

WELSH BRIDGE UNION

Management Committee Meeting

Held on Tuesday, 23rd February 2016, at Crossgates Community Centre, Llandrindod Wells

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

Agenda Items		Actions
1. Apologies	There were no apologies	
2. Previous Minutes	The draft Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 12th January 2016 were accepted unanimously as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Herbie Rowley Seconded: Bob Alderdice	
3. Matters Arising	Item 3.10 – The request from Brecon BC had been withdrawn and NR confirmed that the Club had decided to stay in East Wales. Item 6 Review of Honoraria - JGJ asked for clarification on the start date for any increase and whether this could be back dated. FN agreed that although Council would need to approve the changes the start date could be April 2016.	
4. Standing Orders	JGJ had circulated proposed changes to the wording of Standing Orders and there was universal agreement to the proposals. JGJ agreed to re-write the SO document as soon as practicable.	JGJ
5. Constitution	The question of whether all members of WBU affiliated clubs should be members of the WBU per se was discussed. PB stated that it was, in essence, a 2-stage process – firstly all affiliated clubs need to be known as WBU clubs; and secondly all individual members of those clubs need to be members of the WBU or another accredited Bridge Union. This proposal needs to be presented to the Council and the AGM for approval. GE added that players wishing to play in WBU events need to be members of the WBU but not necessarily a club. This condition needs to be added to competition material and if a player wishing to enter is not a WBU member, the cost of membership should be added to the entrance fee. FN confirmed that at the Treasurers Skype meeting it had been agreed	

	<p>that members of WBU clubs should all be WBU members.</p> <p>A 'direct' member of the WBU is someone who is not a member of a WBU club but has paid the required membership fee directly.</p> <p>It was agreed that a proposal should be put to the Council/AGM and then the question of relevant funding be addressed. The main issue was providing consistency across Wales.</p> <p>JGJ drew attention of the original statement that caused confusion, concerning the need to have eight members of a club who were WBU members in order to gain affiliation to the WBU. Taken literally some clubs had ensured eight WBU members and other club members had the choice to join or not. The wording could be that all members of affiliated clubs 'automatically' become members of the WBU, thus putting the responsibility of payment to the WBU on the clubs and not on the individual.</p>	
6. Newsletter	<p>JGJ stated that feedback to the Newsletter had, in the main, been very positive. Some criticism regarding the slant towards promoting social Bridge had been noted but this could engender a number of articles for future editions.</p> <p>NR confirmed that the Newsletter had been well received. There was an overall view that articles had been against competitive players and that it should endeavour to be more balanced. The current edition had cost £562, thus making it comparable to previous newsletters. A copy for each current WBU member would involve a slight increase to £650 per edition – three per year would still be in line with previous expenditure of £1800.</p> <p>Proposal that for 2016 the next edition should be produced, if possible, before the AGM in June but that in following years, one in February, June and October would be ideal.</p> <p>Proposed: Bob Alderdice</p> <p>Seconded: Jean Hand - Agreed</p>	NR
7. Reports	<p>7.1 NTO Report</p> <p>The NTO had circulated her report prior to the meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that the venue (Commodore) for the Open Pairs did not need to be changed for this year as much of the organisation had already been done.</p> <p>Crossgates had proved an excellent venue for the Mixed Pairs and Mike Amos (Director) had confirmed that 14 tables could be accommodated.</p> <p>GE had asked whether the date of the East Wales Congress could be changed for 2017 as it clashed with a major Rugby event – a decision was postponed until the next meeting.</p> <p>The question of prize money for the Pairs final was discussed.</p> <p>Proposal that the Prize money should remain as it is.</p> <p>Proposed: Herbie Rowley</p> <p>Seconded: Geoff Evans - Agreed</p> <p>Proposal that the Table money should remain the same.</p> <p>Proposed: Herbie Rowley</p>	

