

Management Committee minutes Tuesday 18th November 2014

Crossgates Village Community Hall, 12.00 Noon

Present:

Herbie Rowley	President
Neville Richards	Chief Executive
Fiona Noyce	Treasurer
Jean Hand	National Tournament Officer
Phil Bowers	Master Point Secretary
Alan Screen	Mid Wales Representative / Selector
Dr Gareth Jones	West Wales Representative
Geoff Evans	East Wales Representative
Dr Paddy Murphy	North Wales Representative-on Skype

1. Apologies.

There were no apologies.

2. Acceptance of Minutes from last meeting.

These were accepted.

3. Review of actions from previous meetings.

No issues were raised.

4. Treatment of online MP awards from Bridge Club Live. Do we follow the EBU?

Bridge Club Live have agreed a structure with the EBU so that points are not issued for small (in/out) competitions.

It was decided that the WBU would now accept such Master Points that ARE issued, which should be considerably less than were issued previously.

For the John Hockey Trophy, no more than one third of points registered may be from online sources, although the MP Secretary conceded that it may prove difficult to distinguish online points from Black Points in final totals.

There were no objections.

5. Should the mileage allowance be increased for Directors and others?

Currently, the WBU pay 30 pence per mile for Directors and MC/Selectors attendees. The EBU pay 48 pence per mile. (The Inland Revenue will accept 45 pence per mile for a maximum of 10,000 miles per year.)

It was proposed by the NTO that the WBU rate should be increased to 35 pence per mile from the 19th November 2014.

Seconded by Geoff Evans and passed unanimously.

6. Junior Camrose-Match Manager, Team Training and Venue.

Event to be held on 20-22nd February 2015 in Llandrindod Wells. The Mixed Pairs final scheduled for that weekend has been moved to Sunday 14th June 2014.

The Junior Co-ordinator, Mark Roderick has asked for an age exemption in order to field a Peggy Bayer team. This is unlikely to receive any objection

from the other Home Unions. The MC offered their congratulations to Mark for forming teams for both events, after a particularly barren period for Junior Bridge in Wales.

Quotes have been received from both the Metropole and the Commodore Hotels. Junior players usually share rooms for this event.

A Match Manager has not yet been recruited.

A Junior Training day would be held in East Wales on 20th December. The costs for this would be borne by the Selectors' Training Budget.

The Selectors were due to meet at 4.00, following the MC Meeting

7. Letter from Stevenson and Commins.

This letter asked the MC to review actions taken by the Laws and Ethics Committee in respect of a complaint submitted following the Commonwealth Games Trial.

However, it was proposed by Dr Gareth Jones that:

'We are not in a position to overturn any decision by the L&E Committee-this is not within our jurisdiction

This was seconded by Fiona Noyce and carried unanimously.

It was, however, noted that consultations were ongoing with a solicitor who was looking into the correspondence further.

8. Honoraria Review, particularly for NTO

The current position of the NTO Honorarium was stated in the MC Minutes of 03/07/2014.

Since then, a review has been carried out by Jean Cuffley and Mike Tedd, who have put forward new Honoraria scales.

However, changes can only be ratified by a Council meeting; the MC can make recommendations to the Council. In recent years, the Council have met in March, two months before the AGM. This is likely to be the case in 2015.

9. Master Points. Allocations and duty to provide details of awards.

Mr Bowers said that the Master Point Handbook had yet to be rewritten; it was a very complicated operation as there were many confusing issues.

He was in regular correspondence with the MP Secretaries of the EBU, SBU and NIBU for guidance, but was often told that 'so many things depend on other things',

so it was by no means straightforward.

However there was a duty to provide details of awards after the event, but not necessarily on the event brochures as numbers were not known at this stage.

It was necessary to provide details of MP awards for the new Welsh leagues; black points for winning matches and a small Green point award for the top teams on completion of the league. Green points were to be awarded for wins and draws in the Premier League and also final Ranking greens.

Dr Murphy offered to consult the EBU to collate a suitable awards structure for the WBU events.

10. Presidents Cup Green Point awards.

In 2014, fractional Greens were awarded for players in won/drawn matches. There was a long delay before the awards were made.

