

Minutes of WBU Management Meeting on 15th Oct. 2013
Commodore Hotel, Llandrindod Wells from 1130 to 1400hrs

Attendees

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Herbie Rowley | President |
| Neville Richards: | CEO |
| Fiona Noyce: | Treasurer |
| Richard Hill: | MWBA Representative |
| Liz Atkinson | EWBA Representative (substitute) |
| Bob Alderdice: | WWBA Representative |

Apologies:

Jean Hand, Paddy Murphy, Phil Bowers

1. Completed Actions

- 1.1 *President's Cup:*** Discussion document submitted. The WBU will be supporting the competition in 2014 but before 2014/15 competition programme is finalised will decide on its future. We fully endorse financially supporting a competition aimed at improving the competitive standards of the less experienced players but recognising that the financial support from the WBU and the respective areas is ~£2000/annum we will review whether alternative allocation of such funds for less experienced competitors may be more appropriate. This will be incorporate in our considerations of the longer term strategy review to enhance Welsh Bridge playing standards highlighted later in our minutes.

2. Outstanding Actions from Previous Meeting

- 2.1 *EBU Reciprocity.*** Proposals required on compatibility with EBU including those where WBU and EBU are outside guidelines to ensure we maintain reciprocity **Action. Phil**
- 2.2 *"Training Group" Members.*** Proposals of how "training groups" will be incorporated/administered within the WBU membership and MP system. **Action: Phil**
Assess how to ensure that clubs do not abuse the "free membership" proposals for new members in training groups
Action: MC
- 2.3 *Education Officer:*** There have been no volunteers for the advert this position. The advert will be retained on the web-site and candidates sought. **Action: MC/CEO.**
- 2.4 *CEO's Credit Card.*** The bank has refused this as obtaining credit was not written into our constitution. The MC agreed that it will now apply for a debit card. **Action: Fiona**

- 2.5 ***International Playing Expenses.*** Clear guidelines will be discussed and agreed with the selectors based on fairness and indicative **Action: Neville**
- 2.6 ***Graded Masters.*** Proposals on organising a Graded Masters competition awaited **Action: Jean/Paddy**
- 2.7 ***Webber Cup:*** Recognising the larger venue, guidelines desired on maximum entries consistent with the playing rules to be agreed with TD **Action: Jean**

3. CEO's Report

- 3.1 ***Celtic Simultaneous Pairs.*** This has been a successful innovation and raised ~£3K for the WBU. Participation has been particularly good in Ireland and hopefully will improve in Wales and Scotland.

The WBU will be responsible for organising the events this year. We need to recognise that this will not fill the financial “gap” towards International Funds from losing the £10K/annum income this year from the former BBL (now EBU organised) simultaneous pairs

- 3.2 ***WBU Bridge Playing Standards.*** Recognising that we are in the middle of trials for the Open Teams for the Camrose the CEO highlighted that there would be no selectors report.

The MC are very pleased with the contribution and commitment of the selectors and agreed to call a joint meeting with them aimed at establishing a medium term strategy for enhancing the standard of Welsh Bridge including increasing the pool of players of appropriate standard at International level **Action: CEO**
Relevant to discussion within that strategy could be:

- Increasing the international playing “pool”. Training and competitive structure that may enhance playing standards of more experienced players potentially capable of playing at international level.
- Initiatives to have competitive international teams in the next few years while building up standards for the longer term.
- Initiatives which may enhance “team culture” etc.
- Support for participation in major UK competitions for development of teams.
- Initiatives at less experienced younger players who may have longer term potential. e.g. Does President's Cup and/or Graded Masters competitions offer potential in this area?
- How do we identify players with the required ability and commitment?

The MC recognises the need for re-energising initiatives to re-establish Junior Bridge but at present perceive this as a separate though related initiative.

Computer based training and playing packages to develop Junior Bridge will be investigated.

- 3.3 Rule Guidelines.** The MC agreed to finance 100 copies of a Canadian produced booklet with line decision charts to assist TDs. A copy will be sent to each club.

The WBU has been given publishing rights and has pdf files to allow this to be updated when Bridge Rules are changed.

- 3.4 Current Playing Standards Assessment.** The MC will investigate a system of assessment of current individual playing standards to supplement our Ranking system. With the current on-line MP system and computer based scoring it is felt that a system akin to golf handicaps may be achievable. This would not replace Ranking but may help identify talent suitable for training and development at an earlier stage. An Australian based system seemed attractive in the past; however, while we cannot be incorporated within their programme we will investigate how their system operates.

4. Treasurer's Report

- 4.1 Credit Card. See above. We are now applying for a debit card instead.
- 4.2 Current Financial Position: Surplus of income is ~£12K which is very similar to the same period last year
- 4.3 EBL TD Meeting: We had been invited to send up two delegates to this meeting in Berlin. It was agreed that no delegate would attend.

5. NTO Report

- 5.1 Ladies Welsh Cup.** This was very successfully re-introduced and hopefully will be the basis for increased numbers and possibly a 2 day event including a Ladies Pairs next year.
- Some participants considered that additional stronger teams need to be encouraged to participate. .

4 MP Secretaries Report

- 5.1 Computerised MP Registration.** We understand that only one club has not yet agreed to register points on-line. This will be reviewed with the MP Secretary at the next meeting.

6 Selectors Report.

- 6.1** In abeyance while in middle of the Open Team Trials.

- 6.2. See minute above. Recognising the limited international experience on the MC it was agreed to try to facilitate a meeting with the selectors to use their expertise aimed at establishing a Strategy for enhancing Welsh bridge playing standards.

7 President's Report

The President continues to enjoy his visit to clubs and congresses. He has attended all congresses to date. If there are major events/celebrations that clubs consider appropriate for a visit he will hopefully be able to meet that request

His contacts are:

herbierowley@gmail.com

Tel 01239 811226

Address: Caergwynt

Felnwynt

Cardigan SA43 1RW

8. AOB

- 8.1 **Hockey Trophy.** The MC agreed that on-line MPs will no longer be eligible for inclusion in assessment for this trophy.
- 8.2 Area and WBU Executives. While no solutions was determined there was discussion around the lack of candidates/interest in some Area Executive positions and also that some candidates may be being discouraged in Area Chairman's positions on the basis that they did not aspire to being WBU President. This requires further review and consideration. .

Next Meeting: To be determined after discussions with selectors on a suitable date for a joint meeting, hopefully by early Dec.