

Minutes of Management Committee 10.00am on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017 (SKYPE)

Jean Hand, Gareth Jones, Geoff Evans, Fiona Noyce, Herbie Rowley, Neville Richards, Paddy Murphy

1 Apologies for absence

Phil Bowers and Geoff Evans

2 Minutes of the previous meetings (November and December)

**Agreed**

3 Matters arising thereon

**NOVEMBER**

WBU Survey, we still need to agree information needed

**PJM**

There was some comment as to the running of the Portland Pairs in March in North Wales.

This is happening

**PJM**

Online Teams; nothing happened as yet

**PJM**

Camrose: Neville to inform the players

**DONE**

Peggy Bayer team and will speak to Sophie Cunningham todiscuss the possibility **DONE**

Selectors issues to be discussed later

**Later**

Lady Milne: All in hand by Mike Amos (finance FN)

**MA/FN**

**DECEMBER**

The advertisement for the post of CEO of the WBU

**DONE**

Post requirements for applicants 1 was addressed at length and agreed.

**Later**

4 Reports:

a) NTO

Welsh/Cambria OK, doing calendar, open pairs booked.

Perry/Spickett/Presidents currently being organised

**PJM**

b) Treasurer

Attached P/L Account for the year up to 31/12/16

The expenditure over income is £19,171.30

The CT600 – corporation tax has been filed with HMRC and the £10K loss from the year ended 2015/16 has been carried forward and will be added to any loss for the current financial year. This will give the WBU considerable defect in reserve to match against any future ‘income’ before corporation tax needs to be paid.

Copies of supplier invoices for the match funding have not been received from:

Crickhowell

Merlin

Lampeter

Knighton

Penarth

Monmouth

These will have to be chased so that the appropriate paper trail is in place for any examination of the WBU financial activity.

A call was made for a financial committee to meet but as there was no response from any area - I did not pursue. **AREAS TO INVESTIGATE**

All area treasurers were emailed with the request to submit any Congress I & E accounts along with the WBU licence fees. Only EWBA responded and Simon Gottschalk is in receipt of WBU invoices to the value of £1,463

There is £707 of income to be analysed in the PayPal activity, and approx £1,657 will be transferred to the Lloyds account before the end of the financial year. This will leave approx £500 in the account for the next CEO to cover any costs relating to delivery/postal, purchase items (eg pens), internet/web resources etc.

A discussion of funding for home international and international bridge took place and it was apparent that a large amount of the WBU's income was spent on funding these events (the other large expenses being honoraria and small grants scheme), which was a concern as the current accounts suggested a loss on the year of ca. 11-13K. The financial data for this will be considered over the next month and presented at the next meeting for discussion with the selectors. **PJM FN**

c) Membership & Master points Secretary

No report currently

d) CEO and CEO position discussion

**WBU storage facility.** We are an affiliated group to the Crossgates Community Centre, This gives us the benefit of reduced hire fees and storage facilities, some of which is secure. WBU tables, bidding boxes, boards, cloths and stationery are currently at Crossgates. Bridgemates, dealing machine, laptop computers, team clothing, more stationery, publications and some trophies are stored at my home.

### **Websites, Email and telephone.**

The WBU Membership data is held on a secure server with Tech-Hosts and is paid for annually by the WBU, Database backups are stored on DropBox which also stores our teaching course files. The WBU website is hosted on another secure server also with Tech-Hosts but paid for by myself as part of my contract contribution. A further seventeen club websites have their websites hosted on

my Deepvault server at no cost to themselves. I also provide telephone and broadband facilities for my contract position with the WBU. Desktop computers, laptops, colour laser printer and projectors are owned and provided by me as a contractor. Current email addresses and their administration are handled by me using two email servers and again at no cost to the WBU.

### **Courses for Directors.**

Tony Haworth has run very successful courses at standard and advanced level. One hundred and thirty nine members have attended the first course with forty two attending the second advanced course. These courses have not required funding by the WBU as they have been totally self-supporting. All the material has been produced by Tony and printed between us. We also produced the Laws Flow Charts, which have proved very popular and we will undertake revisions when the new WBF Laws are produced. Tony will be attending the EBL seminar on the new WBF Laws in February. These courses have been considerably more successful than others offered since my tenure and I suggest that we formalise his position as a National Director in charge of WBU Director training.

### **Bridge Teaching and marketing**

Keith Butler has moved ahead with the WBU teaching program and has organised familiarisation seminars for those wishing to teach bridge the WBU (and SBU) way. We have together produced 'Aide Memoire' handouts for Mini Bridge and Acol and these are now in their second print run. Using matched funding from the EBL we are introducing new marketing initiatives and including a wider distribution of our branded teaching material.

