



WELSH BRIDGE UNION

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7th June 2015 at Whitchurch Rugby Club

Present:

President: Mr Herbie Rowley,

National Tournament Organiser: Jean Hand,

National Master Points Secretary: Phil Bowers

Chief Executive: Neville Richards

And 60 members of the WBU

Apologies for absence: Hon Treasurer, Fiona Noyce. MWBA Secretary Rita Lawrence.

The President welcomed all present to the meeting and reminded them that anyone not a paid up member of the WBU is not eligible to vote at the meeting. On behalf of everyone he expressed his condolences to John Salisbury and his family upon the sudden death of his daughter.

1. Minutes of the AGM held on 8th June 2014

Received and approved nem.con

2. Date and venue of the 2016 AGM, 6th June 2016 in West Wales in conjunction with the Perry and Spickett event.

After some discussion it was proposed by Patrick Jourdain, seconded by Gwynn Davis that this meeting wishes the Council and the Management Committee to reconsider the decision of Council that the AGM be held in Mid Wales on a permanent basis and to preserve the status quo of circulation of the AGM. It was considered that such permanent location in Mid Wales would not serve the principles of democracy. An indicative vote on this suggestion was carried by a large majority.

- 3 Treasurer's Report (attached)

The Accounts and Balance Sheet were circulated and the following matters were raised:

- 3.1. Clarification of the distinction between the General Fund and the World Fund (Gwynn Davis)

3.2 Could the £159,527 in the accumulated fund be invested (Diane Kurbalija)

3.3 Philip Kurbalija complained that there was a charge for attending a training day and expressed doubts on the way in which the WBU is being run.

3.4 Considerable disappointment was voiced at the abandonment of both a Journal and a Newsletter in the perceived interest of economy. It was proposed by Paddy Murphy seconded by Gilly Clench that this policy be overturned and a straw poll was heavily in favour of such action. An undertaking that there would be a written newsletter circulated for all members twice a year was given.

4 National Tournament Organiser's Report. (attached)

Jean Hand presented her Report which was received with acclamation.

5 Master Points Secretary's Report. (attached)

Phil Bowers presented his Report and invited questions thereon. There were none.

6 The Chief Executive's Report had been circulated and was received.(attached)

7 Election of Officers. Before this item the President made a report on his second year in office (attached).

President: Gareth Jones, proposed by WWBA and confirmed by the meeting. The outgoing President invested him with the chain of office. He took the Chair and suggested that the remaining nominated Officers be elected en bloc this was proposed by Marie Topp seconded by Keith Shuttleworth and agreed nem.con

Hon Treasurer: Fiona Noyce

Hon National Tournament Organiser: Jean Hand

Hon Master Points Secretary: Phil Bowers

Hon Auditor: Andy Kirkwood

The President remarked that he was honoured to take office and that his theme for the year would be Communication between Officers, Council Management Committee and members.

8. To consider proposed amendments to the Constitution following the motion passed by Council on 24th March 2015.

It was announced that as insufficient notice of a constitutional change had been given no vote could take place today. However in view of the intense interest in the matter and the fact that many members had attended this meeting for this particular item discussion could take place so that members' views could be taken into account when the matter is further considered by M/C and Council. Correspondence received from Cardiff, Chepstow, Criccieth and Pwllheli Bridge Clubs had been received and was circulated. Lively discussion ensued and the following points were made

- The Master Points Secretary said nothing is really changing. A survey of bridge clubs had been made to assess impact. A majority of clubs include WBU and Area subs in their own fee. Members with more than one club membership will only pay as now once to WBU.
- Different Clubs have different Constitutions and these will have to be compliant.
- Pro bono legal advice obtained by the Chief Executive is that the Constitution requires all members of affiliated Clubs to be members of the WBU
Objections from the floor ranged from impact on small clubs,cto problems for clubs with complex structures e.g.Cardiff Club.
- On a positive note it is predicted that an additional200-300 new members could berecruited.
- Any change will be subject to legal advice.

A straw poll of those present voted by a large majority in favour of the status quo as defined by the legal opinion we had received.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm

Revised draft 12th June 2015.