

Minutes of WBU Council Meeting

Tuesday 19th March 2019 11.30

Crossgates Hall,

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Llandrindod Wells

Those present; Sarah Amos (WBU President); Fiona Noyes (WBU Treasurer), Phil Bowers (Masterpoint Secretary), Jean Hand (NTO), Geoff Evans (Chairman EWBA), Neville Richards (Mid Wales), Rod Sheard (North Wales) Eros lasillo (Mid Wales), Tony Disley (West Wales), David Newman, (West Wales, next WBU President), Dennis Backer (East Wales, new Junior Co-ordinator); also Paddy Murphy (North Wales) on Speakerphone.

1. Apologies for absence. Gareth Jones, Adrian Trickey, Alan Screen
2. Minutes of last Council Meeting, 12th June 2018
There were no matters arising.
3. Officers' Reports.
 - 1 Treasurer provided accounts up to and including 13th March, 2019. £15,000 had been allocated to Clubs in the most recent tranche of Matched Funding. It was felt that this subject would be revisited after a break of 3 years.
GE mentioned that whilst we had previously budgeted £10,000 for the current financial year for a chief executive, this position had not been filled, neither that of a WBU Secretary to share the burden. However, a great deal of work to cover these two positions had been done by Sarah Amos and Neville Richards. It would be fitting if they were to receive some of this cash. The meeting was in full agreement, and both were awarded £3,000. Each would submit an invoice for work completed. This would not count as an honorarium.
 2. Membership Secretary reported that WBU membership was over 2200, similar to last year.
 3. NTO reported 8 teams in Webber, 53 pairs in National Mixed Pairs. 24 pairs entered inaugural Champion of Champions event at Metropole, Llandrindod.
Event was voted a success, and would be repeated next year. Sponsorship was sought but did not materialise-however, as the event is now up and running, there is still hope for next year. Photographs and newspaper publicity would certainly help.
It was decided to bring back the National Open Pairs, as with the Mixed, played in four centres.
Teams of 8. 9 Teams in final would be ideal, but Crossgates cannot hold 18 tables. Mid Wales unlikely to hold a heat; previously, a Mid Wales team has entered final without qualifying; this was not considered to be a good idea. Crossgates might manage an 8 team final (not ideal, because of sharing boards) if one of the smaller rooms was used.
4. Future Management of WBU. After the last Council Meeting, where the CEO tendered his resignation, a great deal of time was spent discussing whether to employ another CEO and/or a secretary. Various discussions with HMRC, ACAS etc proved that any CEO would certainly be an employee, and would have leave to take the WBU to a tribunal if things didn't work out. MC eventually decided not to employ another CEO, and to advertise for a secretary, but there were no takers.

It was felt that several changes to the Management set up were required; we really need people with time, who are prepared to join and work for the Committee, and that advertising for them would probably be the best option.

TD felt that the President's term should be 2-3 years, to facilitate continuity.

It was felt that we should aim for one President, and one undefined role (eg secretary), to act as contact person.

Provide more descriptive information on these roles and MC members along the lines of
What the WBU must do,
What the WBU should do, and
What the WBU could do.

SA and NR to work on compiling this and list of jobs/duties that need to be covered by Management Committee.

This would need changes to the Constitution. Mike Tedd to be approached to see if he is willing to assist. Sarah to consult with Gwynn Davis who has offered to help with future Management changes.

It was hoped to have a new framework by June, to put to the AGM for ideas.

5 Proposed levy on WBU Area funds.

This was suggested at a previous MC meeting to help with the salaries of CEO/Secretary. As no appointments have been made, this item was now redundant, though most Area Treasurers were certainly not in favour!

6 Junior Bridge Initiative. (Patrick Jourdain's bequest)

Dennis Backer was the only applicant for the Junior Coordinator post and has taken up the role.

A meeting was held on 7th March, Sarah, Gilly Clench, Mark Roderick, Sarah Greener (Junior) and Dennis Backer who is the new Junior Co-ordinator.

Dennis's report on the meeting is attached as appendix A.

Situation is dire. With only 6 juniors in Wales, and no Peggy Bayer team, we have to host the 2020 Junior Camrose, preferably with two teams in both Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer - a minimum of 24 players! 10 months to go!

Need to find players who are qualified but are unaware of it. Born in Wales, one parent born in Wales, or student studying in Wales.

Suggestion was made to contact EBU for the contact details of all schools and universities that compete for the annual EBU Schools/universities competition, in order to find eligible players. Sarah to contact EBU.

PDJ Bequest to be used to fund mini-bridge packs including leaflets and hopefully the PDJ book on minibridge. These available to any and all WBU members. Teachers who play bridge very much encouraged to try to encourage pupils to learn. Also, grandparents and parents to try to wean their offspring from phones and Gameboys onto bridge.

DB reported an approach from the Swedish Bridge Association inviting applications for a free team entry to their Presidents Cup. It would involve the WBU in covering travel and accommodation costs. It was agreed that the current juniors would be better served by playing in Welsh Congresses and competitions along with online and other training and coaching opportunities.

- 7 Competition Review. Mainly covered by ATO. The Welsh Foursomes was to be taking place in North Wales, but nothing seems to have happened yet.

The new midweek congress at Hay on Wye has been organised-dates October 8th to 10th

- 8 AOB. There was no other business, and the meeting closed at 3.00.

The next Council meeting will be prior to the AGM in Cardiff on Sunday morning at 10.00.