

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 22nd October 2019

Crossgates. 11.00.

Those present: David Newman (President), Neville Richards, Alan Screen (Mid Wales), Jean Hand (NTO), Fiona Noyes (Treasurer), Gareth Jones (West Wales), Geoff Evans (East Wales) (minutes), Paddy Murphy (North Wales) on speakerphone.

1. Apologies for absence. Memsec Steve Webb.
2. Minutes of MC Meeting 16th September 2019.

Matters arising: The president wished to return to the matter of reimbursement for travelling expenses to tournaments/congresses to which he had been invited. The President gets free entry to all such events, but not his partner. Former presidents on MC, Jean Hand (twice), Neville Richards, Alan Screen and Paddy Murphy, all stated that they had never claimed travelling expenses during their years of office. The President stated that he had not been informed of this prior to taking office despite there being three former Presidents in his Area. At the last meeting, it was suggested that Areas would reimburse such travelling expenses if they had issued an invitation. It was left to the next meeting to decide, when our Treasurer would be present so that she could have some input.

A current claim is for travelling expenses to the Mid Wales Congress and the new Mid-Week congress, totalling £107. Sarah to be contacted to confirm that she had issued an invitation to this Congress.

It was decided that the current claim would be paid, but in future Areas would pay travelling expenses if an invitation had been issued.

At a previous encounter, it had been suggested that Norma Newman's fees for the Mid-Wales Congress had not been paid. This proved not to be the case. Neville apologised, but the President wanted another apology at MC meeting which was agreed to by Neville at the time. This was not forthcoming. In subsequent emails, the matter was considered closed.

The minutes were signed off as agreed.

3. Officers Reports.

Treasurer. Issues still arising from last year's Cambria and Welsh Cup Competitions.

Income and Expenditure form received from David Stevenson (Attached)

A profit of £199 for the Welsh Bridge Union over both competitions. An honorarium of £60 was taken by the organiser. However, no table money was charged at either of the finals; £20-£25 a head would be normal for each player participating. This resulted in a net loss to the WBU of about £880 (44 players @£20). This will not happen again.

Fiona published a Finance Review for this meeting, following conversations with Area Treasurers. This will be discussed at the next MC meeting by which time the Working Party will have had some input.

Half-year accounts have been previously emailed, (Attached)

Bank as of 21st October £52137

PayPal account £1196

Current account circa £21,000 in black to cover Honoraria, outsourced administration and Junior Camrose deposits.

Year ending accounts received from 3 Areas; negotiations in place with North.

Net value of Bridge Equipment is £1685. Lists have been provided by Neville going back to 2011. All items prior to 2015/16 are now fully depreciated. Current list [attached](#)

East and West Wales August Congress. Invoice received for £762.24, licence fee.

EBU Spring and Summer Sims. Welsh Participation after costs £128.16 and £186.67 respectively
Tabled copies of Sarah's Mid-Week Congress were provided; profit to the WBU £315.47
(Attached).

When all the WBU Sims money is received from clubs, Fiona will write a cheque to the Air Ambulance which can be presented.

Fiona wished to compliment Paddy on the very clear information submitted when he sends money to her. More details would be welcomed from those organising other Area and National events.

National Tournament Organiser

NTO would like to organise a National one-day Mixed Pairs Final in February at Llandrindod. It would be for the Champion Mixed Pair from each Welsh Club. It was felt that each club could probably name three pairs; there would be a considerable non-uptake of places given the travelling and date, however entries should be received at least one week in advance, and we would be limited to a 14-table final in any case.

The National Open Pairs was not held in 2018/19; it was felt that that was a mistake. Again, a One day 14 table open entry final will be held in Llandrindod, date to be confirmed. Again, entries will close when full.

Still much support for Champion of Champions Final. No sponsorship as yet. Entry fee £25 per player to cover food. It is strongly felt that each club should pay the entry fee. Most did last year.

Paddy would like a Graded Masters heat for Section One IN North Wales. He will sound out all the eligible players to see if enough will support it. Three sections below Grand Master category-bottom section below 10 Greens. Middle section 10-74.99; top 75-299 Greens.

