



Minutes of Management Committee Meeting

Held by Skype Conference Call at 2pm on Tuesday 29th September.

Present Herbie Rowley (HR), Neville Richards (NR), Fiona Noyce (FN), Bob Alderdice (BA), Rod Sheard (RS), Jean Hand (JH), Geoff Evans (GE).

Apologies Paddy Murphy (PM). Phil Bowers (PB).

NB Because of problems with the Broadband communication some members joined the meeting at different times, and they were brought up to date with proceedings as required.

Minutes of last meeting

Approved: Proposed by (FN)

Seconded by (BA)

Matters arising

(BA), (PM) and Gareth Jones had not yet reviewed the Constitution in order to provide guidance to Andrea Knox on what was required. (BA) promised to look over the document in the next few weeks and to identify where changes to remove ambiguity might be made.

Camrose

Venue:- The Metropole at Llandrindod Wells had been booked. Match Management would be a team effort with advice from Jean Cufley and Sarah Amos.

BBO presentation Simon Gottschalk and Simon Richards had indicated that they were willing to assist.

Presidency

There is to be a meeting of the WWBA Committee before the month end where a new nomination for the position of WBU President is an agenda item.

Mixed Pairs

(RS), who had joined the meeting, queried the staging of the mixed pairs. It was agreed that (JH) would answer this when she joined the meeting.

Welsh Foursomes

(GE) on behalf of EWBA asked if the Welsh Foursomes could in future be staged in East Wales. He was questioned as to whether the EWBA wished to organise and administer the event or was the request merely for the WBU to stage the event in East Wales.

(BA) and (GE) would discuss and clarify what was requested. The matter could then be discussed at the next meeting of the Management Committee.

Finance

(FN) Affiliation payments have been calculated and sent to the Area Treasurers.

A Letter from HMRC acknowledged the receipt of the audited accounts. However they stated that a Corporation Tax return was required from us. Our treasurer explained that this was because the Monmouthshire Building Society was now required to pay us gross interest on our funds deposited with them rather than the net interest hitherto. The anticipated amount of tax due was around £270.00.

NTO

(JH), Welsh and Cambria Cup entries were down. The format was being reviewed. Entries in all competitions are down. The Draw for the Welsh Cup was done today. Cambria Cup will be drawn tomorrow.

It was confirmed that the Mixed Pairs Final would be held over two days in February at the Commodore Hotel in Llandrindod Wells.

(JH) said that criticism was causing her some distress and (BA) asked about areas of particular concern and was told that there were difficulties with support. (BA) suggested that Areas be asked what their members preferences were.

(HR) commented that travelling was the foremost difficulty.

President's Report

We all offer our best wishes to Gareth Jones who stood down from the Presidency due to ill health. (HR) is prepared to carry on until a new President can be appointed.

CEO

(NR) Data for "Pay to Play" is already uploaded to our Master Point and Membership database by the scoring programs in use at Clubs. Software modifications would need to be made before such a scheme could be implemented. Membership issues should be deferred to a meeting where our Membership and Master Point Secretary is a participant.

Pianola Club and Results management software had been demonstrated to him, and Bridgewebs and other grading systems have been researched

A joint initiative with Keith Butler our Education and Club Liaison Officer had resulted in Acol crib sheets being made available with one for Mini Bridge to follow soon. The Acol sheet in tri-fold laminated form had been printed and was available to Clubs and Bridge teachers.

Schools in Cardiff, Brecon and Wrexham were now involved in the WBU Mini Bridge teaching scheme.

Brecon Bridge Club had requested a change of Area to MWBA. This would require a change to the boundaries as defined in the current Constitution. This could be dealt with at the same time as the other changes envisaged.

(BA) asked about the Newsletter and asked if Laura Woodruff had been spoken to about it. (JH) replied that she had spoken to Laura recently who had expressed her disillusionment with the WBU.

(NR) Keith Butler has produced several Educational Newsletters and was prepared to expand them with more general content. This would require suitable material being sent to him.

AOB

(RS) Queried how the WBU dealt with EBU Blue Points.

(NR) The WBU have no plans to issue similar Master Points, but do record EBU Blue Points earned by our members. They are subsequently converted to Green Points by our Master Point Secretary.

(JE) Brian Quinlan, chairman of Cardiff Bridge Club, has submitted a proposal to the WBU CEO about plans to set up a Bridge Academy in Cardiff. He requested that this document be circulated to all members of the MC.

(FN) confirmed that travelling expenses for the Camrose weekends would be set at up to £100 per player reimbursed against receipts. She requested contact details for the NWBA Treasurer which were provided by (RS).

(FN) Needs notification of any prize money awarded that she is required to dispense. (JH) will provide details of Team Captains when needed.

(JH) Revised Standing Orders have not been produced but current Standing Orders are published on the website. The Selectors should be responsible for running the WBU Premier League and not the MC or NTO.

(RS) What has happened to the training for Camrose Players in North Wales and why has the NWBA not been informed?

(NR) The Selectors cancelled the training and it will be re-scheduled. The calendar on the WBU website shows the cancellation and the organiser for North Wales, Alan Stephenson, was informed.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 4th November at 2pm by Skype.

(RS) will substitute for (PM) if required.