

# Minutes of the Management Committee

## 20.03.18 – Crossgates

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In attendance Fiona Noyce (FN), Gareth Jones (GJ), Jean Hand (JH), Phil Bowers (PB), Alan Screen (AHS) Sarah Amos (SA), Alan Stephenson (AS).

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

### **Management Committee Minutes**

1. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Neville Richards, Paddy Murphy and Geoff Evans. It was the intention to connect Paddy and Geoff by Skype, but the internet connection would not allow it.
2. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 23.01.18** – 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)** –

JH reported that there had been some difficulties in completing fixtures in both the Cambria and Welsh Cups and that two matches had resulted in concessions. There had been a fair amount of criticism about the requirement to travel, even in early rounds.

So far only two confirmed entries to the Webber Cup had been received.

The National Mixed Pairs had once again been played in Cardiff as there were insufficient entries from the other areas to make it viable to run centrally. The Cardiff event had proved quite successful. It is amongst a number of competitions which need to be reviewed/overhauled, see item 9 for further discussion on this topic.

There was considerable discussion in respect of the Teams of Eight Area Qualifiers, including consideration of a letter from Martin Joseph who had been part of a combined club team playing in the East Wales heat. In the end it was decided that as entries to competitions are in general declining and we want to encourage people to play and very reasonably East Wales had done this by allowing a combined team to compete, the Martin Joseph Team would be allowed to progress to the final. It will be necessary to change the conditions of contest and once again this was further discussed under item 9. It was agreed that there would be three teams qualifying to the final from the East, three from the West, two from the North and one from the Mid.

There was discussion in respect of the Graded Master event which had been cancelled at short notice due to adverse weather. Some participants, particularly from the West had travelled to the venue only to find out the event was cancelled. It was agreed that if there was a possibility of adverse weather, usually there are severe weather warnings available, the ATO's should be advised who could then attempt to further publicise the likelihood of cancellation in their areas. A notice could appear on the web-site and competitors advised to check it prior to travel.

GJ on behalf of WWBA, asked the MC to sanction the award of green points at an open Swiss Pairs event which the area was planning to stage in late September 2018. It was decided that this constituted a one day National Congress and was agreed subject to payment of the usual 12% license fee.

## 5. **Treasurers Report (FN)**

Fiona presented the balance sheet as at 14.03.18. See **appendix A**. In addition two summary pie charts for income and expenditure were presented **appendices B and C**.

Bank balance as of 3<sup>rd</sup> January 29 174.62

It was noted that the EBL and WBF subscriptions were due.

AHS asked the question was it the intention that the Union be run at a loss, as once again expenditure exceeded income. It was explained that the deficit was almost entirely due to the "Match Funding Scheme". One of the main purposes of the scheme was to reduce the level of reserve funds the Union maintains. The current scheme has one more year to run but thereafter the intention is that the Union would at least break even.

A question was asked about Patrick Jourdain's legacy and it was once again stated that the money is "ring fenced" for use only to fund the annual Patrick Jourdain Memorial Award for members who make a significant contribution and who would not otherwise be recognised.

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.

## 6. **Membership and Master-point secretary report – (PB)** Phil indicated that the administration of Area Fees was complex with North Wales charging £1 East and West Wales £1.50 and Mid Wales £2 with the additional complexity that some members were members of clubs in more than one area.

A considerable amount of Phil's time has been taken up with establishing a suitable "Privacy Notice" which can be used by clubs when renewing annual membership and in order to comply with the requirements of the reformed GDPR legislation. In accordance with the request from Cardiff Bridge Club, Cardiff Members personal data will be removed from the WBU Membership Database which could potentially

lead to difficulties in communicating and administering master-points for those members.

#### 7. **Petition organised by Gilly Clench in respect of Tony Haworth**

A petition had been received signed by about 30 people who regularly play in WBU trials, Camrose, Lady Milne and Seniors. The petition stated -: "We the undersigned, wish to express our concern as to the choice of tournament director for National Trials including the Lady Milne and respectfully request an alternative be found"

Tony Haworth's position as Tournament Director has been discussed at Management Committee Meetings a number of times, the consensus view being that Tony had served a ten year ban more than ten years ago and no further action was warranted.

