

Minutes of the WBU Management Committee Meeting

Crossgates Community Hall, Crossgates

5th February 2019

Present: Sarah Amos (President), Jean Hand (NTO& Chair), Fiona Noyce (Hon Treasurer), Phil Bowers (Membership & Masterpoints Secretary), Gareth Jones (WWBA), Geoff Evans (EWBA), Neville Richards, Paddy Murphy (NWBA – by phone)

1. Apologies for absence – Alan Screen
2. Minutes of Management Committee meeting from 27th November 2018 were approved.

3. Treasurers report

FN reported that accounts had been received from all area treasurers except NWBA. JH is having trouble accessing bank as local branch has closed.

The Camrose accounts have all been invoiced and paid,

Graded Masters accounts have not been received from North and East and prize money has not yet been paid as FN needed to check that they had not been paid out of table money.

3K of matched funding invoices are yet to be submitted.

The recommendation by MC that the subsidy for the Presidents Cup be reduced to 500.00 per year should be on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

FN reported that the WBU corporation tax return has been filed and there is no tax to pay.

Finance Committee needs to meet before next Council meeting. FN to arrange for early March.

SA proposed an honorarium of 150.00 be paid to Sarah Hurst in recognition of the great job she did as Match Manager of the Camrose in January.

Deposit account has been reduced by 15.5K from Building society to Current account to cover monies paid out in matched funding.

NTOs report

There was a discussion about Area events and whether they should be open to members who have a different area of first allegiance. It was pointed out that if events were open to all then they would require a licence and be liable to pay 12% of the entry to WBU. Events restricted to Area of 1st allegiance members (1 pairs and 1 teams per year) would not need a licence.

JH had discussed dates for the Ladies Weekend in 2019 with Gilly Clench and the weekend of 31st Aug/1st Sept was favourite.

PM and SA agreed to run Graded Masters in 2019 on 8th Dec on the same basis as last year. Champion of Champions Competition. So far 4 ½ tables entered – Metropole booked entry fees should be paid in advance. It was agreed that the buffet menu at 10.80 per person be ordered. No sponsorship has been forthcoming JH to contact A Trickey re: finding sponsorship. FN has links to mid Wales companies which might be interested in sponsorship. PM suggested Halen Mon and SA said she would contact as she known the owners.

There was some discussion about the rate charged for trials. The seniors trials at Cardiff were charged at 25.00 per person and there was a surplus of over 100.00. Premier League was 40.00 but that included lunch on both days and also covered the costs involved. It was agreed that table money for this year's Webber Cup should be 25.00 per person.

Phil Bowers

A new MP ranking list will be published at the end of February

This year's subscription is due on 1st April and will be increased to 11.00 in line with AGM decision. There will be no increase in Area subs.

PB had received and sent out leaflets from Sam Punch about her "Keep Bridge Alive" initiative. It was agreed that the WBU supported Sam but was not making a financial contribution.

Overall WBU membership is growing

SA raised a complaint from an English player that MPs from Welsh events took a very long time to arrive in her EBU account. PB agreed that MPs needed to be processed in a timely fashion and that receiving them in the correct format helped to ensure this happened.

NR reported that the Bridgewebs Results site was working well.

4. Request from NWBA to consider financial support for players travelling to trials in the south. It was felt that the NWBA should support players. PM pointed out that some of those concerned do not support NWBA events and that this was not a prerequisite for trialists seeking to represent Wales. GJ thought any support might come from the selectors budget.
5. WBU Secretary
No applications have been received.
FN stated that employing a secretary or CEO was not a hurdle that couldn't be overcome, either in house or contracted out.
NR proposed that Areas could be asked to pay a levy of up to 5K pa to help finance this.
It was agreed to call a Council Meeting for 19th March 2019 and invite comments from all Areas.
6. NTO role
NR said he was concerned not with JH's work but with the amount of roles being hived off. NTO responsible for the difficult job of organising the calendar.
Various competitions have been hived off to various organisations and communications with the Treasurer are not good so it is difficult for FN to keep track of entry moneys received.
SA pointed out that the ATOs felt were helping by taking on responsibility for heats held in their areas.
7. The Camrose first weekend held in North Wales was a great success. Sarah Hurst submitted her Match Managers report and the committee expressed their gratitude for her efficient organisation.
8. Junior Camrose. All preparation are complete. Gilly Clench is NPC and our 6 Junior Players are looking forward to taking part.

9. New Midweek Congress - October 2019.

SA had visited Baskerville Hall and agreed with NR that it will make an excellent venue. NR and SA to finalise costs and charges and produce a brochure.

AOB

Teams of 8 – no venue booked JH reported that the Elephant and Castle in Newtown was available. SA asked if the new Mid Wales Congress Venue in Builth Wells would be suitable. NR to check availability.

Wels Foursomes – 14th September PM agreed to investigate holding in North Wales.

SA proposed holding advanced TD training Course in South Wales later this year. This was agreed.

Meeting closed at 2:50