

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting

Tuesday 25th June 2019

Crossgates Hall, Llandrindod Wells, 11.30.

Those present: President David Newman (WWBA), Neville Richards, Alan Screen (MWBA), Fiona Noyce (Treasurer, WBU), Geoff Evans (EWBA)(Minutes), Steve Webb (EWBA)-New WBU Masterpoint and Membership Secretary)

Our new President was warmly welcomed to his first meeting MC meeting as President. In turn, the President welcomed Steve Webb to his first MC meeting as new MPM Secretary. The MPMS does not have a vote on the MC, but is always welcomed to keep the Committee up-to-date with developments.

1. Apologies for absence. There were none, though it transpired later that Jean Hand (WBU NTO) was severely delayed en route by a road accident, which would have curtailed her appearance by two hours. Paddy Murphy was waiting to be contacted by Skype but it did not happen and no contact from Gareth Jones

2. Minutes of MC Meeting held at Crossgates on 05 February 2019.

These were accepted.

One matter arising-AS. 'Area Green Point events have traditionally been open only to members whose first allegiance is to that area.' Players are, these days, welcome to play in other Area's Green Point Competitions but should not be awarded Green Points. (If a player has not entered his own Area event, but enters the equivalent event in another Area, he may qualify for Green Points, but a ruling is needed from the Masterpoint Handbook.)

For some years, corresponding Green Point events were held on the same days, to deter double entries. Recently, this practice has been abandoned to encourage more entries from other Areas, however it is not correct to advertise these events as 'open' suggesting that visitors may qualify for Green Points.

A proposed MC Meeting on 14th May had to be cancelled as several of the voting members were unavailable-the meeting would therefore not have been quorate.

3. Officers Reports.

The **NTO** had not arrived, so was unable to give a report.

Treasurer.

As of 24th June 2019, there was £36,641 in the Bank Account. The Monmouthshire Building Society held £75,000.

EBU have been invoiced for £859 for overseas licences for 2018.

Awaiting details from Ecats for Sims.

Has inquired about specific insurances such as Tax Investigation Protection. Neville confirmed that current insurers DAS cover this.

The new Mid-Week Congress will submit 12% of income to WBU-licence fee.

12 clubs have still not submitted their details of membership for the new bridge year. Treasurer is awaiting payments!

Graded Masters winners still unpaid awaiting clarification. Consensus was that we agreed £50 per pair to the top pair in each of the 4 sections. Telscher refund expected from Scotland. Welsh competitors were allowed £100 per head for travel, but had to pay their own hotel expenses. WBU have paid hotel bill, and will invoice players for their accommodation less the £100.

National Treasurer wants a meeting with the 4 Area Treasurers asap so that they can put their collective views to the Working Party.

MMPS.

Steve Webb has just taken over this role and is learning the ropes. He is working in tandem with Phil Bowers, reducing the backlog of work. They are in discussion with Tony Haworth about the new Masterpoint Handbook; there may be some difficulties implementing the new rules; more discussion needed, so would like to delay any hard and fast decisions for the time being. Some of the suggestions seem to conflict with the corresponding EBU Handbook, so would prefer not to commit pen to paper until resolved.

WBU have 2228 members, but only 339 have signed up to the WBU Mailchimp allowing publicity/information emails from the WBU.

Neville stated that the WBU did not need a Compliance Officer (EBU have one as they are a professional body) to monitor email shots.

Gordon Raynsford is the EBU Compliance Officer.

One specific decision was that in Perry/Spickett/Presidents, Green Points are currently awarded after the combined VP scores after 30 boards against each of the other Areas. They will now be awarded after each 10 board stanza.

4. Report on Working Party.

This group was inaugurated at the Council Meeting prior to the WBU AGM on 2nd June 2019. The first meeting was held at Church Stretton on 17th June 2019. Details of this meeting are in the accompanying attachment which has been sent to all Clubs and Areas for feedback. This document had only been finalised that morning; discussion was mainly about the report in general, which was new to some of those in attendance.

Lottery Grants were mentioned. GE said that Somerset CBA had applied for and received a Lottery grant for Bridge Purposes some 4 years ago. Welsh international player Ceri Pierce is a Somerset member; she would be contacted for information on how this successful application was made.

5. Master Points Handbook.

First re-write since 2003. Green Point tables have to be compatible with those of the EBU. Sometimes difficult because whilst their events might attract 100+ teams, we might have less than 20.

Cambria and Welsh Cup Green Points need to be reconfigured to cope with the double elimination element; Green points are awarded for each stanza in each match, and progressive amounts as teams progress.

Awards are set dependent on entries. The Premier League, which did not figure in 2003, on the other hand is straightforward.

6. Website.

David to discuss various issues with Neville and Sarah.

7. Education -Training

It was suggested that each Area had a person on the Committee to dealwith this, to develop school contacts/ education.

The Portland Cup was mentioned-this is the EBU's annual bridge competition for schools and universities. The final was held at the Portland Club London about 8 weeks ago. Finalists were Oxford B, (winners) Durham, Imperial and one other.

There is also an annual event for schools at the same venue supported by the David Davenport Foundation (see website).

It is extremely likely that these two events have players who, if not born in Wales, have at least one Welsh parent or grandparent qualifying them to play in the Junior Camrose. David has said that he will contact the EBU to try to get contact details for these various establishments. Neville suggested Gordon Raynsford as first point of contact.

8. Publicity.

Again requested that all clubs have designated Press Officer. At any event that has prizewinners someone with a digital camera should take photographs for press releases. Local papersare always crying out for copy such as local winners at Bridge events.

9. Dates of next meetings

30th July, 3rd September, 8th October, 19th November.

10. Any other business.

BGB meetings were to be attended by Paul Denning.

The President was disappointed that three delegates had not arrived, but felt that even with a low turnout, the quality of discussion had been excellent.

The meeting closes at 2.55