

WELSH BRIDGE UNION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 3rd June 2018 in Llandrindod Wells

Present: President, Neville Richards; Vice-Presidents, Geoff Evans (EWBA) Alan Screen (MWBA) Gareth Jones (WWBA); Hon Treasurer, Fiona Noyce; National Tournament Organiser, Jean Hand; Membership and Master Points Secretary, Phil Bowers; Chief Executive Officer, Alan Stephenson, and 55 other members.

Apologies for absence: Paddy Murphy Vice-President (NWBA), Gilly Clench

- 1 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 4th June 2017. Received, approved and adopted as a correct record.
- 2 Treasurer's Report. This was tabled and questions were invited. John Waller asked for clarification regarding expenses for international events; this was answered satisfactorily. The adoption of the Report was proposed by Sheila Shea, seconded by Mike Tedd and approved.
- 3 National Tournament Organiser's Report, Presented by Jean Hand, NTO and on file. There is continuing concern regarding the decline in Competition entries. One of the causes may be travel difficulties. Would Sims style events attract more entries? Sheila Shea appealed for start times to revert to 12noon instead of 11a.m. Mike Tedd supported this proposal. Sarah Amos appealed to members to submit any fresh ideas that might improve the situation.
- 4 Jean Hand thanked Gilly Clench for organising a successful Ladies' Weekend
- 5 President's Report, on file*** Gwynn Davis commented on potential problems with any idea of uniting with the EBU even if EBU should find such a move acceptable.
- 6 Membership and Master Points Secretary Report. Phil Bowers informed the meeting that there are 48 affiliated Clubs in the Union although one had recently folded. Numbers of members stand at 2100 as against 1600 last year. EWBA has the largest number of members, followed by NWBA – previously WWBA had the second highest number of members. The income from Master points was £650 a month. The coming year will be the last one when Matched Funding will be available to Clubs. Various questions on Master Point technicalities were answered and Phil Bowers was thanked for his efforts.
- 7 Membership subscription for 2019-2020. Agreed to be increased by £1.
- 8 Appointment of Committees. Finance : President, Treasurer and vacancies.
Selection : Mike Tedd (MWBA), Paul Denning (EWBA) Paddy Murphy (NWBA) Tony Disley (WWBA) Jean Hand 2 more places available.
Laws & Ethics : Tony Disley, Alan Screen, Mike Tedd.
These appointments were confirmed by the meeting.
- 9 Proposed amendment to the Constitution: clause 14.2 All National Competitions and trials run under the auspices of the Welsh Bridge Union should be run by a Director who has never at any time been disqualified or prohibited for more than a year by WBF, EBL, NOC, NBO to which they belong, another EBL, NBO or any other Sports Federation. Proposed by Andrea Knox, seconded by Gilly Clench.

A vigorous discussion ensued during which the following points were made:

That the proposal was inappropriate as a constitutional matter; rather it should be included within Regulations or Bye Laws.

The matter had already been considered by the Management Committee and had not been accepted so this proposal appeared to be another attempt to get such a policy enshrined within official intentions.

That such decisions were within the remit of the Selectors

Mike Tedd considered the importance of taking into account the sentiments of the players concerned.

Gwynn Davis was eloquent in his opposing the proposal that he said smacked of a personal vendetta.

When Judith Graham-Jones called for next business and a move to support or oppose the proposal Andrea Knox agreed to withdraw it and the meeting proceeded to other matters.

10 Election of Officers for the forthcoming year:

Treasurer: Fiona Noyce. National Tournament Organiser: Jean Hand. Membership and Master Points Secretary: Phil Bowers.

Proposed by Alan Screen, seconded by Judith Graham-Jones and elected en bloc

11 Investiture of the new President: Neville Richards presented the chain of office to Sarah Amos who commented on her pleasure at receiving such an honour. She appealed for more Juniors, more volunteers and more fresh ideas.

As no items for discussion had been received the meeting closed at 12.30pm.

Date of the next AGM: 2nd June 2019

J. Graham-Jones,
Minutes Secretary