Jean recently ran the North Wales Pairs, an event which made a loss for the first time in 17 years. She has no wish to run the event next year.

4, Cardiff University Freshers Week

Gilly's report (Attached) is now on the WBU website. Current position (Friday 25th) is that last evening, eight students came to a class at Cardiff Bridge Club and all joined, paying the very much reduced fee of £5. The President suggested that this event was one of the most significant initiatives in Welsh Bridge for some years.

5 Timescale for Publishing Minutes.

MC minutes should be distributed to the Committee as soon after the meeting as possible, and only when they have been approved by Committee should they be published and distributed.

6. Tournament Directors Meeting in Belfast

This is being run by the European Bridge League in February 2020. Tony Haworth was invited to take part, but his application was out of time. Sarah Amos wishes to go; her application was approved. It was suggested that the WBU pay the cost of the course and accommodation, and Sarah pay for travel.

7. Possible Remuneration for Administration assistant

8 Report on Working Party.

A meeting of the Working Party had been scheduled for Monday 21st October. Sadly, this was cancelled at short notice. Current suggestions are that Assistant should receive £3,000 per annum. Latest information from HMRC is that if a substitute is acceptable, then this person will not be an employee. Some members think this is questionable! They have to provide their own equipment otherwise this classes them as employed.

At a MC meeting in October(?) of 2018, a sub-committee suggested that the CEO's duties should be split with an administrator, who would be paid an honorarium of £3,000. This would seem in line with the Working Party, except that we now have no CEO.

The President would like to have, as part of the structure, the current President, past President and President elect working together to give consistency to decisions. However, the President elect is often decided at very short notice.

9. Report on Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer.

After the Freshers Fair initiative, it now seems certain that we will have a minimum of three Welsh teams in this event. Event to be held in Newport University. All players to have single rooms. Budget is £285 /head for three nights' accommodation and meals. Provision is made for up to 6 helpers to attend Sunday dinner and prize giving. Paul Denning and President currently overseeing event. No Match manager has yet been appointed. Gilly Clench was asked, but declined as she is likely to be one of the Welsh non-playing captains.

10. Report on Mid-Week Congress. Details attached. A very successful event, WBU profit £315.

A wide range of abilities; two players had just returned from the Bermuda Bowl in China; some were playing in their first event. Sarah says that she is happy to run the event again next year, and is confident of a larger turnout. The food was done 'to a price', and would probably improve the second time around. The staff were absolutely superb. The 'entertainment' was maybe slightly misleading, but all enjoyed themselves.

11. Website.

Most 'complaints' seem frivolous-people saying that they can't find what they are looking for, but when asked for examples, none are forthcoming.

12. Education/Training.

Initial signs are that Gilly is finding the teaching material for the juniors fine. It originated in the Netherlands, was taken up by the Scottish Bridge Union from where Liz McGowan has allowed us to use it. The material is constantly being updated by the SBU.

Cardiff Bridge Club hope to put on a training weekend in January run by the EBU to teach up to 10 people to teach bridge using the EBU materials. The course will cost £200 per person, paid for by the clubs. Cardiff wish to train three young people (Melanie, Soozy and Rachel) as it is felt that these will

have more empathy with what we hope will be a growing number of juniors in the area. Details of the course have been circulated to all clubs in East and West Wales. The course requires that the expenses and accommodation of the trainer are paid for. He comes from the North of England. These expenses may be of the order of £300; East Wales Bridge Association and the WBU will share these costs.

13. Publicity.

Apart from the work with the Juniors, nothing else was highlighted.

14. Any other business.

The selectors have asked Sarah Amos to join them as selector for East Wales. There is now a full complement of 5, all areas represented. MC approved this decision retrospectively (it is not in the jurisdiction of the selectors to appoint!), and will put it to Council next April for full approval.

15. Date of next meetings.

These were given as 3rd December and 25th February.

The meeting closed at 2.45.