

# Minutes of WBU Management Committee Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019

## Commodore Hotel, Llandrindod Wells 11.30

Those present: WBU President David Newman, NTO Jean Hand, Neville Richards, Alan Screen (both Mid-Wales), Gareth Jones (West Wales), Geoff Evans (minutes)(East Wales); Paddy Murphy (North Wales) on Skype.

Apologies Fiona Noyce (Treasurer).

### Attachments

- 1 Treasurer's Report
- 2 NTO Report
- 3 MP + Membership Sec Report
- 4 Latest report on Working Party-(President)

1. Minutes of the previous MC meeting

These were accepted as correct.

2. Matters Arising

Gareth Jones apologised for missing the two previous meetings; poor Internet connections - now happily restored-were mainly responsible.

3. Officer's reports. 9please see attachments)

Treasurer. Fiona still awaiting information from David Stevenson on the finances of the Welsh and Cambria Cup Finals. No table money was charged, and WBU had to pay for room hire and for the services of a Director. It was decided that next year, each team would pay £10 per head table money per Final. Prize Money was fixed at £200 for the Welsh Cup winners, £150 for Cambria Cup winners and £100 and £75 for runners up, respectively. The question of Presidential expenses for travelling to Congresses/Finals was brought up. Traditionally, the President is invited to attend such events, possibly to add a bit of gravitas to the proceedings! It was agreed that the inviting Area would pay travelling expenses. All Area Chairmen agreed to this. Entry to Congresses is free to the President but not to his/her partner. They make their own accommodation arrangements. Current expenses would be paid in full. Fiona to have input on a 'honorarium' for the President to attend events which can prove costly over the period of tenure.

National Tournament Organiser. Jean is waiting for the go-ahead on booking the Junior Camrose venue. Beaufort Park will not hold it's prices after this week. Newport University the other option. Welsh Foursomes took place at Wrexham Sat and Sunday just gone. 11 teams, excellent venue. Strong Manchester contingent which we would not get if played in South Wales. Organiser Paddy said the event made a small profit. With more notice and publicity, should be a bigger field next year. Venue can hold 24 tables. Paddy was given the go-ahead to organise same event in 2020. This year the event clashed with The Isle of Man Congress and the Bermuda Bowl etc, with many English, Irish and Scottish competitors in China

Reports from Sarah Amos and others on Gilly Clench's 'Womens' Weekend ' were full of praise. 13 .5 tables of pairs and 11 teams. Gilly had booked a small hotel for the weekend- amazing in itself as there was a Rugby World Cup trial match between Wales and Ireland that weekend, with most Cardiff Hotels charging £3-400 per night. She also took over a restaurant for the Saturday evening. Well done.

Masterpoint and Membership Report Only those members who have signed up to Mailchimp can get our email promotional shots.

Special plea-if people who contact MPmemsec could ensure that they provide the correct details of their membership, and use the correct email, [mpmemsec@wbu.org.uk](mailto:mpmemsec@wbu.org.uk)

#### 4. Report on Working Party

Delegates were unanimous (bar the president) that Council should not be eliminated. They felt that the March meeting of up to 20 people, mostly with great experience in WBU affairs over many years, was essential to go through the Financial Affairs etc of the WBU; this could not be accomplished in a 30 minute meeting prior to the AGM. Proxy voting for the WBU AGM also found no support among the delegates.

It was thought that the 'Composition of the Committee' (Team) comprised too many people. For example, 3 people to represent the 'Elite, Younger Members and Novices' could be done sufficiently well by people who don't have to be members of that category.

The 'Team's' responsibilities could be backed up by an 'Administration Officer', responsible for minutes/meetings, ensuring insurances are kept up to date etc. Apparently (HMRC) he/she would not be an employee if he/she needed a substitute at any time. Suggested remuneration £10,000 per annum. Who would deal with official correspondence? Either the Chairman or the Admin Officer. Chairman more likely to know whom to 'farm out' certain issues if he/she were uncertain. Note that there is no 'Secretary' in the proposed structure. Current composition of Working Party-President, Sarah Amos, Mike Tedd and Lee Collier.

Publicity is a huge area sorely neglected by the Bridge Fraternity. Local Press would love copy of local/National results with photographs. Masterpoint Certificates for people moving up the ranks were suggested and welcomed. Presentations could be made at Club events. The Freshers' Fair initiative by East Wales was warmly welcomed and all hoped that it would be successful.

It is hoped that the Working Party would be finalised soon. The Area Treasurers' report should be finished by late October. It is hoped that all can be finalised by the end of January so that any Constitutional changes can be discussed at Council in March, prior to asking for Membership approval at the AGM.

The WP report will not be a definitive document-it could still take input from members provided there is sufficient publicity and, more important, time. Many people do not like change; however, the aim is to improve Welsh Bridge-some may need to compromise!

#### 5. Lottery Application

Somerset received £10,000. A large proportion of grants up to this level are passed without too much difficulty. North Wales made a claim, but it was turned down as not doing enough for the community. From £10,001 up to £100,000, there must be seen to be a clear benefit to the community-it is known as the 'Community Fund'. Lee Collier is preparing our bid. She would like £12,000 for each area, = £48,000 To get any lottery funding in Wales, applications have to be fully inclusive for the Welsh speaking community.

6. Junior Camrose

If held in North Wales, may be difficulties recruiting BBO operatives. Paddy thinks that he could get some Manchester Uni students who might help. At the Newport venue, parking is available at £15 for the weekend. Accommodation is now available (previously some had to be kept on hold for Bristol University students but that issue is now resolved) We are waiting to hear the accommodation rates. Other facilities are excellent.

7. Sponsorship

Bridge Overseas had previously verbally agreed to sponsor the WBU for £5,000. However, their MD, Simon Kelly, reversed his decision that he is at liberty to do. – copies of emails attached. Companies have sponsored wine deals or international shirts in the past; we need more, but need to ask what we can give in return.

8. Behaviour at Bridge.

Problems at a West Wales club seem to have been resolved, though probably not to everyone's satisfaction!

9. Clarification of Masterpoints.

If people belong to two areas, the feeling is that they should be allowed to play in equivalent competitions in both areas, something that has been frowned upon for at least 30 years. Mpmemsec to be asked to change the appropriate legislation.

10. AOB

Some members of Brecon still feel that they would like to be a Mid-Wales club. This was offered to them about 3 years ago, and was rejected by the then membership.

GE asked whether the M C Meetings minutes could include as attachments all the papers submitted to the meeting. This would save time writing what was already in print, and would give non-attendees the basis on which some points were being discussed.

The President asked that each member of the Committee came forward with an idea that could improve Welsh Bridge at the next meeting.

Date of next meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> October, 13.00 at Baskerville Hall

The meeting ended at 15.10