### **WELSH BRIDGE UNION**

## **Management Committee Meeting**

# Held on Tuesday, 12 January 2016 at Crossgates Community Centre, Llandrindod Wells

Judith Graham-Jones President

Herbie Rowley Immediate Past President

Bob Alderdice WWBA

Phil Bowers Masterpoint Secretary

Fiona Noyce Treasurer

Neville Richards Chief Executive WBU

Paddy Murphy
Jean Hand
NTO (Skype)
Geoff Evans
EWBA (Skype)
Margaret Richards
Minute Taker

| 1. Apologies       | There were no apologies.  |     |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| 2. Previous        | The draft Minutes from the Management Committee Meeting held  |     |
| Minutes            | on 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2015 were accepted as a true and accurate  |     |
|                    | record.   |     |
|                    |   |     |
| 3. Matters Arising | Item 4. JGJ had produced a number of draft amendments to the  |     |
|                    | Standing Orders but not all members had had sight of the proposals.   |     |
|                    | Action: JGJ asked the CEO to recirculate the draft for members to   | JGJ |
|                    | submit comments ready for full discussion at the next meeting.  |     |
|                    | Item 9. It was noted that teaching materials from the Scottish  |     |
|                    | Bridge Union have been freely shared, providing much benefit to   |     |
|                    | the WBU Education Officer. It was felt that thanks should be  |     |
|                    | expressed to the SBU. CEO added that the SBU keep the material  |     |
|                    | updated and automatically update the WBU accordingly.  Item 10. It was confirmed that the proposed relocation of Brecon |     |
|                    | Club to Mid Wales area was supported by the Committee but would   |     |
|                    | need to go before the full Council for approval.  |     |
| 4. Standing Orders | Due to the need to re-circulate the draft amendments, this item is  |     |
| 4. Standing Orders | to be deferred to the next meeting. All members to read and   | All |
|                    | comment on the draft once received.   | All |
| 5. Constitution    | Following discussions at the previous meeting regarding   |     |
|                    | membership of the WBU, a paper submitted by Patrick Jourdain  |     |
|                    | highlighting the difficulties encountered by the EBU when it moved  |     |
|                    | to P2P, had been received and circulated for consideration.   |     |
|                    | A discussion ensued around the benefits or otherwise of the   |     |
|                    | proposal that all members of affiliated WBU clubs should be   |     |
|                    | members of the WBU. It was put forward that whether this was  |     |
|                    | accepted or not, the way clubs dealt with membership fees should  |     |
|                    | be uniform across Wales. At present some areas insist that  |     |
|                    | members of affiliated clubs are also members of the WBU, whereas  |     |
|                    | other areas give their members the choice of whether to join the  |     |
|                    | WBU or not.   |     |
|                    | A discrepancy between the number of WBU recorded members and  |     |
|                    | the payments of membership fees received was highlighted. This  |     |

|                           | appeared to be due to Club secretaries not detailing payment sufficiently for the Treasurer to allocate the funds correctly.   |     |
|---------------------------|--|-----|
|                           | A query arose regarding fees to the EBL. The EBU only pay a set amount and the WBU needs to negotiate a similar arrangement. The financial implication of WBU membership versus P2P was discussed. The problem has been that WBU membership fees have remained static for some time and are remarkably cheap. If the WBU membership were to be increased in line with inflation it |     |
|                           | should be raised to £13pp.  JGJ asked for members to vote regarding the original contention that all members of affiliated clubs should be members of the WBU.  All in the room in favour  JH in favour  |     |
|                           | PM against It was suggested that the three alternative ways of dealing with the situation be set out, with the resulting financial implications detailed, and then taken to the areas for feedback. FN proposed that the treasurers from all areas be invited to attend a 1 hour meeting prior to the Council Meeting in order to formulate  |     |
|                           | proposals to submit to the Council.  |     |
|                           |  | PM  |
| 6. Review of<br>Honoraria | JGJ suggested that the discussion regarding the honoraria for the CEO could be better conducted via email.  FN had produced a list of the Honoraria currently in place:  Masterpoint Secretary £1500  Membership Secretary £500  |     |
|                           | NTO £675  Newsletter £150 per issue (4 issues per year)  Journal £500  |     |
|                           | Education £500 Treasurer £1000   |     |
|                           | Members considered the current level for each post and relationship to others. Also the Education Officer was looked on as an essential post. The current post holder was proving very successful and this was considered to be vital to the future of   |     |
|                           | Bridge. FN was not present during the following discussion. It was proposed to increase the NTO post to £1000, the Education Office to £750 and the Treasurer post to £1500. Proposer: Bob Alderdice   |     |
|                           | Seconder: Herbie Rowley All agreed JGJ confirmed that the Council would need to approve all amendments.  |     |
| 7. Review of CEO contract | JGJ asked that the CEO terms and contract be emailed to all members for future discussion.   | CEO |
| 8. Reports                | 8.1 NTO report - Attached for information.   |     |
|                           | 8.2 Finance Report   |     |

FN reported that due to changes with the banking system, interest to the WBU account was now received gross. This required an online application to assess and submit for tax purposes. The WBU is recorded as a dormant company and as such the form requires a Director. The EBU is a company with directors but the SBU and Irish Union are likely to be experiencing similar difficulties.

