

Minutes of the Management Committee

19.07.17 – by Skype

In attendance Neville Richards (NR), Paddy Murphy (PM), Phil Bowers (PB), Gareth Jones (GJ), 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** – Apologies were received from Simon Gottschalk and Fiona Noyce who sent her report by e-mail prior to the meeting.
2. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 10.05.17** – The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
3. **Matters arising from those minutes** – none other than those further discussed, see below.

As a couple of members of the committee were unable to attend the AGM AS gave a brief summary of what had taken place.

4. **NTO report (JH)** – Jean distributed her report by e-mail prior to the meeting copied below:-

“Both the Welsh and Cambria Cup finals have now been played. As the total entry was low for both competitions should we consider a change of format: increase in entry fees (already discussed at a previous meeting): less prize money depending on overall entry? In the past we increased the prize money in the hope that it would increase entries but obviously that has failed. I will finalise the Green Point awards later this week and forward them to Phil.

I have been approached by two female players who are interested in playing again in the Women’s Bridge weekend in September and I think that it should definitely take place and I am quite prepared to organise the event hopefully again in Crossgates. Pairs on Saturday and Teams on Sunday, I just need to clarify the entry fees.

The calendar is the usual nightmare but I have prepared the main events for 2018/2019. which I hope to complete soon.

I have not heard anything at all from Llanidloes Community hall which does seem rather odd, I did expect some query from them as to why we did not play the Webber there so I think that the organisers have all resigned! Obviously no more competitions can be considered there in

future.

I have received an e-mail re the clarification of the venue of the Welsh Fours which I have forwarded to Geoff and Simon."

There is a concern that with Mike Amos no longer available and Sarah moving to South Wales, that it will undoubtedly be a struggle to find directors for WBU events particularly in the North.

In respect of entry fees for the Welsh and Cambria Cups after considerable discussion it was agreed entry should be increased to £10 per person.

PM distributed the North Wales calendar to members of the committee. GJ indicated West-Wales calendar will be basically as this years but the meeting to confirm dates and events is scheduled in the next couple of weeks.

Due to the proximity of the Porthcawl Congress to the Llangollen Congress it was decided not to hold a Seniors Congress in the days following the Llangollen event. The intention was to investigate midweek dates in the period of January 6th to 20th which is a relatively quiet time in the calendar.

NR indicated he was investigating a possible new venue in Hay-on-Wye, the Baskerville Hall Hotel which has large function rooms, accommodation to suit a wide range of budgets and good reports on their food.

5. **Treasurers Report (FN)** Fiona distributed her report by e-mail prior to the meeting copied below:-

"Bank balance as of 18th July £34,807.84

We have received from the SBU £1032 for the Celtic Sims and for the Lady Milne Teams EBU etc £6,383. The Lady Milne expenditure is not ready for presentation as I am awaiting further information, this will be done when all expected costs have been accounted for.

E-cats finally sent their invoices for the Winter & St. David's SIMS and the total payment was £2,279.27

Mike Tedd kindly covered the Teltscher accommodation and he has been reimbursed in full £1,511

At present the Welsh Cup prizes are outstanding and details are being received by e-mail from Mike & Filip

Given the money available at the bank – future expenditure need to be considered – Honoraria £14+K, Match funding £8 -10k, Annual Subscriptions £2.5 - 3K – I anticipate income from events and congress license fees to be reduced – so the amount available before the reserves at the Monmouthshire Building Society has to be called up could be as low as £8 – 10K and we could be in a position where we start April 2018 will peanuts in the current account."

There was considerable discussion in respect of the finances associated with "Matched Funding". When the scheme was conceived one of the main motivations was to reduce the level of reserves. The scheme was planned to run for three years with £20k available each year. Less than £10k was allocated in the first year but the expectation was this would increase in the second year as more clubs were

aware of the benefit. If it was necessary to transfer funds from the Monmouthshire to the current account this wasn't perceived as an issue.