It is essential that the WBU continue to relate to the current market in clubs where bridge is played in a social and competitive atmosphere. Many members of these clubs have no interest in competitive or representative bridge but make up the bulk of our membership.

New members will come from this class of player and the WBU must make its offering attractive to them. Like it or not we are an organisation where the majority of members are elderly and our membership offering should be targeted at them and their wants. The WBU is essentially a not for profit business and we must set out our stall to appeal to our regular customers.

The matched funding offer cost the WBU around £7,500 and engendered much goodwill at a similar amount of expenditure to fielding a single representative team in one international competition. Area Associations sitting on substantial funds should divest some of their money to their Clubs . This action would encourage clubs to affiliate or stay affiliated.

**Congresses** Our Congresses are good value and on the whole friendly but survive only by the enthusiastic support of players from outside Wales. The WBU must identify why support from within Wales is poor. Adding value whilst containing costs should be the aim and the Llangollen Congresses show that this approach works.

At the three local Clubs where I play we manage around 28 boards per session with a short break and all in a three hour time slot. We have computer dealt boards, electronic table scoring and websites for results upload. Members are the median for the WBU, calls to the playing Director are

few and a friendly approach to novice members is the norm. Lady members provide homemade cakes, and tea or coffee is freely available. There is no sexism and our women members can usually be found in the top rankings which makes the men strive to do better the next time! They already have competitive and social play against their peers using standard systems and conventions. It is little wonder that they see no attraction in playing outside a social environment at competitions where complex systems and calls to the Director are de rigueur. Our local members mirror the larger membership of the Union and the WBU will only survive if we cosset them and their style of play.

### **Suggestion for the WBU Competition Rules**

#### **REFUSAL TO PLAY (from the CBAI handbook on regulations)**

Should a pair or team refuse to play against another pair or team when required to do so, that pair or team shall be awarded zero match points or victory points in respect of that match. The other pair or team if willing to play, shall be awarded 60% or such higher percentage as they may average for the event or the average of the scores against the offending pair/team whichever is higher. Should both pairs or teams refuse to play the match, both shall be awarded zero. The incident must be reported to the WBU Management Committee, which may take further disciplinary action.

**MT/MA/AS**

5 Small grants update

See Fiona report

6 Calendar

Currently underway to be discussed at next meeting

**JH**

7 Junior/youth bridge (17th Feb 2017, Gormanstown)

i) Junior Camrose

**PJM to speak to MR**

ii) Peggy Bayer

8 Invitation pairs

Ceri/Maggie Pierce and Gary Jones are dealing with it

**PJM to chase**

9 Online Teams

**PJM to chase**

10 Perry/Spickett/Presidents

PJM organising with Margaret Barnes and it will be in Llanfairfechan details to follow ASAP

**PJM**

11 Selectors reports and comments

No report

12 Lady Milne

See above

13 Letters to the president (attached)

A letter from David Stevenson was discussed at length and PJM will write a response to him and CC Neville in with a copy **PJM**

Letter From Anna Gudge

Question

Are these hands in anyway preselected? I was informed that some people thought that you dealt 100 boards then selected the best ones for the sims, which is a reason no one wants to play them anymore as they feel they are fixed in some unknown way!

Answer

No preselection! No time !and frankly no inclination ! And it's against the Laws of Duplicate Bridge in any case. I simply use my trusted laptop to deal a set of 30 boards for each day and send each set to a different commentator. No messing about, no selection, just straight computer deals

Hi,

A fuller explanation for your information also from Anna.

*"Were the hands specially selected ?*

*No ... these are just ordinary sets of deals, one for each day. I deal them here using one of the standard dealing programs, and they were not changed or in any way altered - they are exactly as dealt. In the past, we used to deal more boards than were needed. Brian Senior then looked at them and reduced the number to the required amount, occasionally altering the order of the boards so that, for example, board 40 would become board 6 and board 6 would be discarded.*

*The EBU has ruled that this is contrary to Law, however, and we are no longer permitted to do this. We may be permitted to deal 3 or 4 sets of the right number of boards and then select a set from those, or we may have to use just straight deals. This means that the hands may well show a strong bias in favour of one direction, or even in favour of one player, but that is the Law of Duplicate Bridge and I am afraid that is the way it has to be.*

*The old way simply tried to ensure that each player had a fair crack of the whip (well, a fair number of points, bids, defensive hands etc anyway). It didn't always work perfectly, as obviously some people are more aggressive bidders than others, different systems may preclude bidding on some hands or perhaps permit bidding on weak hands. However, rest assured that we never altered a hand, nor did we rotate hands -but now we are not allowed to do it anyway, so ... "*

14 AOB

None

15 Date of next meeting

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb Crossgates 11-00