

Minutes of the WBU Management Committee Meeting

Crossgates Community Hall, Crossgates

27th November 2018

Present: Sarah Amos (President), Jean Hand (NTO& Chair), Fiona Noyce (Hon Treasurer), Phil Bowers (Membership & Masterpoints Secretary), Alan Screen (MWBA), Gareth Jones (WWBA), Geoff Evans (EWBA), Neville Richards.

1. Apologies for absence – none received
2. Minutes of Management Committee meeting from 9th October 2018 were approved.
3. Treasurers report

Bank current account stands at 27K and deposit at 95K. FN has applied to transfer 15.5K from Building society to Current account in December to cover monies paid out in matched funding

Profit from simultaneous events is around 30% of entry money.

FN raised the President's grant given to the area staging the AGM, Perry, Spickett and President's Cup. Grant is currently 1,500 but recommendation was to reduce it to 500 from 2020. It was originally intended to assist with the extra expense of the President's Cup . This was recommendation was agreed.

NTOs report

JH had received enquiries about the format of the Welsh and Cambria Cups from players not understanding how the double elimination format worked. PB pointed out a clear explanation from DS on the WBU website.

JH had been contacted by Gilly Clench about a date for running the Ladies Weekend in 2019. It was agreed that if the event was to be an official WBU weekend then all entrants would have to be members.

Players from NWBA had again raised the subject of the Seniors Trials being held in Cardiff and therefore inaccessible to players from the North.

Champion of Champions Competition. Needs explaining and promoting in Areas and clubs. Entry fees and prize money to be agreed once sponsorship possibilities have been discussed with Adria Trickey. The Metropole is booked for the competition at a cost of 395.00 for the room plus food in the break.

Phil Bowers

Report on matched funding

The final cycle of matched funding is now over and a total of 29 clubs have benefited for the scheme.

FN suggested revisiting the scheme from 2020 as clubs will want to catch up with new technology by then. The scheme should run for two further years.
4. Health & Safety in WBU areas and clubs

FN raised the issue of protecting an aging bridge playing population and wondered whether clubs were aware of their responsibilities towards their members. She proposed the possibility of contacting a H&S firm with a view to commissioning a guide for clubs. The topic

of insurance was discussed and while clubs are able to take advantage of insurance cover arranged by the WBU we do not know how many clubs take up this offer.

PB to email club secretaries to find out how many have a H & S policy and how many have Insurance.

5. Division of jobs previously carried out by CEO
WBU MC was originally conceived as a small independent group that would be able to make decisions about the day to day running of the WBU quickly and easily. Due to Areas wanting representation it has become unwieldy and lacks the skills and abilities to carry this out. Gwynn Davis has offered to compile a list of jobs that could be used to allocate roles. The MC agreed to take up this offer.
The WBU constitution – will need updating if we are to continue without a CEO but with a Secretary instead. This is a matter for the Council and AGM. It might be necessary to restructure the MC to recruit talented individuals with the energy and enthusiasm to drive the WBU forward. The original concept was that this impetus would come from the CEO with the President's role to be "kissing babes".
6. There have been no applications for the post of Hon Secretary.
7. WBU Graded Masters – entries have been low, JH to check with ATOs on Monday 3rd December to ensure heats are viable.
8. It was agreed that Ecats would be asked to run the St David's Day Simultaneous Pairs in 2019. The Celtic Sims will not take place next year due to a clash with an EBU Sim.
9. JH reported that she has stepped down as a selector and Alan Stephenson has replaced her. A report has been received from the Selectors with regard to funding for teams representing Wales in the Home Internationals. It was agreed to offer accommodation only for the Camrose and Lady Milne teams (NPCs to be fully funded) and a grant of £100.00 per player for the Teltscher Trophy. It was also agreed that there would be no support available for the new European Mixed Teams Competition.
10. Camrose 2019 – Preparations are well underway. Sarah Hurst the match manager has been in discussions with the hotel. SA agreed to write an appeal for helpers to post on WBU and BWBA websites. NWBA will be asked to provide boards. Transportation of screen tables, computers and other equipment will need to be arranged from Crossgates and back. NR to order personal scored cards.
11. Junior Camrose – Gilly Clench is the NPC for the JC in Northern Ireland in Feb 2019. Wales will send one team of six only as we are unable to field a Peggy Bayer team. Gilly will arrange online training for the team.
12. AOB
WBU Midweek Congress – October 2019.
NR to approach Baskerville Hall ne Hay on Wye with a view to using it as a venue for the new congress.

Patrick Jourdain's bequest

SA proposed preparing mini-bridge packs for distribution to members. Packs would contain two packs of WBU cards, mini-bridge instructions and card holders for younger children. They would be aimed at encouraging WBU Members to teach their family members to play mini-bridge with the hope that they will later take up bridge proper.

Meeting closed at 2:45

Next meeting Tuesday 15th January 2019