6. **Membership and Master-point secretary report** – PB reported that he had received notification of three closures due to lack of local support, Dolgellau, Flint and Deeside and two clubs have amalgamated into one new club earlier this year when Bennlech and Caernarfon became Menai (ABC Cymru)

Two clubs have dis-affiliated due to the changes to the constitution, namely Prestatyn and West Shore.

One club in West Wales has split into two and Lisvane in East Wales has now become affiliated.

Only a couple of clubs were still outstanding in submitting their memberships and were being chased.

A full report on Clubs status and membership numbers will be provided for the next MC meeting.

Master-point up-loads were in process and three monthly invoices to clubs would be done in August

Gold point calculation which involved a one off calculation is work in progress.

7. **CEO report**
 - i) AS reported that he had received an e-mail from Julie Davies (Monmouth) expressing an interest in the Education Liaison Officer position. Julie was very enthusiastic and teaches currently at Monmouth. She doesn't have any formal qualification but did attend one of Keith's sessions and undertook the test but unfortunately never had it marked. She does say in a second e-mail that she has been investigating attending one of the EBED courses and the MC agreed it would be happy to fund such training.
 - ii) AS had a very good meeting with Hilary Jones - Wales U3A Trustee and as a former bridge player (she used to play five times a week, but U3A commitments stops her now!) she understands very well the benefits and attraction of bridge. She will be very happy if we work in partnership, our thoughts were we could run a "no fear" type event alongside an existing WBU event and she has a very good communication infrastructure within the Wales U3A's to advertise such an event. U3A recently ran a table tennis tournament alongside the Welsh Table Tennis Association and it was a huge success. As we already know many of the Wales U3A's have bridge interest groups, it's worth looking at the Prestatyn Rhyl and District U3A Bridge Group it's outstanding with a page of "handouts" and glad to see a link to the WBU. We also spoke about the possibility of supporting Wales U3A's who didn't have bridge interest groups with taster sessions. AS to continue to liaise with Hilary
 - iii) AS received an invitation from the Azores Bridge Association to send an under 30 Wales Team to their congress 4th to the 8th of October. The expectation is they would play in a two session under 30 pairs tournament, the three session open

pairs and the 3 session open teams. They would be expected to play all eight sessions. Jose Julio Curado says in his e-mail that he could get the invitation to play for "about 100 Euros tops, including hotel, entry fees and possibly flights (through the Azores Tourist Board)". Jose says the organisation usually provides flights, B&B in doubles sharing, transfers to and from the airport in the Azores and a couple of meals are included. It sounds like it would be a great experience. The Selectors were asked, but it seems unlikely a suitable representative team can be found.

iv) Wales is scheduled to host next year's Teltscher Trophy 18th to 20th May 2018. There was considerable discussion and eventually the MC agreed it would honour the commitment to host the event this time. AS will investigate the Ramada, Wrexham, JH to check the Gateway to Wales, Deeside and report back to the MC a.s.a.p. It was agreed that it would be good to attract a sponsor though from past experience this would prove difficult. Other hotels which might be considered are the Hilton, Newport which has been used in the past and as previously mentioned the Baskerville Hall which NR is planning to visit.

8. **Invitation pairs** – The organisation is complete and the event will take place this coming weekend with one table to be broadcast on BBO. NR to post the results as they are received on the web-site.
9. **Newsletter editor** – The advert was on the front page of the website, no interest yet.
10. **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. As to talk to Yuan.
11. **Letters to the president** – None
12. **AOB** – NR indicated the law flowcharts prepared by Tony Haworth are now complete, a copy of which had been sent to the EBL who had been very complimentary. The WBU law-books have proved extremely popular especially as the spiral binding makes them very user friendly, an additional print run would be done encompassing the latest corrections (advised by the EBL).

NR has been investigating BridgePal wireless scoring which can be used on Tablets and Smartphones. It has proved easy to use and could be used in clubs which don't have Bridgemates.
13. **Date of next meeting** – Early September date to be advised.

The meeting closed at 12:15