

Minutes of the Management Committee

23.01.18 – Crossgates

In attendance Neville Richards (NR), Fiona Noyce (FN), Gareth Jones (GJ), Jean Hand (JH), Phil Bowers (PB), Geoff Evans (GE), Alan Screen (A Scr) Julie Davies (JD), 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 Paddy Murphy
2. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 20.09.17** – The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
3. **Matters arising from those minutes** – none other than those further discussed, see below.
4. **Introduction of Julie Davies – Education and Liaison Officer**

Julie Davies had been invited to attend the meeting in order to meet members of the Management Committee, many of whom she had been in contact with but most she had not met “face to face”. Following introductions, Julie was invited to give the committee a brief overview of the activities so far in her short tenure.

E-mails had been sent out to all club secretaries with responses from about 20. There was considerable apathy and a reluctance to change. From this initial contact and further follow up, ten people had agreed to attend a “train the trainer” event which Julie would run, the final preparation for which is well underway.

Julie is tailoring some of the existing WBU training material and using it in conjunction with material she obtained having attended the EBED Training Course. A Scr pointed out that the lessons (available through the WBU website) which he had used were of high quality but that there was some difficulty with the dup. files for preparing set hands. NR pointed out that the New Zealand Bridge Association had links to some excellent training material including files for preparing set hands.

JH pointed out that the WBU membership and that of most NBO’s is an aging demographic, and everyone agreed that this is the target audience for teaching bridge. Most new members of clubs are retirees with almost no young people coming into the game.

GE suggested that some potential teachers might be put off by having to undergo DBS checks, NR reminded everyone that DBS checks could be done f.o.c. through the WBU.

AS remains in contact with Hilary Jones - Wales U3A Trustee, with potential to support teaching of bridge at U3A groups.

GE pointed out that EWBA will run a "no fear" event alongside their August Congress. GE to send the details to AS so that he could get U3A to advertise amongst their members. NR stated that MWBA would have a "really easy" section, so it is clear this is an emerging sector.

GE also said that Sarah Amos who has been newly appointed as Chief TD at Cardiff was running lessons.

5. **NTO report (JH) –**

NTO report circulated prior to the meeting. See appendix A-:

JH reported that the calendar was done (the exception being the Ladies Weekend) with competitions generally being on the same date as last year. The Ladies Weekend had clashed with an event in the EBU calendar and as there had been significant support from players from across the border JH to, look at what could be done. Clashes are inevitable and obviously we should avoid a clash with a WBU event.

There was again some discussion in respect of the difficulty in deciphering the master-point allocation for various competitions. It is clear the "Masterpoint handbook 2003" was far too complicated and no longer valid. The SBU Handbook is considerably simpler and A Scr agreed to take a look at it to see if it can be adapted to suit WBU needs. AS to get a copy to A Scr.

GE raised the subject of a new event in West Wales, a Swiss Pairs offering green points. GJ to check with the NTO and discuss at the next WWBA Meeting. GE pointed out that the event clashed with an EWBA Western League match almost certainly resulting in the loss of several pairs who would otherwise have played in the WWBA competition.

6. **Treasurers Report (FN)**

Fiona presented the balance sheet for the period of April to December. See **appendix B.**

Bank balance as of 3rd January £25,963.23

FN had installed the Sage software for use with the WBU activity and needed with the introduction of digital tax accounting required by HMRC.

Purchase of a PayPal terminal was suggested which could be used at congresses simplifying payment and avoiding cash transactions. PayPal payments made as a "friends and family" transaction don't incur additional charges. NR pointed out that many people already use PayPal when entering Llangollen

7. **Membership and Master-point secretary report – (PB)** Phil presented the summary of the Match Funding awards, following the meeting on 8th November to review all applications.

23 clubs had applied, awards were made to all, with awards of more than 50% to 8 clubs and slightly reduced awards to two clubs. The total amount was close to £19 000. Feedback had been extremely positive.

8. **WBU Director rates for 2018**

The rates for 2017 were reviewed the decision was made that they would remain the same for 2018.

