

WELSH BRIDGE UNION

Management Committee Meeting

Held on Tuesday, 17th May 2016, at the Commodore Hotel, Llandrindod Wells

Judith Graham-Jones	President
Herbie Rowley	Immediate Past President
Phil Bowers	Masterpoint/Membership Secretary
Fiona Noyce	Treasurer
Neville Richards	WBU Chief Executive
Geoff Evans	EWBA (Skype)
Jean Hand	NTO (Skype)
Paddy Murphy	NWBA (Skype)
Margaret Richards	Minute Taker

Agenda Items		Actions
Apologies	Bob Alderdice, WWBA	
1. Previous Minutes	The draft Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 12 th April 2016 had been previously circulated to all members and were duly accepted unanimously as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Herbie Rowley Seconded: Jean Hand	
2. Matters Arising	JH raised a query concerning the transfer of funds – FN confirmed that the proposal had been passed at the previous meeting and unanimously carried. FN raised a query regarding the sponsored Plackett Team and NR confirmed that the sponsorship included entry and accommodation expenses.	
3. Reports		
3.1 Finance	FN distributed a financial report, to be presented to the AGM. HR stated that it was an excellent report, comprehensive and easily understood. FN reported that the report included reference to the Auditor and that this will need to be amended to Independent Examiner. The President thanked FN for her hard work.	
3.2 NTO	JH asked for comments on the proposition to reinstate the Ladies Weekend event. JGJ asked that a date be identified in Sept/Oct. The Lady Milne event needs to be allocated a venue in either North Wales or East Wales as following a BGB directive it now needs to be within an hour's distance of an airport. JH had done research within the NW area and many venues were proving too expensive. The Holiday Inn would cost approximately £300 per head but the allowance is £295 per head, leaving a shortfall of £5 per head. This would mean the total WBU contribution for participation and hosting the event would be approximately £5,000. The advantages of holding the event in the north are that the travel connections are excellent and it would not be as likely to clash with national events, as it could do if	JH

	<p>hosted nearer to Cardiff. Holding it in East Wales would potentially be more expensive. GE would investigate costs. Last time the event had cost the WBU £3,000. The Ramada in Wrexham was suggested as an alternative. JH to investigate costs. Proposal: To hold the Lady Milne in North Wales – dependent on adequate volunteers being recruited and cost effectiveness of the venue. Proposed: Herbie Rowley Seconded: Fiona Noyce JH asked for comments on the request received from Patrick Jourdain and Paul Denning to change the dates of particular events on the current calendar in November. The available alternative dates clash with one major EBU event but PD did not consider this a problem .Potential participants had complained about the lack of notification following the changes. The Committee agreed that any changes to the calendar should not be made without Committee decision and that Selectors were responsible for informing competitors of any changes requested by them. The Management Committee supported the NTO in enforcing the calendar at it currently now stands.</p>	JH
3.3 MPM	<p>PB reported that there were no further updates for the meeting. JH raised a query regarding uploading of masterpoints following an event. PB confirmed that the Director at the event needed to supply relevant information of the result of the event in order for the database to be updated. Taking the information from the results on the website was not acceptable and involved a huge amount of work. JH also raised the question of scales of masterpoint allocation for each particular event. This needs to be specified at the beginning of the year for each relevant event.</p>	
3.4 CE	<p>NR reported that he was now the Chairman of the BGB committee. He was pleased that the WBU was continuing to support both the 'social' and 'competitive' Bridge player, though reiterated that social Bridge players were also 'competitive' Bridge players if they were members of clubs and playing duplicate Bridge.</p>	
4. Standing Orders	<p>The draft WBU Standing Orders as amended by JGJ had been distributed previously to the MC members. The current draft included minor changes to what had been agreed in January 2016. It was agreed to delete the first two sentences in paragraph 3 and insert the sentence, 'The President shall be the Chair the Committee.' This would then be followed by 'In unavoidable absence the Committee shall elect one of its number for that meeting only.' With these amendments the document was accepted and will be presented to the Council.</p>	
5. Small Grants to Clubs	<p>It is proposed that affiliated Bridge Clubs wishing to purchase Duplicating Machines, Bridgemates, etc. could apply to the WBU for matched funding upto a limited amount of £2,000 in any five year</p>	

