



Welsh Bridge Union\

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5th June 2016

Present:

President: Judith Graham Jones, NTO: Jean Hand, NMPS: Phil Bowers, CE: Neville Richards
Treasurer: Fiona Noyce
and 58 members of the WBU

Apologies for absence: Peter Hand, Rita Lawrence, Noelle Bond

1 Minutes of the AGM held on 7th June 2015.:

Received; adoption proposed by Gilly Clench, seconded by Keith Shuttleworth and approved nem con.

2 Treasurers Report:

This was presented by Fiona Noyce, who pointed out the analysis by category, the loss of £10,500 which she feels needs seriously addressing, and noted that the accounts have been independently verified, rather than fully audited.

Matters raised:

- A breakdown was requested of the Camrose and Lady Milne expenses (John Waller) FN confirmed that these were mainly Hotel and travelling expense and that additional breakdown is available on request. The point was raised that this large expenditure seems inappropriate, Patrick Jourdain noted the work done to avoid a subsidy, in that the proceeds of the Celtic Sims and the Llangollen Congress were allocated to the World Fund account and utilised for team and administration expenses. He questioned why over £3000 had been moved into the General Fund. FN and NR confirmed that this was a long term decision, and that the Management Committee had decided that the General Fund had more need than the World Fund.
- Discussion followed on the need for a separate World Fund (rather than an allocation from the General Fund each year, this to be in the control of the Selectors) (Gwynn Davis and Paddy Murphy)
- Sheila Shea asked why the National Competition Income had fallen from £10,903 to £179. FN explained that in 2015, as Camrose hosts, we made a significant profit that subsidises the expenses in the following 3 years.
- FN clarified the bad debt Write Off, as an anticipated income provision in the previous years accounts. First for Bridge had agreed to sponsor the purchase of playing cards but in the event this had not provided the anticipated income.
- There was some discussion on the need to hold such a large reserve and that more should be spent on encouraging Junior Bridge.

The Accounts were approved proposed by Alan Screen, seconded Yuan Shen) and the President thanked FN for her excellent work. It was agreed to continue to use Andy Kirkwood as our Independent Examiner.

3 National Tournament Organiser's Report

Jean Hand presented her report and confirmed the main points, that the Welsh and Cambria Cups had only 12 entries each, and that the Mixed Pairs had been a relative success, with direct entry to the final, and a table fee of only £25 each including food.

- Tony Howarth suggested that we might consider extending the “direct entry” concept, but it was noted that this would also reduce green points allocated and WBU income.
- Beth Wennell praised the venue used for the Mixed and Open Pairs Finals.
- Paul Gagne noted that he felt that qualification for the Finals should require a reasonable performance in the area event (>50%?) to make the area events worthwhile.

Paddy Murphy suggested that a robust set of rules needs to be in place for all events
The Report was approved Proposed by Bob Alderdice , seconded by Gilly Clench

4 President's Report (attached)

JGJ presented her report in which she emphasised support she has received over the year, and pointed out a number of positive initiatives that are available.

John Waller asked about the Newsletter, **it was confirmed that the Newsletter is available online**, but there were still some Website problems. Information was requested on problems that members were having with the website.

5 Membership and Constitutional Change:

PB presented his Membership and Master Points Report and the proposed amendment to the Constitution , he explained that this was to address the disparity in the way WBU is treated in different clubs, and to clarify any ambiguity that exists at the moment.

- Sheila Shea agreed with universal membership, but argued that this should be free and that the “pay to play” principle should be adopted.
- Mike Reed (Carmarthen) argued against the proposal, saying that the Carmarthen Club was only just viable and it may not be with this increase in fees. He suggested aiming for a minimum of 25% players being WBU members now, and increasing this year on year.
- Phil Bowers noted that the Committee had considered numerous alternatives and various drafts of this proposal and they felt that this was the only viable way forward.
- Andrea Knox, a solicitor, warned that this may breach the Data Protection Act, unless all clubs checked their constitutions
- Gwynn Davies approved the changes and noted that there would always be “issues of principle”
- Paddy Murphy assured all small clubs that there would be initial flexibility if the change led to financial difficulties.

The change was approved with a very clear 75%.majority. JGJ thanked PB for the huge effort he has made in progressing this issue.

6 Investing New President:

Paddy Murphy was invested, he thanked JGJ and Gareth Jones for their efforts over the last year. He emphasised some of his priorities for the coming year: evolution of Membership (with support where needed for Clubs in transition), Newsletter, Education, support for players at all levels, considering changes to competition entry, 1 day Swiss events, NO Fear Bridge and increasing Team participation.

7 Election of Officers:

There were no new proposals and so all Officers and Vice Presidents were re elected en bloc

Proposed Alan Screen, Seconded Gareth Jones

8 Membership Subscription

The Management Committee proposed the Subscription be raised from £6 to £7 in 2017/18. Barry Wennell and Gilly Clench proposed that this should be £10, with Direct Membership being £15. This was passed with one dissenter.

There were no other items for discussion and the new president thanked all those present for their attendance and contributions.

The date of the next AGM will be 4th June 2017 in North Wales

The meeting closed at 11.30 a.m.