

## **WELSH BRIDGE UNION**

**Draft minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

**Present:**

<b>Judith Graham-Jones</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Herbie Rowley</b>	<b>Immediate Past President</b>
<b>Jean Hand</b>	<b>National Tournament Organiser</b>
<b>Bob Alderdice</b>	<b>WWBA</b>
<b>Geoff Evans</b>	<b>EWBA</b>
<b>Rod Sheard</b>	<b>NWBA</b>
<b>Phil Bowers(observer)</b>	<b>Master Points Secretary</b>
<b>Paddy Murphy</b>	<b>NWBA (by Skype)</b>
<b>Neville Richards</b>	<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>

**The meeting opened with the Election of the President as Chairman of the Committee. It was agreed that Celia Rossiter be Minutes Secretary for this meeting.**

**The President proposed that the meeting be recorded: agreed nem.con. She reminded the committee that its work should remain confidential pending the approval of the Minutes.**

**Apologies for absence: Hon. Treasurer: Fiona Noyce**

- 1. President's opening remarks. JGJ told members that certain disaffections had been expressed at the AGM and that solutions to these problems must be sought by the time of the next AGM. With this in mind she hoped that the M/C could**

**identify targets and present solutions in time for the AGM in June 2016.**

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015.**

**Received, proposed by HR, seconded by BA confirmed nem.con**

**3. Reports**

**3.1 National Tournament Officer. Report received and the following comments arose:**

**3.1.1 Clash of Teams of Eight final with European Championships. After some discussion it was proposed by BA seconded by NR that the calendar date remain unchanged. Agreed by a majority.**

**3.1.2 Entries at an all time low for Welsh and Cambria Cups. Agreed to consider with a view to decreased Prize Money/increased entry charge/Plate competition for first round losers. ACTION next meeting.**

**3.1.3 Mixed Pairs event. This is failing; an option to abolish and replace with Area Competition only. Agreed to seek opinions of Areas. ACTION next meeting.**

**3.2. Finance Report. None available. However there was a request that in future there should be a simpler display of Income and Expenditure**

**3.3 Chief Executive Officer's Report.**

**3.3.1 Teaching. New teaching initiatives are flourishing and the WBU now has its first teaching club in Cardiff. It has taken advantage of WBU assistance offered to newly formed clubs. There are new large teaching groups in Bridgend, Monmouth and**

**Wrexham; they are using WBU material and have received considerable support from our education Officer, Keith Butler. The Scottish Bridge Union has sent further education material for us to adapt and this is a very generous gesture.**

**3.3.2 Competitions and Club nights are all experiencing declining numbers and we need to consider ways to address this problem. The WBU is not alone in this; it is a world wide problem. The CEO has been asked by the European Bridge League to attend a conference on this and other concerns early in the New Year.**

**3.3.3. A volunteer editor for the Newsletter has been found.**

**3.3.4 The Master Point awards and scales need updating. They date from the “glory days” of competitions when 100 tables were the norm. CEO has researched scales used by other NBO’s, especially Scotland. He hoped working with the Master Points Secretary a more useable set of tables of awards can be produced in the very near future.**

**3.3.5 Competition Journal. A draft hard copy was tabled so that committee members could consider content at the next meeting.**

#### **4. Revision of the Constitution.**

**A working group of the President, CEO, and Andrea Knox will produce proposals in time for the January MC meeting. For the group’s consideration It was proposed by PB, seconded by BA that there should be uniform treatment of members; that Area boundaries be re-drawn proposed by BA seconded by NR. That there should be a means of increasing revenue; that there be free membership for all members coupled with an affiliation fee for each Club, initially possibly £50. That there be increased Master Point charges. Such ideas be put to Clubs.**

**4.1 PB had presented a discussion document re Membership at affiliated Clubs. It was proposed by PB, seconded by BA that the treatment of membership matters across all affiliated clubs should be uniform. Agreed nem.con**

**Proposed that we need to increase revenue from ordinary members and/or affiliated clubs. Agreed as desirable. It was further proposed by HR seconded by BA that there be free WBU membership and increased charges to Clubs for Master Point certificates. Agreed nem.con.**

**6 League Report. BA reported that although there was a slight decrease in Team numbers in the WWBA, EWBA numbers are successful. There was no progress in NWBA and MWBA.**

## **7. Website**

**CEO reported that there is now an integrated site. The site has been changed to accommodate smart phones, tablets and laptops. Like other well known sites WBU had been compromised by Russian hackers but our security monitoring had alerted us immediately. At 3a.m the site had been cleaned and passed clear by Google. Subsequently security has been considerably hardened. Concerns have been expressed over navigation on the new site. It is hoped that members will accustom themselves to the new system.**

## **8. Newsletter**

**Carol Butler has offered to edit this vital element in WBU organisation. It was generally agreed that some form of direct contact with each Union member was highly desirable indeed vital. At the same time there had been considerable wastage of copies in the past as some members were not interested. It was proposed by BA and agreed nem.con that a trial hard copy be produced in time**

for the next MC, and that this be circulated to Areas/Clubs to test reaction.

#### **9 Cardiff Bridge Club.**

A paper from Cardiff Bridge Club regarding the teaching of bridge and the recruitment of new members to the WBU was fully discussed. In return for the support currently being offered to teaching groups who wished to partner with the WBU, Cardiff Bridge Club would register its students as members of the WBU. The WBU Education Officer was attempting to standardise the teaching of bridge across Wales using the material provided for us by the SBU and now rebranded as the WBU standard approach to the teaching of bridge. He was not sure that Cardiff Bridge Club had the same teaching agenda and their approach might adversely affect other local teaching initiatives.

GE offered to liaise with all involved to try and achieve a common approach.

10. Correspondence. Brecon Bridge Club has requested that the boundary be redrawn and it be relocated to Mid-Wales Area. It was proposed by HR Seconded by BA that this proposal had the full support of the MC. Agreed nem.con.

The meeting closed at 3-30pm.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 in Llandrindod Wells; in the event of inclement weather by Skype. Proposed by RS seconded by BA.