There is a difference in format between the Presidents' Cup and the traditional Perry/Spickett. The home team (and visiting teams if they so wish)

can use up to twelve players in the event, in order to introduce more players to Regional Bridge competitions.. This makes the allocation of Master Points more complicated, because traditionally, each area plays 10 boards against each other area in each of the three sessions; if there are up to 12 players in a President's Cup team, then more than six players could be involved in each of the three matches

It was decided that 0.5 Green should be awarded for each match won, and 0.25 Greens for each match drawn, with no final ranking Greens; the awards given to each member of the team whether they played 10, 20 or 30 boards in the match.

****Suggestion.** As any number from 4-12 could theoretically play in the same match under the existing format, why not play each inter-area match as a one-off 30 board match, with a maximum of six players in any match; Master Point awards would then be very straightforward.** (Geoff)

11. Database development.

The WBU database is now on a higher specification server. This should cope with increased demand well into the future.

There have been some teething problems with uploads from the MP Secretary. There is a link to Microsoft Access which functions well, but if clubs upload without using the normal file (P2P) then some problems may ensue.

12. 2015 Seniors Congress.

East Wales had indicated that they were no longer prepared to run this event; in 2015, the event made a profit of just £38 for three days work.

The MC asked if they would reconsider their decision; it was noted that the entry fee for 2015 was increasing by £2.50; the new venue in Newport was a great success and should lead to a larger entry. The E Wales treasurer was in favour of running a small pairs event using the downstairs room which we are paying for but not currently using.

The MC were happy with this suggestion. The guideline of 20% of entry fees for prize money (to include wine prizes) was reiterated.

13. MC Minute taking.

Should the MC record the meetings for editing later, or should we appoint a Minute Secretary?

There was little support for the first option; Geoff Evans said that he was happy to carry on taking the minutes.

14. National Finals.

A vote was taken as to whether there should be a Mixed Pairs one-day final (due to the Calendar clash with the Junior Camrose, both scheduled for Llandrindod), or just to hold the four one-day heats, with the highest score becoming champions. The final was voted for; the earliest date in the Calendar

available was the weekend of 13/14 June. Alan Screen offered to see whether Newtown Football Club was available on the Sunday of that weekend.

All four areas would play the same boards, with a proportional representation going through to the final, likely to be 13/14 tables, all play all.

Questions have since been asked about the need to have duplicated boards for the qualifiers. The event will be scored nationwide-presumably Master Points will be issued as per last year, but qualification will still be heat-related.

15. A letter from WWBA.

This covered various points.

1. The cost saving of not producing a hard copy Journal or Newsletter.

At £6 membership fee for the WBU, Annual income is about £12,000. Of this approximately 2.500 is returned to the Areas.

In 2013, printing and publishing costs for the Journal and three Newsletters, together with £500 to the editor, amounted to almost £3.000. All data is available on the website.

There is no longer a Journal to print; if members want a Competition Journal (hardback!) then Neville is happy to print one, free of charge.

Similar decisions not to publish on paper have been taken by the other Home Unions.

- 2 The MC have not met for several months.

The MC is built on continuity, rather than having numerous deputies attending who may not be au fait with current issues. A meeting was called in August, which was cancelled the day before as the President was unavailable due to a family illness. Two other planned meetings were cancelled due to members' unavailability which meant that a quorum would not be present.

Concern was raised over the non-publication of minutes from previous meetings. These had in fact been put on the WBU Website but on the Timeline, not on the main page.

This had since been corrected.

3. Would it help to call a Council meeting to provide guidance?

This was thought to be unnecessary.

4. In the longer term, should we look to form a strategic group to re-assess the management structure of the WBU?

The Council exists to review the MC.

16. Bridge teaching and accreditation.

Keith Butler, the WBU's Education and Liaison Officer wishes all Bridge teachers in Wales to be accredited by the WBU. The MC felt that this policy would alienate many existing Bridge teachers

17. Treasurer's Report

Funding for Lady Milne: Each player and NPC receives £100 for travel. Accommodation is provided.

Funding for Senior Camrose: Each player and NPC receives £300 towards travel and accommodation.

18. President's Report

The president gave a brief synopsis of his report which can be seen in full on the WBU Portal page.

19. Date of next meeting.

This was to be on January 6th, probably at the same venue.