

**MINUTES OF WELSH BRIDGE UNION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**HELD ON FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2014 IN LLANDRINDOD WELLS**

The President opened the meeting with a statement. He thanked all for the work and commitment given. He recognised that all had the same aims but may have differing views about how to achieve them. He expressed the hope that all would respect the views of others.

**Apologies**

Paddy Murphy,  
Richard Hill,  
Bob Alderdice,  
Phil Bowers.

**Attendees**

President - Herbie Rowley,  
NTO – Jean Hand,  
Treasurer – Fiona Noyce,  
CEO – Neville Richards,  
EWBA representative – Geoff Evans,  
MWBA representative – Rita Lawrence,  
Alan Screen, Past President and current Selector by invitation.

Rita Lawrence volunteered to take the Minutes.

**Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting** Minutes accepted.

**Review of actions from previous meetings**

Education Officer - no volunteers have yet come forward. Renewed efforts will be made to attract a candidate.

Chief Executive Officer's credit card - this issue was ongoing. The CEO queried the current bank charges. It was agreed to look into this.

**Action Treasurer**

**National Tournament Organiser's Report**

**Graded Masters** - This has been taken over by Paddy Murphy to try to revive it with a different format. Suggestions for different formats were tabled: as a sims (not practical), on one day only, moved from winter to summer due to weather affecting travel (hotels more expensive in the summer), held 'back to back'. It was agreed that this competition should stay as it was from 2015.

**Webber Cup** - This was being held as open entry for the first time. Only 4 entries received so far.

**Cambria & Welsh Cup regulations** - There is an issue about changes in regulations: should players be allowed to be added after the quarter finals. It was agreed to continue with the status quo as published in the current Journal, but in 2015 to revert to the rule made in 2010 ie no additional players after the quarter finals.

**Welsh Cup** - Green points were reviewed. There is no reference to master points in the current journal due to an imminent review. Because of a reciprocity with the EBU it was agreed to revise the suggested increase in the green points for this competition. The NTO suggested also that the Open Pairs green points should be reduced to 12. It was agreed: the Welsh Cup points be 8 for the final, the Open Pairs be 12 and the Mixed Pairs 8 and no qualifying green points be awarded for any competition. It was also agreed to review all points for all competitions this year.

**Action NTO**

### **Treasurers Report**

The hotel in Manchester for the Camrose Cup players has been arranged except for Laura Woodruff who is making separate arrangements. The cost in total is £1,614. Money received from the EBU for British Sims entries is £478.42 which is considerably less than last year. The CEO queried whether the second payment of £10,000 has been received from the EBU. Agreed that this be checked. The honoraria for this year to 31st March have already been agreed but those for next year have still to be decided. The M&MP honorarium will revert to original for next year. The balance in the WBU Bank Account account is £57,000, which is about the same as it was this time last year.

The Treasurer reported that she now had the final membership numbers to enable her to pay our dues to the EBL. She said that consideration of the subscription levels for membership should be discussed at the next meeting of the MC in advance of the Council meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Selectors' Report** – A personal summary provided by Alan Screen

Following a poor showing in the first leg of the Camrose Cup slight changes have been made to the team for the next leg in Manchester.

The trials have been very successful events and a breakeven point has been reached with the possibility of a slight surplus.

The selectors are pleased that the Management Committee is to appoint a training and development officer. The selectors currently get £5,000 funding allocation.

The poor performance of the first leg of the Camrose was discussed by the selectors and also the tiredness experienced by some of the players. Some of the training budget has been used to pay for a presentation by a sports psychologist. A key piece of advice given was that when not playing players must rest rather than be a spectator, or analyst of the performance of others.

**Wearing of team uniform:** non-playing captains must make sure this is adhered to.

It was agreed that selection of players is subject to agreement of players to each wear the team dress determined by the WBU. The Chief Executive will circulate an appropriate notice to this effect.

**Action CEO**

Members were informed that there were five Saturdays in the year available for additional events focused on training.

**Newsletter** - It had had been discussed and agreed at a previous meeting that in future this be provided online for reading in flip page format or download via the WBU website. Opposition to this action had been received from the current editor. After further discussion It was unanimously agreed that we proceed with this for future newsletters. Clubs should be able to produce printed copies for members unable to do so. Where hard copies were not available these would be provided on application to the CEO. The Editor would be made aware of this decision at the earliest opportunity and all affiliated clubs informed by email.

**Action CEO**

**WBU website** – A question about the WBU website generated a discussion about what improvements were needed. It was agreed that the President discuss with the webmaster what options were available to give it a new look.

**Action President**

### **Chief Executive's Report**

**Overseas Congress** - This is in Portugal and six bookings have been received so far from the brochure. Flyers have been printed by First for Bridge and these will be available shortly for distribution.

**Grading System** - it was agreed this was needed and the CEO said work on it was ongoing.

**Action CEO**

**Bridgefest** - The CEO has arranged this for 17th May weekend at the Commodore Hotel in Llandrindod Wells. There would be bridge sessions, a seminar on the losing trick count, 10 minute tips and a presentation on how to use the Bridgemate table scoring units and recover the data if there is a problem. Tony Howarth and Drina Danner would be involved.

**Score Cards** - A score card for up to 60 boards is now available for downloading. The printing of a dimensionally smaller card would be investigated.

**Action CEO**

### **The President's Report**

The President reported he was very much enjoying visiting the WBU's clubs. His contact details are online for those who need to get in touch with him. He said that he'd made good use of the WBU pens which were excellent value. He has also distributed packs of cards and the Laws Book publications.

### **Any Other Business**

The issue of succession arrangements were raised. It was reported that East Wales were struggling to nominate someone to take over the President's role.

Geoff Evans reported that the East Wales Congress held at the new venue had been a great success and the innovation of a Club Teams section a great experience. The President endorsed his statements. Geoff also introduced an updated paper on the adding of club teams to congresses and this will be reviewed at the next meeting.

**Action all members**

### **Date & Time of Next Meeting**

This would be at a convenient date and time in early April. The CEO will consult members and make the arrangements