

Minutes of the Council and Management Committee 24.04.18 – Crossgates

In attendance Neville Richards (NR), Judith Graham-Jones (GJJ) , Gareth Jones (GJ), Fiona Noyce (FN) Jean Hand (JH), Helen Houston (HH), Alan Screen (AHS), Sarah Amos (SA), Tony Disley (TD), Rod Sheard (RS), Geoff Evans(GE), Alan Stephenson (AS).

The meeting was held at Crossgates Community Centre and commenced at 11:30

Council Minutes

1. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Paddy Murphy, Jean Cufley, Simon Gottschalk and Phil Bowers.

Alan Stephenson opened the meeting saying that he wished to tender his resignation. Copy of letter **appendix A**.

There followed some discussion that prior to advertising and appointing a new Chief Executive perhaps it would be possible to appoint an interim. NR expressed sympathy and commented that the job of Chief Executive with the addition of running the website had consumed his life for ten years.

2. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 27.03.17** – (HH) raised a question in respect of the minutes of the previous meeting which had been distributed. A members name appeared in the last paragraph under AOB and although the comments were complimentary it was felt reference to a particular member shouldn't appear in the minutes. Such discussion being confined to "in committee". It was agreed following a vote (7 in favour 2 against 1 abstention) the name should be edited **out** of the minutes.
3. **Matters arising from those minutes** – none
4. **Proportion of spend to support International Teams**

There was a lengthy discussion in respect of how Wales' representative teams should be funded. TD commented that support of International Teams is a function of the WBU, this view echoed by HH. FN suggested that there might be a possibility of the areas supporting their players who play representatively, TD supported this view. RS did point out that many players who play for Wales don't play in their areas. NR pointed out that Area funds are equivalent to the funds held by the WBU, so it wouldn't be unreasonable to expect the Areas to contribute.

There had previously been a view that Wales should pull out of the Teltscher Trophy after having hosted it this year. TD pointed out that with the significantly reduced player financial support as agreed at the MC meeting of 27.03.17 (**Hotel only** for Lady Milne and Camrose, **full** funding for the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer if Wales could raise a team, **no** funding for the Teltscher, **no** funding for the Commonwealth Championship and **entry only** for the Europeans) the cost incurred to stage the event would happen every six years and would amount to only about £600 per annum over the period. In view of this it was agreed unanimously that Wales would continue to enter the Teltscher Trophy. AS was very happy that he could attend the forthcoming BGB meeting and not have to say Wales were pulling out.

GJ indicated that the WBU income for the forthcoming year would be about the same as this year. There had been discussion previously at the MC about giving the Selectors a budget for them to use to fund representative teams, TD suggested that a six year cycle would be appropriate. FN to look at the accounts and see what representative bridge had cost historically, what the likely costs would be with the reduced funding levels and thus establish a budget for the Selectors. NR pointed out that teams for Home Internationals had always been a joint decision of the MC and Selectors and that would continue.

There was some discussion on how much income was generated from staging simultaneous pairs, which was earmarked to support representative teams. The income was reducing partly due to reduced participation but also due to the increased charges from ECATS. The WBU should look at running them in house.

JH pointed out that the Selectors had previously been granted a £2000 grant for training and this had been used to run a number of very successful training events simultaneously in North and South Wales. This was something different than a budget to support representative bridge.

5. **AOB** - None

Management Committee Minutes

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Phil Bowers, Paddy Murphy and Simon Gottschalk.
- 2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 20.03.1** – The minutes of the previous meeting which had been distributed were approved.
- 3. Matters arising from those minutes** – none other than those further discussed, see below.
- 4. NTO report (JH)**

Unfortunately, it was another poor year for competition entries. With the exception of the Teams of Eight all entries were down, the Webber Cup only managed 8 teams which is the lowest on record. At this point I wish to thank Sarah for her directing such a low number successfully.

When I have asked players the reason, it seems to be based on travelling to mid Wales so perhaps we could gain something from this and work on a different way for finals. For many years finals were held in each area in turn, should we revert to this?

