

Minutes of the Management Committee

20.09.17 – Crossgates

In attendance Neville Richards (NR), Fiona Noyce (FN), Gareth Jones (GJ), Jean Hand (JH), Phil Bowers (PB), Simon Gottschalk (SG), Alan Stephenson (AS).

The meeting was held at Crossgates Community Centre and commenced at 11:30

Management Committee Minutes

1. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Paddy Murphy and Geoff Evans.
2. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 19.07.17** – The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
3. **Matters arising from those minutes** – none other than those further discussed, see below.
4. **NTO report (JH)** –

The ladies weekend had been very successful with excellent feedback “very enjoyable, good value, great fun”. JH will organise next year’s event.

Welsh Cup. There was a poor entry so far, no team from Mid-Wales, one from West-Wales, five from North-Wales and five from East-Wales. There were a couple of notable absences and Jean was to contact them directly.

There was some discussion on the possibility of running a secondary event for first time losers ‘The Welsh Slate’, decision to be made for next year’s event. A number of complaints have been received in respect of the increased entry fee, but as previously discussed, with the WBU paying for the final venue and the level of prize money, the competition has run at a considerable loss. It was felt the entry was still good value. There was discussion in respect of promoting the Welsh Cup next year by sending a poster to all clubs.

The Cambria Cup had a few more entries than the Welsh Cup.

There was a very disappointing entry for the forthcoming Welsh Foursomes and again there was discussion in respect of the lack of marketing. There were very few entries from outside the area and a lack of the usual support from just over the border.

(SG) reported that he had very positive feedback from some first time English visitors at the Llandudno Congress.

There was some discussion in respect of the difficulty in deciphering the master-point allocation for various competitions. An offer had been received from Mike Amos to review and simplify the contents of the 'Masterpoint handbook 2003' on behalf of the WBU, and it was agreed we should take him up on the offer.

5. **Treasurers Report (FN)** Fiona who has been experiencing a lot of problems with phishing told the meeting she had an e-mail address supplied by the bank to which she could forward any suspicious correspondence and they would investigate and deal with them.

Fiona presented the balance sheet for the period of April to mid September. See appendix A.

Bank balance as of 18th September £41,699.55

Details of the prize winners for the Welsh and Cambria Cups had been received and payment has been made.

A sum of 3000 Euros had been received from the EBL which was a "Matched Funding" payment in respect of the WBU Law Books and Flow Charts which had been very well received by the EBL some of whom were using them in their own training.

Fiona was somewhat surprised to receive a TD expense claim form. This should be the norm for all requests for payment by directors and they shouldn't be paid without one. The form is available on the web-site.

There was some discussion in respect of an expense claim which had been received in respect of travel to the Council Meeting which took place prior to the AGM. The person was not playing in the competitions and travelled to attend the meeting on behalf of West Wales. It was eventually agreed the expense would be paid.

6. **Membership and Master-point secretary report – (PB)** Phil presented his membership report. See Appendix B

It is encouraging to report that there has been a fifty percent increase in membership since 2014. The change is primarily due to the introduction of learner Groups and the changes to the constitution. Current membership stands at 2146 (19th Sept. 2017)

Master-point up-loads are ongoing.

Phil gave a brief report on the progress of "match Funding" applications. A meeting is scheduled in the first week of November to review all applications.

7. **CEO report** i) AS reported that Julie Davies (Monmouth) was undertaking the role of Club Liaison and Education Officer with enthusiasm. Julie was attending an EBed training course this week and would no doubt return full of ideas. A poster

which Julie had produced and wanted to send to all clubs was passed around. The only possible suggestion for improvement was to change the star on the hat to a suit symbol. Julie had asked for the training resources with Neville to check what he could find and if necessary get new material printed (he still has the pdf files)

ii) AS is still in contact with Hilary Jones - Wales U3A Trustee. The thoughts are to run a "no fear" type event alongside an existing WBU event which Wales U3A would be happy to advertise. 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 and possibly put Julie Davies in touch to see what we could offer in terms of teaching.

iii) AS indicated that the Wrexham Ramada could not accommodate the Teltscher Trophy in 2018. They did ask if the dates could be changed! The Gateway to Wales does not have sufficient bedrooms or function room space. AS to contact the Park Inn which hosted the Invitation Pairs. Identification of a suitable venue is becoming critical.

iv) Mark Horton had been in touch to ask if they could advertise subscriptions to Bridge Magazine on the WBU site with a reduced initial subscription for WBU members applying and £5 to the WBU for each new customer. Ron Tacchi (Bridge Magazine) to contact AS.

8. Changes to Data Protection Legislation – May 2018. Mail shots to WBU members – WBU Database

There was considerable discussion on these subjects. It is likely the lack of e-mail marketing of WBU events is having an adverse impact on attendance. NR to talk to Bryn to see what can be done to remodel the database. AS to talk to Hilary Jones Wales U3A to see what they are doing as a similar, largely voluntarily run membership organisation

9. **Newsletter editor** – The advert was on the front page of the website, no interest yet.

10. **Online teams** – AS to talk with Yuan Shen and Julian Pottage at the Premier league to progress.

11. **Letters to the president** – NR had received an invitation to send a Wales Team to the next European Championships to be held in Ostend Belgium in summer 2018. He had also received an invitation for himself and AS to attend an EBL seminar in Belfast in February 2018, hotel paid for by the EBL.

12. **AOB** – Paddy Murphy asked that we discussed the Graded Masters 2017-2018. Discussion was brief. SG agreed with the pricing structure outlined in his e-mail.

AS distributed the letters from Mold bridge club and the responses from himself and Paddy and asked for comments.

NR indicated that there were many requests, via the web-site, (from all over the world) for the digital download of the Laws for which the WBU was receiving £1 per download.

13. **Date of next meeting** – Mid to late October by Skype, date to be advised.

The meeting closed at 16:15