



WELSH BRIDGE UNION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT
NEWTOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 11 O'CLOCK 8th June 2014

- 1 Apologies – Sheila Shea, Bob Alderdice, Peter Hand.
- 2 Minutes of last meeting were received and approved. (Name of Treasurer to be corrected in Item 7)
Proposed Laura Woodruff, seconded Marie Topp.
- 3 There were no matters arising.
- 4 Date of next meeting to be agreed after the AGM as depended on a motion being presented there. Next P&S to be held 6/7 June 2015 East Wales probably at The Villages Hotel, Cardiff. To be confirmed.
- 5 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report had been circulated to all Clubs and was available on line. Patrick Jourdain wanted to ensure that the Monies received from the Educational Trust was tracked and was to be used for Youth training only. The Treasurer was aware of this and confirmed it would be used solely for this purpose.

£5000 outstanding from First for Bridge. This is because both the WBU and First for Bridge has paid the same invoice and awaiting funds to be returned.

Diane Kurbalija – She had written to WBU about funding, none for Europe why was it capped. She hadn't received reply from WBU. Selectors didn't believe there was a team worthy of going.

The selector's £1000 budget for International players now increased to £5000. Selectors to develop next top players. Alan Screen explained this was for training and development, pursuing policies, International team and aspiring international players.

Filip Kurbalija – Current situation damaging – opinion from unknown source. We should canvass widely at all levels to get opinions. We should be encouraging players to enter Internationals.

President – Apologised for not replying to letter. There was no discouragement from MC

Filip Kurbalija - Known about Croatia for over a year should be in budget. Selectors responsible and should get competent selectors.

Mike Tedd – MC & Council had agreed not to send teams if they couldn't compete. It is expensive. Camrose & Snrs Camrose won and both teams went to the European Championships. Selectors advised no teams to go this year. Two teams are going funding themselves. Should support Selectors they have done good job.

Paul Gagne – Not every Country that sends a team has a good team but they still go.

Andrea Knox – She is a club member and happy for money to be spent on International teams. Asked how much entry fee per team (3500 Euros).

Laura W – 1. If we don't send teams we will never get better. Ireland have sent appalling teams. Playing better teams is incentive to get better which is worthwhile aim. 2. Selectors have thankless task but there is no coherent strategy, they have changed methods, no new players, new schemes resulting in low entries. Selectors and MC need a strategy. Consultation exercise, encourage people to enter. There were trials for the Camrose but not for Europeans or Commonwealth.

Patrick J – Budget minimum amount for Europeans. Teams offered to pay themselves. Put minimum amount, say £3000, in budget.

Fiona N – We had to bite bullet at some point. 10k no longer available from BGB sims. so had to stop at some point to recuperate fund and it was decided not to spend as much as usual. 10k back in

Alan S -.Selectors have delegated him the task of liaising with MC regarding funding Internationals over the next 5 – 10 years and he is currently sorting out the figures. International fund monies from WBU and Celtic Sims.

Filip K – Supports speakers. Demographics are wrong, no youngsters coming up to replace present teams. Don't ignore present players for sake of new players.

Paddy M – Review of finances good. All events in accordance with Selectors. Lot of money is good. Getting under 25's hard. Invest in getting people into the game.

Tony Disley – Last AGM he went to 15 years ago and exactly the same thing. MC should be doing 1. Encouraging teams 2. Run events in Wales 3. Look after members. Communicate with members. 5yr strategy.

Laura W – 15yrs ago didn't have 2 funds, £20k in bank – no panic. Now 8 x better off. Linda Greenland divided funds, International (to fund Internationals) and General (funds Home Internationals & all other WBU expenses). General fund is now much larger. Do we need 2 funds? Put money from General to International to make up loss of income from BGB. WBU loses money on every subscription. Tournament table money provides income.

Andrea K – Sure the constitution states MC aim should be the promotion of bridge, accumulating a reserve fund not mentioned.

Paul G – Can we make a scale of which Internationals we are going to support. Is the Commonwealth (created by Hackett) to come before the Europeans!

Neville R – International representation has been funded as some don't take expenses, some take full expenses.

Paddy M MC & Selectors to decide which worth funding.

Filip K – Some can't afford not to claim expenses and members should not be judged by this.

President – No judgement.

Patrick J – Back to Accounts Income from WBF/EBU is there some confusion on organisations.

Fiona N - Still recouping monies not received but we do get a small amount from the World Wide sims. and EBU British Sims.

Accounts adopted – proposed Laura W seconded Paul Gagne, all in favour.

6 NTO report.

Jean Hand ran through report briefly. Laura W thanked Jean for all the work she put in to the job.

7 CEO report

No questions

8 Presidents report.

9 Election of Officers

President – Herbie Rowley nominated by East Wales and accepted by all.

Hon Treasurer – Fiona Noyce nominated by Council and accepted by all.

Hon National Tournament Organiser – Jean Hand nominated by Council and accepted by all.

Hon Master Point Secretary – Philip Bowers nominated by Council and accepted by all

Hon Auditor – Andy Kirkwood nominated by Council and accepted by all.

10 No correspondence

11 Any other Business

NWBA – Marie Topp read letter to the meeting.

Concerns minuted.

It was stated that the Council was useless and doesn't meet often enough to make decisions.

Paddy M – Celtic & WBU sims could make more money but they are badly advertised. Need list of clubs running the events on website/ecats (with map)

Adrian T – 2 vacancies on selectors – volunteers gratefully received.

Meeting ended 12.15 approx.