	<p>period.FN asked that applications for the matched funding should be submitted to the MC for approval. If successful a contract would be put into place between the WBU and the Club to ensure compliance. Any equipment acquired through the scheme would remain with the Club but the WBU would retain a right to request the use of the machines if and when required for competitions etc. in that area. A Duplicating Machine would be used to deal boards for a particular WBU competition, with payment made for the duplication, thus eliminating the need to transport a DM to each competition. It was agreed that there needed to be a cap on the amount of funding available each year.</p> <p>The scheme was approved in principle but agreed that criteria and conditions need to be carefully considered. The proposed scheme to be announced at the AGM.</p> <p>Playing cards with a Club or Area logo could be made available – NR waiting for quotes.</p>	JGJ
6. Insurance cover for Officers	<p>Proposal: That the WBU should carry insurance to cover all officials at affiliated Bridge Clubs, which would cover the possible misappropriation of funds, trophies, etc. and would also cover legal fees for complaints against said officials, etc.</p> <p>Proposed: Judith Graham-Jones</p> <p>Seconded: Herbie Rowley</p>	
7. Appointment of Selectors	<p>Following on from discussions at the last MC meeting, BA had been tasked with approaching potential selectors but currently nothing to report.</p> <p>JH reported that she had been considering becoming a Selector but her duties as NTO may affect this.</p> <p>PM suggested Simon Edwards. These appointments to be pursued at the next Management Committee meeting</p> <p>NR confirmed that the MC had the power to appoint Selectors but had to respect the views of the current team of Selectors.</p>	
8. Future strategy working Group membership	<p>BA had sent an email stating that Tony Disley had been approached to be involved in the Working Group.</p> <p>JGJ volunteered to be part of the Group also and suggested that Peter Milewski be asked to participate.</p> <p>NR suggested that Brian Quinlan at Cardiff might be asked.</p> <p>GE suggested that Simon Gottschalk be asked.</p>	JGJ
9. Newsletter	<p>JGJ reiterated that the first edition of the Newsletter had been received with much acclaim.</p> <p>The draft second edition of the Newsletter had been emailed to members prior to the meeting and would hopefully be published before the AGM.</p> <p>It was agreed that enough copies be printed to give every WBU member a copy. This would amount to 1600 copies.</p> <p>JGJ proposed that the current edition be printed as soon as possible ready for distribution at the AGM. Representatives for each area would receive an allocation which could then be distributed to each Club in that particular area. Club Secretaries would be responsible for</p>	

	<p>acquiring and distributing copies to members.</p> <p>Regarding content it was considered that this was an exceptionally long issue due largely to positive and negative reaction to the first issue. However such substantial submissions from readers would be unlikely to continue. It was agreed that all opinions should be published at this stage. The following should be included in the current issue as a matter of urgency: Disclaimer regarding views do not reflect WBU policy.</p> <p>Notice of Mid-Wales and Tenby Congresses with contact details. Area Secretary contact details. In future Area News This should be followed by direction to the WBU website for the full calendar and details of the results in due course.</p> <p>A full calendar within the Newsletter was viewed as not a practical option and would then be inflexible.</p>	
10. Correspondence	<p>NR confirmed that a decision needed to be made regarding the funding for possible participation in the World Bridge Games. The Scottish Bridge Union had a similar financial position as the WBU and they had decided not to fund the WBG. It could potentially cost the WBU over £3,000 per team entry, although a pairsentry only would be around £400. The WBU with a small membership would have the same funding costs per team or pair as much larger Bridge Unions. The WBG were scheduled for the first week in September and clashed with the WBU Teams of 8 competition. However Selectors would have an idea of whom they would choose for the team.</p> <p>The consensus of the MC seemed to be that, due to the current financial constraints, funding should not be expended on the WBG this year.</p>	
11. AOB	<p>NR brought to the attention of the MC that a women's pair, consisting of Gilly Clench and Laura Woodruff, had entered the Europeans as representing Wales. Neither the MC nor the Selectors were aware of the entry and it was agreed that, in future, any such entry should have the approval of the MC.</p> <p>JGJ stated that the circumstances needed to be investigated.</p> <p>It was agreed that a reminder needed to be sent to all competitors that WBU endorsement is required to enter a 'national' team or pair. Other international events have a specific protocol, requiring entries to be accompanied by official paperwork and relevant Union approval. This protocol had obviously been relaxed for the current women's event to encourage entry.</p> <p>Action to enquire with the EBL of conditions of competition entry.</p> <p>AGM arrangements</p> <p>The President intends to impress on WBU members that they must support the work of Union or they will be in danger of losing the organisation.</p>	<p>NR</p> <p>NR</p>
	Meeting concluded at 14.50	