9. **Patrick Jourdain's bequest** - NR circulated a letter from Patrick's sister Susan, which indicated that Patrick had left £10 000 to the WBU. A copy of NR's reply is attached. See **appendix C**. It was decided to use the money to make an annual award "The Patrick Jourdain Award" to someone who had made a significant contribution to Welsh bridge, but who wouldn't otherwise be recognised. The award to be a keepsake t.b.d.

It was agreed that the first recipients should be Mr. and Mrs. Spalding who have been incredibly supportive of North Wales bridge over many decades with Mrs Spalding recently suffering from ill health.

Future nominations to be presented to the MC by the Area Representatives.

10. **CEO report**

i) Proposal from David Stevenson - There was considerable discussion about discontinuing both the Welsh Cup and Cambria Cup, as with reducing entries both competitions will make a loss. An offer had been received from David Stevenson to run both competitions for two years with a changed format. It was agreed that David would be given the chance. It would be made clear that each competition should at least break even.

ii) Junior Camrose – Following some debate the consensus was that Wales should enter a team, albeit a team of four, in this year's Junior Camrose Trophy to be hosted by England in Coventry. The team, Sarah Greener, Stephen Loat, Jonny Richards and Joe Mullally. Three have played JC previously and Joe has played in the Peggy Bayer. An NPC to be selected. AS to advise Dawn Mertens.

iii) AS indicated that JH had visited The Beaufort Park Hotel near Mold, North Wales which appeared a very suitable potential venue for the Tetscher Trophy. AS subsequently visited also and the unanimous decision of the MC was that it should be booked. AS to contact Fearghal O' Boyle (who had directed the Lady Milne so

ably), to be chief TD and Sandra Claridge (who had stepped in to be Match Manager at short notice) to see if she wanted to be the Match Manager for the Teltscher Trophy. AS to advise BGB.

iv) AS is still in contact with Hilary Jones - Wales U3A Trustee. It was disappointing that the NWBA no fear event which U3A had planned to advertise amongst its North Wales members was cancelled.

v) NR and AS will attend the EBL NBO Officers Seminar in Belfast in early February. AS gave a brief synopsis of the schedule. See **appendix D**.

11. **Newsletter editor** – The advert was on the front page of the website, no interest yet.
12. **Online teams** – AS spoke to Yuan Shen and Julian Pottage at the Premier league. Yuan who has recently got married was slightly reluctant to commit himself at the moment, but wasn't averse to being involved later. Julian would be OK to support this year 2018. AS to liaise with Julian with a view to introducing a WBU on-line knockout this year.
13. **Presidential Report. See appendix E.** Everyone agreed that the competition structure requires a detailed review and overhaul, needed to better appeal to a changed and changing membership. A task force to be convened.
14. **AOB** – An e-mail was received from Andrea Knox indicating she wished to volunteer to be a member of the Laws and Ethics Committee. The MC is always glad to receive offers of help, particularly from new volunteers. It was however pointed out that according to the Constitution it is the role of Council to appoint committees including "8.4.1.4 Laws and Ethics - consisting of three members elected by the Council, with powers to co-opt as necessary with the President's approval." There is therefore currently no vacancy. A Scr did say that if the L & E ever required expert advice, they would be happy to consult.

NWBA does not have an area disciplinary committee and wanted to know if they could refer an appeal in respect of a disciplinary matter directly to the WBU L & E. Alan Screen a current member of the L & E indicated that any club or Area Association could and perhaps should refer disciplinary issues to the L & E.

A proposal from Adrian Trickey EWBA for a new competition Champion of Champions was received and presented to the MC. Designed to avoid area qualifiers the view was that it is a very good idea. There were some reservations about a two day final, as feedback suggests fewer people want to have an overnight stay and this is impacting on many existing competitions. GE to feedback to Adrian.

15. **Date of next meeting** – Tuesday March 20th at Crossgates. With recent changes to Skype and difficulties which have been experienced a "face to face" meeting is preferred.

The meeting closed at 16:15