore Hotel,
Llandrindod Wells