CEO to contact other NBU for information

FN provided a draft financial summary but there are outstanding amounts regarding the Llangollen Congress, Trials etc and discrepancies such as already discussed regarding WBU membership. There are also outstanding fees from the EBU for Welsh participation in the English SIMS.

There was a discussion regarding the award for the Presidents Cup. For four years £500 has been made available to the host area to help with the financing of the PC.

It was proposed that the award should be extended for another 3 years and should be increased to £1500 (£500 for each event - Perry, Spickett and Presidents Cup)

Proposed: Bob Alderdice Seconded: Fiona Noyce

All agreed.

#### **8.3** Selectors Report

A report from the Selectors had been received but too late for it to be studied and discussed successfully at this meeting. The report was noted and the Selectors thanked for its submission.

It was suggested that a meeting with the Selectors would be beneficial ahead of the Camrose weekend at the Metropole. CEO to arrange.

## **8.4** CEO Report

The CEO requested more finance for the Aide Memoires and other publications produced for use by training groups and inexperienced players.

The stock of WBU tables was showing signs of wear and several needed to be replaced. This would be timely in view of the Camrose event and consideration should be given to purchasing the stronger tables such are as used by Rhayader club.

The Camrose event BBO setup is being organised by Simon Gottschalk but volunteers are urgently needed for the BBO operation. Volunteers from the junior teams are being sought and consideration should be given to financing their accommodation etc.

The WBU database requires financial input to ensure that improvements requested by the MP Secretary and a grading system can be successfully integrated.

The expenses for funding international representation at home or abroad are substantial and entry fees are out of our control and increasing. The CEO asked FN to produce a pie chart to illustrate where the finances were allocated. This could be shown to members and views gathered. Recent Congresses evidenced that the majority of players are less experienced and only the top third of players are highly competitive.

CEO

CEO

| JGJ reported that the she and the CEO had been invited to attend a European Congress in Rome but due to the travel problems involved and expense to the WBU they had declined. When the conference Agenda has appeared a communique should |  |
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| and expense to the WBU they had declined.  |  |
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| T WHELL THE CONTENENCE Agenda has appeared a Communique Should T   |  |
| be sent to the conference stating WBU current concerns.  |  |
| 9. Newsletter Draft copies of the new format Newsletter were distributed at the  |  |
| meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the printing and distribution   |  |
| of the Newsletter. Posting a supply to each area would not involve   |  |
| great cost and it was agreed that the CEO should obtain quotes for   |  |
| printing various quantities.   |  |
| It was agreed to give the CEO a budget of £1500 and to send the  |  |
| Newsletters to each Area secretary for onward circulation to the   |  |
| clubs.   |  |
| 10. Competition The CEO reported that the CJ was currently available on line and   |  |
| lournal updated regularly.   |  |
| The Journal is used as a calendar for events and a reference   |  |
| document for rules and regulations.  |  |
| There was a query regarding the publication of ranking promotions.   |  |
| The MP Secretary explained that it took extensive work to produce  |  |
| the rankings from the master points and to calculate promotions on   |  |
| a regular basis would be even more onerous. The current  |  |
| masterpoint programme does not have a facility to do this work   |  |
| automatically and it would cost substantial amount to commission   |  |
| it.  |  |
| There was discussion around putting essential information into the   |  |
| Newsletter.  |  |
| At Club level it is the responsibility of the club secretary to promote  |  |
| both the Newsletter and the Journal.   |  |
| 11. AOB Issues with the Lady Milne competition were discussed. It was  |  |
| agreed that the Selectors should seek to fill the shortfall in   |  |
| participants with players who are available and willing to go under  |  |
| the current conditions. The Selectors should research what they  |  |
| consider 'reasonable' expenses for competitors in the future and   |  |
| report back.   |  |
| The meeting closed at 3.15pm   |  |
| <u>Future Dates</u>  |  |
| Finance Meeting Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February  |  |
| Management Committee meeting Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February   |  |
| Council meeting Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March   |  |
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