	<p>Seconded: Bob Alderdice - Agreed</p> <p>JH asked for suggestions regarding the Senior’s Congress, venue and date.</p> <p>7.2 Finance Report</p> <p>FN reported that the Corporation Tax had now been paid (£47) HMRC had also been written to regarding an update of the WBU MC, including a form provided by the former Treasurer.</p> <p>PB now had access to view the WBU account online in order to check membership funding receipts etc.</p> <p>Honoraria had been paid. Also the hotel and travel expenses for the Lady Milne team had been paid.</p> <p>FN presented graphs and tables displaying the current financial position and allocation of funds. The Selectors had produced proposals for sending teams to international events and FN confirmed that on current income these could be covered until 2019.</p> <p>A discussion took place around the sending of team(s) to the various international events.</p> <p>Proposal to have a meeting with the Selectors to discuss 5 year plan and ensure a member of the Management Committee is present at future Selector meetings.</p> <p>Proposed: Bob Alderdice</p> <p>Seconded: Paddy Murphy - Agreed</p> <p>It was agreed that any sponsorship of teams should be welcomed.</p> <p>FN confirmed that Masterpoint income together with the Membership income showed a shortfall against WBU running costs. This was due, in the main, to the loss of the £10k from BGB.</p> <p>FN stated that the Treasurers meeting had produced three main points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreement to the proposal regarding WBU membership of all club members 2. Recognition that the post of CE was too onerous for one person and needed a support team. 3. WBU should not run at a loss and consideration be given to ways to avoid future losses. <p>7.3 Membership/Masterpoint Secretary Report</p> <p>PB supported the suggestion that club members receive automatic membership of the WBU and also suggested an increase in masterpoint cost. However if clubs, who play up to five times a week, decide not to award masterpoints on some of those nights that is their right to do so.</p> <p>BGB deficit = £10k, Competition/Congress fees = £3k, therefore £7k needs to be generated to equalise expenditure.</p> <p>PB put forward a proposal to put to Council that the Constitution be altered that all affiliated clubs should have 100% WBU membership, that the WBU membership fee should be increased from £6 to £10 from April 2017 and the masterpoint charge should be increased to 25p.</p> <p>PM added that there should also be an amendment that the</p>	All
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	<p>Membership fee and the masterpoint charge should increase on a regular basis.</p> <p>There was an agreement to take this suggestion to the Council meeting and that it should then be put into writing ready for the AGM.</p> <p>7.4 Selectors</p> <p>The Selectors report and attendance in future selector meetings had already been discussed. There had been an agreement that only one team would be sponsored for specific international competitions.</p>	
8. Review of CEO Contract	<p>There had been a suggestion that the CEO needed a team around him to complete the tasks required. JGJ asked the CEO for comment on this – the CEO asked that members of the Management Committee etc could be given certain projects or responsibilities and thus be more involved in the running of the WBU. He asked whether the ‘internationals’ could be taken on by someone else, essentially a secretary to deal with the running of this side of the WBU. There should be a transcript to the selectors meetings and someone in attendance who is independent of the selector group.</p> <p>The CEO also asked whether there could be someone whose responsibility would be to market the WBU. There was a suggestion that a university student could be enlisted to look at ways of marketing the Union. PM agreed to make enquiries at Bangor University.</p> <p>The CEO left the meeting.</p> <p>The age and workload of the current CEO was discussed. There was a discussion around what the role and responsibilities of the next CEO should be. This supported the suggestion that a team around the CEO would not only take over some of the responsibilities but could also spread the knowledge thus ensuring the maintenance of the role.</p> <p>The CEO returned to the meeting.</p> <p>JGJ proposed to set up a support network around the CEO role. The CEO was asked to make a list of the areas where he thought that extra help could be beneficial .</p> <p>JGJ proposed to offer the CEO an increase in the stipend of £2,500 to a total of £10k.</p>	<p>PM</p> <p>NR</p>
9. Teltscher Trophy	<p>The selectors have picked a team for the event and the question is how much funding should be offered.</p> <p>Originally the team funded themselves but then the non-playing captain received £100.</p> <p>PM suggested that the fee for trials is increased in order to fund the expenses for the selected team.</p> <p>JH confirmed that the entrance fees are always paid on behalf of the teams; the additional expenses (hotel, travel, etc) are what are being questioned.</p> <p>In 2014 there was an agreement to fund these expenses upto £300.</p> <p>Proposal: That the selectors are given £2,000 for the Senior Camrose, team including the NPC, which they should then allocate to the team members as they deem appropriate.</p> <p>Proposed: Neville Richards</p> <p>Seconded: Fiona Noyce - Agreed</p>	

10. AOB	<p>Teaching materials</p> <p>Keith Butler has raised an issue around the teaching materials used for the lessons he delivers under the umbrella of the WBU. He maintains that he these are his own teaching materials which he is not willing to universally share. He maintains that the copyright to the lessons is his and that he has intellectual property rights over them, which he will relax if formal WBU teacher accreditation and training similar to that of the EBU is introduced.</p> <p>NR confirmed that the Scottish Bridge Union regularly updates the WBU Dropbox facility with their lessons, quizzes, etc. and have given permission for us to avail WBU members of the lessons etc.</p> <p>Letter from NW Bridge Association</p> <p>The letter had been distributed to all members prior to the meeting. It was agreed to discuss at the next meeting if required.</p>	
11. Date of the next meetings	<p>The Council meeting is scheduled for 23rd March 2016 and notice needs to be given to all WBU members.</p> <p>Regarding the changes around the Standing Orders and Constitution written notice needs to be given prior to the meeting.</p> <p>A report from the Management Committee needs to be presented to the Council, detailing progress so far, successes and problems, together with updates and changes proposed.</p> <p>12th April 2016 fixed as next Management Committee meeting.</p>	