I would appreciate your input on competitions in general.

There had been numerous concessions in both the Welsh Cup and the Cambria Cup. Both events were being organised by David Stevenson for the next two years.

It was generally agreed that there was the likelihood of a further reduction of entries for the two major cup competitions but it would be necessary to wait until the closing date of September to see if they were both viable.

There followed a lengthy discussion in respect of competition structure (item 6 of the agenda). A discussion document prepared by Gwynn Davis had been circulated **appendix B.**

SA suggested that it might be possible to play matches on-line if both parties were in agreement. GJ proposed that we should wait for the outcome of the proposed WBU on-line knockout later this year, which would give valuable information on if such a scheme would be workable.

The mixed pairs had once again received so few advanced entries that the event had been moved at the last minute to Cardiff and had been run successfully by EWBA. The prospect of a Mid-Wales venue was no longer attractive to the majority of players.

SA indicated that the Perry, Spickett and Presidents Cup which moved around the areas with the AGM were viable in their current form and everyone agreed. The Ladies Weekend appeared to be sustainable. The Welsh and Cambria Cup were under the auspices of David Stevenson for two years and he should be given the opportunity to increase entries. Adrian Trickey's idea of a Champions Cup presented at a previous MC, should be pursued. SA we should seek sponsorship.

SA had received a letter from a WBU member who when they had played in the Celtic sims which had been run by Ireland had received a letter of thanks for taking part and prizes were on offer. The IBU is a much larger organisation than the WBU and attracts a great deal of sponsorship which enables them to support their events to a much greater extent.

There was discussion about the possibility of running events as simultaneous pairs "in house". FN, SA and JH suggested running the mixed pairs as a simultaneous event on 24th February 2019.

There was a proposal that National Events should move around the regions as they had previously done with a preference for events to be held in the East of West Wales, the West of East Wales and the East of North Wales to make travel easier.

Next steps - It was agreed that JH would get together with the ATO's and other interested parties, initially by e-mail with a view to making a proposal in respect of next years competitions.

5. Treasurers Report (FN)

FN presented the year end accounts the year end accounts see **appendix C** as Well as the Income & Expenditure pie charts **appendices D and E**
FN to have a meeting with Andy Kirkwood to arrange a suitable time for him to have all the books etc..

It was agreed that there would be a proposal at the AGM to increase the annual subscription by £1. This was in accordance with what was agreed at the AGM two years ago. HH asked the question if it was necessary to take this to the AGM, JGJ pointed out that this was a requirement of the WBU Constitution.

6. Structure of the WBU – Competitions and Potential re-structure– The possible re-structuring of the competitions was discussed at length under the NTO report, see above. There had been some earlier discussion following the resignation of AS which and JGJ indicated that it would be necessary to review the roles and responsibilities of the Chief Executive and other officers of the Union before a replacement was sought.

7. CEO Report (AS)

- i) Teltscher Trophy. The organisation was progressing well. David Stevenson has been appointed as Assistant TD and Scorer.
- ii) BGB Meeting 04.05.18. The agenda had been received with some 30 items. AS to report back following the meeting.
- iii) Letter from Gilly Clench – potential support for the European Ladies Pairs entry. The event was a transnational one and not a National representative event so no funding was offered.

8. Letters to the President (NR)

No letters, but NR had received the accounts from the EBL and would make them available. All but one of the WBU Law Books have been sold and the proceeds had covered the costs of printing. Everyone agreed another print run should be done, the books were still proving extremely popular all over the globe not just in the UK.

9. AOB

The EBL were asking for a women's representative from each NBO, an advert for expressions of interest to be posted on the website.

The EBU had reported a clash with the Celtic sims and the British sims now run by the EBU. Everyone at the meeting was adamant the Celtic sims dates had not

changed. Anna Gudge of ECATS is investigating. This is an agenda item for the BGB meeting. AS to report back.

JGJ has kindly agreed to edit a newsletter. NR has offered his support in "desktop publishing"

The meeting closed at 16:15