

Minutes of the Management Committee

10.05.17 – by Skype

In attendance Paddy Murphy (PM), Neville Richards (NR), Herbie Rowley (HR), Phil Bowers (PB), Gareth Jones (GJ), Fiona Noyce (FN), Simon Gottschalk (SG), Jean Hand (JH), Geoff Evans (GE), Alan Stephenson (AS).

The meetings were held at by Skype and commenced at 10:00

Management Committee Minutes

1. **Apologies for absence** – There were no apologies
2. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 27.03.17** – The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated and were approved.
3. **Matters arising from those minutes** – none other than those further discussed, see below.
4. **Proposed changes to The Constitution in respect of accounts “independently examined” not audited and “Proxy voting”** – An e-mail had been received by PM from Chris Randles who suggested the wording surrounding the examination of accounts should be changed. FN pointed out that the MC should retain the right to have the accounts audited. The e-mail to be forwarded to FN for her comments on rewording.

In respect of proxy voting GJ pointed out that this was normal in business. FN suggested the WBU was run such that the elected area representatives were in place to present the views of their members. SG suggested that it should be possible to enlist the views of member with respect to proposals through e-mail and perhaps to conduct voting through the website. It was generally accepted that the AGM is far from ideal with the views being presented disproportionately impacted by the few players in attendance who were competing in the Perry, Spickett and Presidents Cup.

JH suggested that attendance at the AGM might be improved if it was always held at a central venue in Mid Wales an idea which had been proposed on previous occasions. The consensus view was that this would lead to a disproportionate representation from Mid Wales. At least as the AGM moves around the areas the majority of attendees could be expected to change in line with the location.

The proposal to permit proxy votes to be taken to the AGM.

5. **Other matters received in respect of the AGM** – No other matters had been presented for consideration at the AGM. PM commented that the role of the president should perhaps be reviewed. As the president only had a term of office of one year it was difficult to make a significant contribution. The next president

would be known after the Mid Wales AGM on Sunday and their view could be enlisted.

NR reported that Gordon Rainsford was to take over from Barry Capal as General Manager of the EBU in July and that hopefully both unions might benefit from future mutual co-operation.

6. **U3A next steps?** – NR pointed out that U3A have a national (and impressive) website - u3a.org.uk. and a UK membership of over 385 000, with more than 50 centres in Wales. JH indicated she would contact Anne Smith from Mold. The consensus was the WBU could offer help in organising bridge. It's clear daytime bridge is increasing and as previously mentioned the WBU should look at running parallel events alongside existing congresses. SG said East Wales were actively looking for larger venues to do this.

It was agreed that AS would contact U3A and start a dialogue to see what mutual benefits an alliance could bring. AS to report back at the next meeting.

7. **NTO report** – JH reported once again that entries were down.

The Cambria Cup final between Murphy and Kurbalija would be at the Commodore, Llandrindrod Wells on July 5th.

SG suggested the mixed pairs could be run as a simultaneous event with heats in each area (scored nationally). Potentially we could use the date set aside for the Portland Pairs as the North heat had to be cancelled due to lack of interest.

There had been a poor entry to the national pairs and there was considerable discussion on how best to proceed. PM suggested that the event could be run in East Wales and GE and SG indicated that the event could be held at either Cardiff Bridge Club or the Gwent Bridge Academy. GE indicated that he would be happy to liaise with people planning to travel from North and Mid Wales in respect of accommodation. It was certainly the opinion of a number of the committee that it was a retrograde step to hold national events in an area other than Mid Wales. Mid Wales was chosen to limit travel and encourage entries, though clearly the mixed pairs had been cancelled due to lack of interest with an event run successfully in Cardiff. PM was strongly of the belief the national pairs should be held in the East. No vote was taken and clearly there should have been one, so can I ask that each of you advise me of your vote when responding. I will include a separate note referring to this item.

Following input, by separate e-mails, from members present the majority view was that the Open Pairs should be held in Mid Wales as originally planned.

JH indicated that there would be reduced green points available if the national pairs reverted to a single event without a qualifier.

JH also pointed out that as Sarah Amos would now be playing in the Teams of 8 we would need another director. JH would ask James Vickers if he is available.

As previously discussed there was a proposal to have the Seniors Congress immediately after the Llangollen Congress on the Monday and Tuesday but that might possibly impact on the Porthcawl Congress the following weekend. We need to review this.

