

WELSH BRIDGE UNION

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14th July 2015

Present: Dr Gareth Jones	President
Fiona Noyce	Hon Treasurer
Jean Hand	Hon. National Tournament Organiser
Phil Bowers	Hon. Membership & Master Points Secretary
Bob Alderdice	WWBA
Geoff Evans	EWBA
Herbert Rowley	MWBA
Neville Richards	Chief Executive Officer
Judith Graham-Jones	Minute Secretary

Apologies for absence: Judith Graham-Jones had offered to be Minute Secretary and this was AGREED.

1. Election of Chairman. Dr Gareth Jones, proposed and agreed nem.con
2. Minutes of the meeting held on Received and agreed nem.con
3. Matters rising from the Minutes.
 - 3.1 The Treasurer who had been unable to attend the AGM enquired about the outcome of the proposal re universal membership of the Union. The details as seen in the draft Minutes of the AGM were outlined. The Chairman explained that any progress in this proposal would involve potential amendments to the Constitution that would have to be cleared with legal advice. This will be drafted by Andrea Knox with advice from Gil Glossop and Anne-Marie Zangouras. It was proposed and agreed that a sub-committee comprised of Gareth Jones, Bob Alderdice and Paddy Murphy and possibly another from outside the Management Committee will provide guidance to the lawyers on pertinent matters to be resolved. Therefore no change in universal affiliation will be possible until a change in the Constitution agreed at the next AGM or a Special General Meeting.
 - 3.2 It was noted that the AGM had not determined the subscription for 2016-7, General discussion ensued and it was agreed that the only means of increasing income in 2016-7 would be to increase Master Points charges.
4. Management Committee Standing Orders.

Although these had been drafted and agreed in 2011 for public consultation they had not been formally adopted.

It was proposed and agreed nem.con that they now be adopted, they will be circulated one week before the next meeting.

5 National Tournament Organiser's Report

The NTO tabled her Report which is on file. The following matters were discussed.

Arising from the Teams of Eight Final June 2015. Clarification that although each Area can field one team, such team must have played in a Qualifier; if it proved impossible to raise an Area Qualifier a Team of Eight should play in an adjacent Area Qualifier.

- Mixed Pairs Final. Agreed to be played over 2 days 21-22 February 2016.
- The Premier League has now replaced the Trials. This is expensive to run and it was agreed that the current charge be continued.
- Calendar 2015-6: confirmed
- Competition Journal. The Journal is in progress, subject to a re-write on TOE regulations; Mixed and Open Pairs will be 14 table Finals. Table money £25 per pair. It was proposed by Jean Hand seconded by Bob Alderdice that Area Qualifiers will replace Simultaneous Pairs AGREED.
- Welsh Cup. It was agreed that with an entry of 14 teams or less there will be no seeding and the NTO shall determine the method of matches. There will be a draw after the 1st round.

6 Treasurer's Report.

The quarterly Income and Expenditure accounts were tabled. FN reported that the Monmouthshire Building Society had reduced its interest rate. Furthermore new regulations re maximum investments will necessitate withdrawal of a significant sum from that account. It had been recommended that an e-mail account with Principality B.S could be suitable and this will be explored.

The Camrose weekend next March will be hosted by WBU, As this entails major expenditure discussion took place on possible venues. Criteria include cost, transport links especially airports accommodation including several rooms, computer facilities etc availability of Match Manager and volunteers. Committee members were invited to forward suggestions and details to CEO.

Bob Alderdice reported that the Perry Spickett will be held in Tumble near Cross Hands at the end of the M4 and close to budget and up market hotels.

7 Selection Committee. More Selectors are needed. Ideally 5-7 should be on the committee. It was agreed to approach current Selectors for suggestions and the following names were mentioned: Mike Amos, Stuart Matthews, Tony Disley, Adrian Thomas and Simon Gottschalk.

Debate on the defection of a team member at the European championships raised the following points: Can the selectors re-visit the decision of Laws and Ethics Committee; have the selectors received a Captains Report on the incident; was the team self selected or not.

8 Work Plan

8.1 Data Base A maintenance contract is needed and will be expensive. Problems with Score Bridge could be looming. It may be possible to get the work done at a lower rate, it may also be useful to await any moves by the EBU ACTION Phil Bowers.

8.2 Constitution and Membership (see 3.1.)

8.3 International and World Funds The Treasurer informed the committee that there would be no problem in merging these funds, and that funding for Internationals can continue.

8.4 Communication with individual members. Considerable discussion on this topic. The president reported that Laura Woodruff may be willing to resurrect the Newsletter. The CEO suggested that a stout Binder be made available to each Club and that up-dates could be inserted. There were still misgivings and Bob Alderdice pursued the notion that individuals still crave for printed matter in their own hands

8.5 Presentation of Accounts. The President suggested that more user friendly print outs with for example pie charts could encourage members to understand WBU finances more readily. It was agreed that he and FN would investigate,

8.6 Education. While applauding Keith Butlers work for beginners it was suggested that Intermediate players could benefit from more advanced material. This can be downloaded from the website but this needs to be publicised.

The meeting closed at 4.25pm.

Date of the next meeting by telephone conference or Skype: 28th August 2015

J Graham-Jones 16.7.15