

Minutes of the Management Committee Monday 21st November 2016

Venue: The Bluebell Inn, Llangurig SY18 6SG

1 *Apologies for absence*

Fiona Noyce

2 *Minutes of the previous meeting held on 30th August 2016 (circulated previously)*

Agreed

3 *Matters arising thereon (not covered elsewhere)*

WBU Survey, we still need to agree information needed
We are still seeking to obtain or refurbish 8 screened tables
to replace the existing ones

PJM to investigate

NR

4 *Reports:*

a) *NTO*

Some discussion was had regarding a request to hold a match in the Welsh cup online as there were problems agreeing a date. This was discussed and voted upon and then was a 5-1 against vote on this matter as it was felt it would set a precedent and this might lead to others doing this when a live match was possible.

The Welsh and Cambria cup have made a slight loss over the last year and a proposal was put forward to increase the entrance fee per person to each event to £6 from the previous £5. This was agreed.

It was decided (votes: 4 for, 1 against and 1 abstention) that the date of the 22nd January previously allocated for the open pairs area finals will be reallocated to the reactivated Graded masters. PJM is to draw up a fact sheet and to liaise with Tony Haworth to organise this in an area (East/West) and to coordinate the scoring and master point allocation.

PJM

The open pairs will now be direct entry.

JH

The Ladies weekend was a massive success and will be continued

GC

The Ladies training day was a great success as well.

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

PJM

b) *Treasurer*

After the match funding the bank stands at £45,285.98 on 12/11/16

All clubs who applied for a small grant under the “small grants scheme” were funded by the sub-committee on 04/11/16 with two clubs receiving full funding (considered by the subcommittee as

appropriate - due to the low level of the club reserves). All clubs have received confirmation and bank receipts for their records. WBU Match funding total for this year was £7,593.

E- Cats charged WBU £894.66 for the Autumn SIMS (scoring £150.84, admin £174 and booklet costs £569.82). A comparison of previous years for this event shows a slow decline of participation – 2014 we were charged £1029.96, 2015 £992.63. A symptom showing on other events.

At present the profit/loss account is running at £4,150 expenditure over income, with the honoraria the WBU is looking at a loss this year of approximately £11 - £14K.

The Llangollen account has, as yet, not been finalised and I request representatives of regions to forward their Congress Accounts so that WBU license fees can be allocated.

Information from Neville indicates that the premier league did not quite break even and made a small loss of £41

The Welsh (runners up) & Cambria Cup (winners) prize money has gone to captains with the understanding that they will distribute the monies. Any outstanding prize money I am sure that Jean will supply the relevant information.

Newsletter II Editor has received their award

I plan to transfer all honoraria before Christmas – I have looked on line for the relevant level recorded in the minutes without success and as I was out of the room during the discussion – I will contact Neville on my return to get the relevant info.

c) Membership & Master points Secretary

There is still little clear data on who will and won't remain in the WBU and we urge clubs to let us know as soon as possible

Prizes for the Welsh and Cambria cup will, in future, be awarded at the AGM if the results of the competition are known as in previous years it had proven difficult to award them with any ease!

d) CEO

Closing date for Welsh & Cambria corrected and entries as you will now know much improved. Draws for both published.

HMRC - Corporation tax. Requirement tendered by Fiona checked and agreed and software to submit the CT600 purchased.

Screen tables - The six tables at Porthcawl have been checked by Tony Haworth and considered serviceable, however getting them to Llandrindod for the first weekend, storing them until the next weekend and subsequent return to Porthcawl will be difficult. Each table is a two person lift and they are not suitable for transport by car for reasons of size and weight. I have a pattern plastic

screen courtesy of the EBU but it is most likely that our existing canvas screens will have to be used for the Premier League dates. Getting the substantial screens to the Ramada for the Lady Milne will have to be organised in due course.

Additional to items from the Minutes.