8. **Treasurers Report – i)** FN presented the April cash flow

ii) The cost of the Lady Milne was reviewed. It was clear not all costs had been included in the material presented. NR subsequently forwarded a spreadsheet to FN which encompassed all of the associated costs. Invoices had been issued to the other home unions to recover their hotel costs. In total the staging of the Lady Mine has cost the WBU £8,564. In addition six laptop stands were purchased and used but these can be used when Wales stages any future internationals and remain as assets.

It was decided that a Profit/Loss report should be compiled for any events staged by Wales but clearly in order to do this FN needs good/accurate and timely information. The Lady Milne had proved difficult due to the short notice of Mike and Sarah Amos in pulling out of undertaking the match management role. We had been very fortunate that Sandra Claridge was available and agreed to help.

iii) Match Funding. It had been agreed at the last meeting that we would once again offer matched funding at the same level as last year. We would announce this at the AGM. PB agreed that he would issue the application forms by the end of June and they should be returned by the end of October. It should be noted that the WBU was devoting a considerable proportion of its revenue to "Matched Funding" which was a tangible benefit to club members.

FN said she had received the invoice from ECATS in respect of the St. Davids Day sim.

9. **Membership and Master-point secretary report** – PB reported that he had received three notices of dis-affiliation from West Shore Llandudno, Prestatyn and Lampeter which would become part of Cardiff Bridge Tutors.

The Benllech and Caernarvon clubs would close but a new club in Menai open with many of the former members. The Tenby Club has split and a new club will open in Pembroke

10. **CEO report** – AS reported that the Lady Milne had been a resounding success with excellent feedback from players and the small number of spectators who attended. The hotel staff had been extremely helpful and accommodating. We had managed with the considerable support of a number of extremely dedicated volunteers provide BBO viewgraph coverage of all six tables for all ten stanzas, something which England hadn't managed when they staged their last Camrose. In addition we had a fully functioning viewgraph room which neither England nor Scotland had at the earlier Camrose matches.

The new laws would come into effect at the start of August in-line with the EBU. Tony Haworth was already undertaking director training and would reproduce the flow charts to take account of the changes. New law books are available to purchase through the website.

A report had been received from Simon Brindle in respect of the Junior Bridge Camp in Cheltenham (3rd and 4th of April). Welsh players had done well collecting master-points and with Nancy (aged 8) coming fourth in the EBED beginners sims and Will Bailey (aged 11) winning the junior pairs trophy in partnership with England u15 international Henry Rose.

The WBU have been advised that the Celtic Sims are scheduled for the week of 8th to 14th of April 2018.

The WBU had received an invitation from the EBL for a representative to attend a Gala Dinner and presentation of a trophy in recognition of Wales as a founder member in Montecatini Terme at the European Open Championships. Due to the cost we will not send anyone but it is possible Paul Denning who will be playing in a self-funded team in the event might be able to attend. AS to check the timing and liaise with Paul.

11. **Selectors report and comments** – Paul Denning had advised a phone number at which he could be reached and although the Skype call had run generally well, it was not possible to connect him. Due to problems at the earlier selectors Skype call Paul had sent out all of the issues as an e-mail and was collecting responses from the other selectors.
12. **Invitation pairs** – The organisation is progressing well. The selectors to make their pick and a Ladies Pair still needed.
13. **Newsletter editor** – The advert was on the front page of the website no interest yet. Perhaps raise at the AGM?
14. **Bridge education** - The advert was on the front page of the website no interest yet. Perhaps raise at the AGM?
15. **Online teams** – AS had spoken to Julian Pottage who was enthusiastic about the idea of a WBU online teams, but could not commit to help for the next 4 months. He suggested Yuan Shen might take it on perhaps in collaboration with Mark Roderick. Julian would be happy to help later in the year.
16. **Letters to the president** – PM had received a very complimentary e-mail in respect of the Lady Milne.
17. **AOB** – There was some discussion about the AGM. There would be a short MC meeting starting at 10:30 with the AGM scheduled for 10:45 and the Perry, Spickett and Presidents Cup at 11:55 approx. At the AGM there would be a statement that the fees for next year would be held at the present rate but that there would be a review and recommendation of an increase in line with inflation for the following year. Also the charges of £25 entry for one day events and £40 entry for two days agreed at the meeting of the 27th of March would be raised at the AGM.
18. **Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 19th July by Skype.

The meeting closed at 13:40