



Minutes of Management Committee 03/07/2014

Commodore Hotel, Llandrindod Wells

Present : Neville Richards, Chief Executive

Herbie Rowley, President

Fiona Noyce, Treasurer

Jean Hand, NTO

Geoff Evans, Gareth Jones, Paddy Murphy (on Skype)-Area Representatives

Bob Alderdice- Welsh League Supremo/Organiser

Apologies-Phil Bowers

Minutes of Previous meeting and Matters arising. There had been a delay in publishing these and no matters arising.

National Tournament Organiser's Report

Teams of 8 Final-

One team, Aberystwyth, did not show; they had forgotten that they had qualified.

(A team from this club also did not turn up for the Webber Final).

A letter would be sent to the Mid Wales Area asking for a cheque for £20 to assist with refreshments and expenses incurred. It would be up to the Mid Wales Committee if they wished to forward this to Aberystwyth.

Honorarium. Previous Post Holders received £1350, and another NTO, who left after 6 months, received £675. Jean Hand's allowance was reduced to £500 as she does not oversee the Welsh/Cambria cups.

However, she is also working on the Entries book. Is she being short-changed?
CEO and Treasurer to come up with a recommendation.

National Mixed Pairs. After a prolonged discussion, it was decided that there would be four non-simultaneous area qualifiers and a one day all-play-all final, probably an 11.00 start. This was to be a one year trial, to combat so many pairs dropping out from the two day final. All qualifiers would be shown on the WBU website-those unable to play to inform the NTO directly.

Treasurer's Report

HMRC (Cardiff and Glasgow) had been sent copies of the Accounts. There was a change of situation regarding the Monmouthshire Building Society-we now have a Gross account-previously Nett.

WBU would be funding one pair for the 12th European Youth Championships. This money would come from the Youth Fund which had been augmented with the WBU share of funds previously held by The Educational Trust for British Bridge Charity where Patrick Jourdain had been a Trustee until the charity was voluntarily wound up at the request of the EBU. This would cost about £900.

One of the players is 17, the other 22.

For the 52nd European Championships, there would be two self-funded teams, one Open, one Senior. The WBU would pay the Entry Fees to show authenticity; these would then be reimbursed from the players, (approx. 3000 euros per team).

It was noted that for the Mid-Wales Congress, some clubs, eg Rhayader, were paying 50% of the entry fee to encourage entries from 'competition novices'. This was seen as a very supportive move.

There had been some adverse comments about the level of prize money awarded for National Competitions. Some of these have not been reviewed for years. However, entries have dropped, sometimes considerably.

For a Congress, there is an 12% licence fee, and 20% of entry fees are returned as prize money.

For National Competitions, the following structure was to be implemented with immediate effect.

Welsh Cup £200 for winning team (whether 4, 5 or 6 players), £60 for runners up.

Cambria Cup £200 for winners (4, 5 or 6), £60 for runners up.

Webber Cup £200 for winners (4, 5 or 6), £60 for runners up.

National Pairs £100 for winners, £60 for second.

Mixed pairs £100 for winners, £60 for second.

Teams of Eight Final-£240 for winners

Chief Executive's Report.

Apparently, Lloyds Bank levy Bank charges on our account despite the level of deposit we have with them. Some Banks do not charge for Club and Member Organisation accounts. Suitable alternative offerings would be investigated.

WBU websites were accessible from <http://welshbridgeunion.org> which has been set up as a WebPortal/Gateway. This allows individual management but better integration, and the situation was fine for the time being-MC to look again in January to see if any changes were necessary.

The WBU/Irish holiday had not as yet had a great take up from Welsh players. There had been comments from the EBU about why we chose dates clashing with one of their holidays; it was explained that the Irish were the chief motivators for this holiday, so the dates had been set some time previously.

Selector's Report. No selector was at the meeting, unexpectedly.

Masterpoint Secretary's Report. None was produced.

President's Report. The President thanked the East Wales Area for nominating him for a second term as President. He was thoroughly enjoying his term of office, and hoped to continue his tour of Wales visiting the Clubs that he had not reached in his first year. He also reported that he had, so far, not missed a Congress.

New Welsh League Bob Alderdice had agreed to take responsibility for organising the League for the first year. First matches would be Sept/Oct. Ideally, six teams in a league, playing five matches over 6 months. Try to finish by February, with Play-offs on last weekend of March.

No input from Selectors on the Premier League set up. However, it was agreed that in East Wales, the current leagues would be retained, hopefully expanded, and that Premier League players were still free to play for League teams if they wished. Steve Webb would run the East Wales Leagues as before.

Any Other Business None was forthcoming

Date of Next Meeting. This was set for 5th August at the same venue