

Minutes of Management Committee meeting Welsh Bridge Union

Tuesday 30th July 2019

Crossgates Hall, Crossgates,

Llandrindod Wells

Present: David Newman (President); Fiona Noyes (Treasurer), Jean Hand (ATO), Neville Richards (MWBA), Alan Screen (MWBA), Geoff Evans (EWBA)(minutes) Paddy Murphy NWBA (by skype)

1. Apologies for absence.
Steve Webb (MMP Sec)
2. Minutes of MC meeting 25th June 2019.
These were accepted as correct.
3. Matters Arising.
Re trying to contact Welsh players in Portland Cup, an email had been sent to EBU asking them to forward it to participating clubs, but there was no response as yet.
4. Officers' Reports.
Treasurer.
Bank balance at 26/07/2019 £52,303.
July Income £10,211 from membership and masterpoints.
Expenditure £1018-MC mileage, Annual BGB sub, software subscription.
PayPal £413. Income mainly from rulebooks. Expenditure £75 Web Hosting Subscription.

MMP

The MMP secretary was absent; no report was given.

NTO.

The change in format of the Teams of Eight had attracted some complaints. Some players would have preferred a hotel venue. There were three objections to the revised format, necessary to accommodate a Mid Wales Team that had emerged well after the final format had been planned. The problem with no Mid Wales qualifier remains unresolved. Whilst it would be preferable if the one team that wanted to play could join another Area's qualifier, it was felt that they would not be received with open arms as there was a good chance that they might qualify instead of a team from that region.

Ideally, we would like a 9 team final. Qualifiers are proportional based on Area entry compared to total entry. If Mid Wales were to enter, then they should attempt to have some sort of qualifier; joint entries from 2 or more clubs are permitted. The NTO to discuss with ATO's and decide definite rules for the future

The Champion of Champions final held at the Metropole was voted a success. However, table money was £15 per head, of which £10 went to the cost of food. Venue cost £395 after some hard bargaining by Jean. Promised sponsorship did not materialise. If that remains the case then entry fees must rise. Qualifying clubs are strongly encouraged to pay for their Champions' entry fee. It was felt that £25 per head would be fair.

A draft calendar to the end of 2020 had been produced-will be sent to ATO's for discussion prior to publishing.

5 Report on Working Party.

President to update.

5. Sponsorship.

£400 had been received from Bridge Overseas, courtesy of Simon Kelly. They may be approached regarding some sponsorship-maybe to subsidise bridge lessons.

Usual problem about sponsorship-what do the sponsors get out of it? Our publicity machine is ineffective to give them good coverage.

- 6 Junior Camrose. The President accompanied Paul Denning to see whether Newport University (based in the City Centre) might be a suitable venue. They could provide all single room accommodation for £35 per night, catering very close. Car parking certainly an issue as very little available. Costings might prove difficult. A Travel lodge might be cheaper, but has to be within a 10 minute walk of playing venue or transport would need to be provided. Junior Camrose plus Peggy Bayer suggests a large number of players-including NPC's, could be 6x14 =84 if all teams turn up.

Baskerville Hall, Hay, was a decent venue but over 1 hour drive from an airport, ruling it out.

Beaufort Park Hotel, Mold, has been a very successful venue for our latest Camrose and Lady Milne hostings, though it suffers from a shortage of BBO Operators, as indeed would a Newport venue. Jean to investigate if it is a possible venue. However, as it is scheduled for Valentine's Day weekend, the better hotels may already be booked up. A buffet dinner on the Saturday is usually timed for about 5.00 pm, so should be over before the main restaurant gets busy.

- 7 Website. Recent changes to the WBU website were approved of; this is under constant review.

8. Education and Training.

GE hopes that Cardiff Bridge Club will have some sort of presence at the University Fresher Fair in late September.

Cardiff BC invested in 4 machines which deal the cards at the table. (£800 each). GE noted that when they work well, they are great, and save much time. However, they are temperamental, and even experienced operators have problems getting the movement started. NR remembered that they were on show at a BBL meeting in Belfast where the inventor could not get them to work either. The EBU lost interest after this.

9. Publicity.

Café Bridge sessions or seminars in the daytime were mentioned. The National Garden Centre was mooted as a possible venue.

The document from about 4 years ago, 'What has the WBU done for you?' needs a further email shot. To encourage people to join, we need to show them what we do. The Bridge Pens with LED lights were a great success. Coffee coasters with 'Best Behaviour' pointers on them could be sent out to clubs.

10. AOB. Two letters sent to MC were referred back to the clubs concerned for them to deal with.

JH noted that the Perry/Spickett allowance to Areas had completed the 4 year cycle, and would now be £500 rather than £1500