

In attendance Paddy Murphy (PM), Neville Richards (NR), Herbie Rowley (HR), Bob Alderdice (BA), Gareth Jones (GJ), Fiona Noyce (FN), Simon Gottschalk (SG), Jean Hand (JH), Alan Stephenson (AS).

The meetings were held at Crossgates, Llandrindrod Wells and commenced at 11:30

Council Minutes

AS agreed to take the minutes. AS pointed out that at selection meetings the person taking the minutes rotated and perhaps that practise should be adopted.

1. **Apologies for absence** - Apologies were received from Phil Bowers (PB), Geoff Evans, Judith Graham-Jones, Tony Disley and Beryl Warner
2. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 05.06.16** – The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated previously and were approved.
3. **Matters arising from those minutes** – A notice should be sent to Area Secretaries asking that they advise the WBU of any issues they wished to raise at the AGM. SG asked if there could be an e-mail shot to all members whose e-mails were available, but the absence of PB left this question open. There was some discussion on the relationship of Council and the Management Committee and JH pointed out that the MC was in place to review the activities of the previous year and this was accepted having been discussed previously.
4. **Appointment of New CEO** – AS was introduced as the new CEO following interviews. GJ raised the question of there being a quorum and AS pointed out that item 8.3 of the constitution states that "Eight members of the Council shall form a quorum" As there wasn't a quorum the appointment could not be ratified, but as NR and AS pointed out they were working together as part of the handover process anyway and there was no issue in the ratification being delayed.
5. **AOB** SG initiated a discussion in respect of non-affiliated bridge clubs, which is an area with potential to increase WBU membership and competition attendance. PM (whilst visiting clubs in his year as President) had been surprised by how many non-affiliated clubs existed and as SG pointed out it's very difficult to find them, one was within a few miles of SG's home and he didn't know until very recently. As SG pointed out any contact with non-affiliated clubs has to be done sensitively and the benefits to being affiliated pointed out carefully and over time. Many of these clubs have been started by an individual who might see the WBU as a threat. One area we can build bridges is the supply of at cost or even FOC packs of cards.

On a related subject NR had attended a Mr. Bridge weekend and raised the issue of them offering some sponsorship in return for advertising through WBU. See CEO report in MC minutes.

BA pointed out that the West had enjoyed increased attendance in their qualifying events probably as a result of fewer "elite" teams entering and other teams feeling they have a better chance.

There was some discussion about offering stratified and "no fear" events.

AS pointed out that the more successful NBO's have a large increase in attendance at their events from intermediate and novice players, the players who often attend bridge holidays.

There was discussion in respect of entry fees to Welsh events and everyone agreed we are undercharging.

There was some discussion in respect of Tony Haworth. Members of the committee had very positive experiences of dealing with Tony and he has done a first class job in respect of the competitions he has directed, and director training and will continue to be used by the WBU.

Management Committee Minutes

1. **Apologies for absence** – As previously
2. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 06.02.17** – The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated previously and were approved.
3. **Matters arising from those minutes** – none
4. **NTO report** – JH presented her report. The Welsh Cup was reaching its final stages with one semi-final to play. One semi-final of the Cambria had been conceded. The mixed pairs which had been moved to Cardiff had been fairly successful. There was a disappointing entry of only nine teams for the Webber Cup. Everyone who played had agreed it was a great competition and the food put on by Barbara had been outstanding. Once again the cost of £25 per head for two days of bridge and first class refreshments was deemed too little. The Webber Cup would make a small loss. Prize money paid was as previously advertised and it was decided by the committee that it should be based on entry in the future. NR pointed out that the results had been posted on the North Wales site but not the WBU site. NR has since reminded Sarah Amos that she has access to the WBU site to post results and he has given Tony Howarth the same access. Failing that the director in charge should be instructed to send an e-mail with the results.

It was felt that one day competitions are proving more popular and would become the norm. With a reduction in qualifying events BA pointed out that it would be possible to move finals to later in the year when the calendar was less congested. Everyone agreed there needs to be a critical look at the calendar to avoid possible clashes with area events and EBU events. FN suggested that, with some events eliminated, we could look at introduction of some "no fear" events. BA suggested the areas could concentrate more on "no fear" events as they had more responsibility for "outreach". PM suggested that an agenda item for the AGM was how best to engage rubber bridge/non-affiliated clubs.

Everyone agreed that making a profit through competitions was desired. A suggestion for the AGM was that one day competitions would be £25 per head/day and £40 for two days. The proposal was that 20% of the total entry fee would be given in prize money.

5. **Treasurer Report** – FN presented her report. The bottom line was that a loss of nearly £23,000 had been incurred in the last financial year.

The Management Committee had previously agreed that the General Fund and World Fund be combined and they would no longer appear separately on the accounts.

FN pointed out that the Revenue would in future require a quarterly return in respect of cash payments so it was even more critical that FN is given the necessary and correct information in respect of cash payments.

There followed a detailed review of the financial status.

It was decided that for Camrose and Lady Milne home internationals expenses would be paid in respect of the accommodation only.

For the Junior Camrose (and Peggy Bayer if Wales entered) full funding would apply.

For the Teltscher Trophy there would be **no** funding.

For the European Championships only the entry would be paid.

For the Commonwealth Championships **no** funding would be offered.

The offer of matched funding by the WBU for clubs had been extremely well received and had attracted very positive publicity. It is certainly an area where non-affiliated clubs and clubs disenchanted with the WBU can see a tangible benefit and would continue annually to the tune of £10,000. The closing date for applications would be advertised as 1st October.

6. **Membership and Master points Secretary Report** – As PB could not attend this item was held over.
7. **CEO report** – NR indicated that in view of the forthcoming law changes the WBU would have 100 copies of the revised law book printed and published ready for distribution. Tony Haworth had attended the EBL seminar and would with NR's help put together "an idiots guide"

The Junior Bridge Camp had been very successful. Simon Brindle had been DBS checked (formerly CRB). NR pointed out that he and Barbara can act as assessors and has contacts in Powys CC who will carry out checks for £10.

There was a need to recruit a new Education Officer as Keith Butler has left. SG indicated how good the "train a trainer" event had been. NR would ensure any resources be recovered from Keith.

As previously mentioned NR has been in discussion with a potential sponsor and was optimistic that for the ability to advertise on the WBU site they may be prepared to sponsor WBU backed playing cards.

The WBU database is in need of an upgrade (recently carried out by the EBU and SBU) SG asked NR (or PB) to send him the details so they could at least have a realistic commercial quote with which to compare others. SG thought the process might not be too complex.

NR pointed out that AS would be the WBU representative for Bridge Great Britain.

8. **Selectors report and comments** – There was no representative of the selectors present. NR had e-mailed Paul Denning who had responded to say Gwynn Davis would attend on behalf of the selectors.
9. **Welsh Invitation Pairs** – The event is to be re-named The Patrick Jourdain Welsh Invitation Pairs. The organisation is progressing though quite a number of the invitees have indicated they have other commitments. A general call for pairs to apply to be the selectors choice will be considered.
10. **Newsletter editor**
11. **Bridge education** – As previously mentioned there is a need to find a new Education Officer
12. **On-line Teams** – We should investigate the possibility of introducing an on-line team event. AS to discuss with Julian Pottage
13. **Letters to the President** – Nothing new
14. **AOB** – JH proposed that we investigate the possibility of running the Seniors Congress in Llangollen on the Monday and Tuesday after the congress. NR to check availability of the Bryn Howel.
15. **Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 10th May 10 am by Skype.

The meeting closed at 16:45