

# Minutes of the WBU Management Committee Meeting

Crossgates Community Hall, Crossgates

9<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Present: Sarah Amos (President), Jean Hand (NTO), Fiona Noyce (Hon Treasurer), Phil Bowers (Membership & Masterpoints Secretary), Paddy Murphy (NWBA) by phone, Alan Screen (MWBA), Gareth Jones (WWBA), Neville Richards.

1. Apologies for absence – Geoff Evans
2. Minutes of Management Committee meeting from 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 were approved.
3. Treasurers report –

Bank current account stands at 42K and 2,187'87 has been received from the EBU backdated overseas licence fees.

FN reported that all Area affiliations are now paid and outstanding entry fees are now cleared.

DS had asked for and received a report of entry fees paid for Welsh and Cambria Cups. FN had produced a report on income and expenditure for Simultaneous Pairs competitions. Despite clear instructions, there had been some confusion about entry fees for the Autumn Sim Pairs with cheques being sent to ecats as well as to the WBU. FN will request a breakdown of the administration charge levied by ecats in addition to the scoring fee. NR confirmed that Lusaka Bridge Club pay their entry fees every 2-3 years. There was a feeling that some clubs are reducing the number of Sims they play due to the high cost.

NTOs report

Welsh Cup is still incomplete the final will be between Salisbury and Kurbalija. Prize money for the current Welsh and Cambria Cups will be dependent on the entry. There had been complaints from North Wales players about the Seniors Trials being held in Cardiff.

Welsh Foursomes was not held this year but should be revived next 14<sup>th</sup>& 15<sup>th</sup> September. JH to discuss with NWBA ATO to explore holding in North Wales. PM said the 2017 was excellent. It was played in an all play all format and attracted a very high-quality field. The Garden Room at the Metropole, Llandrindod Wells has been booked for the Champion of Champions Final on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019. This competition replaces the National Open Pairs.

Membership and Masterpoints Secretary's Report

The closing date for Matched Funding applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October and four applications have been received so far. This is the final year of the scheme and so far the WBU has paid out 27K out of a possible 40K.
4. WBU Competitions

SA raised a query about the division of sections in the Graded Masters. It was agreed that this would be based solely of the most up to date ranking list.

Presidents Cup –NWBA had suggested that there should be Green Point awards for the Presidents Cup and this was agreed. Points to be as the current scale but Green instead of local points. It was hoped that this would encourage participation.

Start times – at least two North Wales pairs have said that they will not play in Trials in Mid Wales that start at 11:00. It was agreed that the recommendation should be made to the Selectors that the start time should be 12:00 noon.

National Teams of Eight – Final to be in Mid Wales JH to approach the Elephant and Castle in Newtown and Pant y Dwr Hall near Rhayder to check size, availability and price.

5. WBU Secretary

SA reported that the HMRC had advised that the proposed 3,000 honoraria would be counted as an employment by them. She suggested that perhaps the time had come to employ a part time secretary. After some discussion the decision was taken that the WBU could not become an employer and so will advertise for a volunteer from among the membership to become WBU Administrative Secretary.

It was agreed that the MC should take on more of the previous CEO roles – NR to come up with a list of duties to be taken on.

Area Committees to be asked to recommend members who might be approached.

NR to put a notice on website

6. WBU Website

It was agreed to set up a Bridgewebs website for uploading and displaying competition results. NR to action.

7. Junior Camrose

SA had been approached by Northern Ireland to ask if Wales would be sending teams to the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer in 2019.

SA has consulted with Paul Denning and made approaches to potential team members. FN reported that finance was not an issue for team training and expenses. It is difficult to identify and recruit junior players in Wales without a Junior Coordinator and individuals with the knowledge and will to run a junior bridge programme.

In order to encourage junior bridge we would need to get into schools which requires commitment and regular support. There is free entry for juniors to WBU events but this is not taken up. SA to contact the education office Julie Davies and selectors and notify Irish and Northern Irish if a team can be sent.

8. AOB

FN asked committee members to consider whether the grant to areas of 1,500.00 for staging the Perry, Spickett, President's Cup and AGM should be increased, reduced or scrapped.

FN asked each area rep to bring a copy of their accounts to the next MC meeting

Meeting closed at 3:15