I (NR) applied to the EBL for a grant for the promotion of Bridge in Wales some months ago. The WBU were one of only eight NBO to be favoured for 2017 and we have now been allotted Euro 3000 to help fund the initiative. The NBOs which will receive assistance in 2017 are Belgium, England, France, Iceland, Israel, Norway, Netherlands and Wales. This is matched funding and is to be spent on initiatives to increase NBO Membership by offering teaching to newcomers and targeting non affiliated clubs with a view to them joining the NBO. Keith Butler and I will collate the teaching strategy and plan to offer the WBU teaching materials on branded memory sticks together with branded and printed material including booklets. Branded playing cards at a very competitive price to clubs both affiliated and non-affiliated; and renewed support to Mini-Bridge teaching Groups.

The payment will be made to us on May 1st 2017.

5 *Small grants update*

There were 10 applications and all 10 were funded to a total of ca. £7900. This sum represents nearly all the monies taken in membership fees this year. The next applications will be advertised later in the year and will be to an end date of October 2017

6 *Calendar*

It was decided not to move the dates of the august one day events in the East.

The East will hold their TO8 competition qualified in March 2017

The Celtic sims will be on the 2-7th April despite

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

i) Junior Camrose

The selectors have indicated we have a team and a captain is being sought

NR/GD

ii) Peggy Bayer

PJM is to investigate the possibility of finding a team and will contact Sophie Cunningham. **PJM**

8 Invitation pairs

The invitation pairs will be run in 2017 as a tribute to the memory of Patrick Jourdain. Ceri and Maggie Pierce together with Gary Jones are helping to organise this and a venue has been investigated. More news on this will follow in the new year.

9 Online Teams

PJM has suggested we organise an online KO teams event to be run along the same lines as the Welsh cup. He has sought information from the EBU and BBO and will look into the organisation and funding of this and also investigate the ethical and practical matters relating to such a competition and report back to the committee **PJM**

10 *Selectors reports and comments*

The report from the selectors was considered and the following points were discussed

Camrose selection Selection for first weekend: Denning/Thomas; Jones/Rees; Lamford/Plackett; with Salisbury/Tedd as the reserve pair. We considered the NPC and agreed that Alan Stephenson would be first choice. **Neville to inform the players** **NR**

Lady Milne trial So far only one definite entry to Neville, but we are confident that there are several more in the pipeline. Closing date for entries is 3rd December. Preparations for the trial are in hand. Tony Haworth is to direct.

This is the trial for selection to represent us in the Teltscher Trophy. The date for the trial is set (4/5 February), and will be held in The Commodore. We agreed a closing date for entry of 18th December.

Juniors: Paul has spoken to Mark Roderick and Mark has confirmed that four of last year's team are still available: Stephen Loat; Sarah Greener; Jonny Richards; Jason He.

PJM commented that it would be good to have a Peggy Bayer team and will speak to Sophie Cunningham to discuss the possibility **PJM**

Other major events:

In 2017 there is the European Open Championships in Montecatini. Italy, but we do not anticipate requesting WBU financial support for any pairs or teams entering this Championships, which is trans-national.

In 2018 we have the European Teams Championships in Ostende (Open, Ladies, and Seniors), and the Commonwealth Championships in Australia. **We shall need to liaise with WBU management concerning financial support for Welsh participation in both these events.**

The MC commented that the level of funding for this event was very high with the entry fee alone being of the order of 11K. The WBU is in a position of performing a financial review based on estimated losses of 11-14K per annum and the main thrust of this review is to allocate predicted income stream to expenditure in a clear and transparent way. **MC, FN**

11 Lady Milne

This is progressing and Mike Amos has been appointed Match manager and will report back to us as soon as possible. The financial side of matters will be dealt with by Fiona Noyce **FN**

12 Letters to the president

Several letters were discussed and PJM is to reply to one of these in person. One matter was considered in detail and PJM is to intercede on behalf of the committee.

13 AOB

Neville reported to the committee his intention to retire as CEO this year. The president and committee thanked him for his hard work over the last 10 years and hope he has a great retirement from what has been a very hard job. He informed us he would be available to help the new CEO and hoped to carry on helping bridge in mid-Wales.

PJM is to request information from Judith Jones on the previous appointment and draw up a job description and

13 Date of next meeting

Skype meeting arranged for 10-00 on the Wednesday 4th January