As the organisation of trials including the selection of Tournament Director is the responsibility of the Selection Committee the suggestion of the MC was that this request be placed before the selectors for their consideration. When appointing directors for trials the Selectors should be aware of the views of the players. AS to forward to Paul Denning.

8. **Structure of the WBU** – As might be expected this subject generated a great deal of discussion. It was clear from the discussion that many people who used to play in competitions no longer do so. When asked members say "I don't like travelling", "two sessions is too many", "I used to enjoy playing in competitions but I'm happier now just playing in my club". The WBU clearly need to change the competition structure to try to appeal to a wider audience. It was agreed that JH would contact the ATO's with the goal of getting together and undertaking a complete review of existing competitions. SA agreed to take a critical look at the Competitions Handbook with a view to simplifying it. AS to forward a copy of the SBU handbook which might be of some use as a template.

Simon Gottschalk has obviously given the matter of potential re-structuring of the WBU a great deal of thought, AS to distribute Simon's proposals, under separate cover, to members of the MC for consideration.

#### 9. **CEO report**

- i) David Stevenson to take over the running of the Welsh and Cambria Cup for two years. David has already made progress and distributed flyers. Information has been posted on the web-site.
- ii) Teltscher Trophy – latest status. The organisation is progressing. AS to be Match Manager. An assistant TD is required, AS to appoint one. A BBO Manager is required, AS to approach Paul Denning.
- iii) EBL NBO Officer Seminar. Agenda included as Appendix D. Much of the content is available tough the EBL website, link

<http://www.eurobridge.org/2018/02/03/9<sup>th</sup>-nbo-officers-seminar/>

iv) Letter from Sheila Shea. A letter had been received from Sheila Shea and read out at the meeting. It expressed Sheila and Margaret Barnes regret that they had had to withdraw from the Lady Milne Trials due to the earlier than expected start time. Consideration to be given to starting later though a number of players had been positive about the earlier finishing time which allowed an earlier dinner.

v) AS to attend a BGB Meeting on 04.05.18. AS to raise the issue of the WBU's reluctance to continue to host the Teltscher Trophy due to cost. Any other issues for BGB to be passed on to AS.

vi) A letter had been copied to AS in respect of Mike Amos's membership of Garden Village, Wrexham. No action required by the WBU at this time. AS had informed members of the Garden Village Committee that if they needed help or advice they should first approach NWBA who could possibly ask the WBU and the Laws and Ethics Committee for further help and advice. The question of Direct Membership was raised. The granting of Direct Membership lies with the CEO.

10. **Newsletter editor** – Judith Graham-Jones has volunteered to produce a Newsletter on a trial basis. AS has distributed Judith's e-mail to the Area Chairperson.

11. **Online teams** –Yuan Shen with support from Julian Pottage has indicated that he is OK to introduce a WBU on-line knockout using the BBO platform this year.

12. **AOB** – The EBL has asked all NBO's for a Woman's Representative to liaise with the Women's Committee of the EBL. An advert asking for applications to be posted on the web-site. AS to liaise with NR.

There had been considerable criticism of the proposal to extend the St David's Day sims to the following week to allow clubs which couldn't run their heats due to adverse weather the opportunity to do so in the following week. As it happened none of the Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday heats were deferred to the following week, only the Thursday and Friday heats which hadn't been played previously. SA raised the issue of the web-site. ECATs had indicated they would be willing to revamp and host a web-site on behalf of the WBU. This will be worth investigating particularly if/when Neville wishes to hand over the running of the web-site.

It is necessary to have a Council Meeting before the short meeting prior to the AGM. AS to invite items for inclusion from members, through the Area Associations with an e-mail to the Area Chairperson.

13. **Date of next meeting** – Tuesday April 24<sup>th</sup> at Crossgates. This will be a combined Council then Management Committee Meeting. With recent changes to Skype and difficulties which have been experienced a "face to face" meeting is preferred.

**The meeting closed at 16:15**