

Minutes of WBU Management Committee 28th January 2020.

Crossgates, 11.00

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

The President welcomed Gilly to the meeting.

1 Apologies for absence Memsec, Steve Webb

2.Minutes of MC Meeting 03 December 2020

Matters Arising. A letter was received from David Stevenson following minutes from the previous two MM Meetings. Paddy met with David to say that MC are very happy with his running of Welsh and Cambria Cups, but as we do not want these events to run at a loss, then we feel that with the enlarged format for the finals needing larger playing areas and the need for a Tournament Director, then table money should be charged at the finals. With the income from entry fees, David can work out the appropriate amount of table money to cover costs.

The minutes were approved.

3. Youth Bridge. Gilly Clench had been invited to this MC Meeting to convey her views on Youth and Women's bridge, to both of which she has had a strong input in recent months. Currently ,we have 14 Juniors in the Cardiff Area, 9 of whom are regular attendees at Gilly's Thursday lectures at Cardiff Bridge Club, followed by assisted play for the rest of the evening assisted by Mel and Soozy.

We hope to have a presence at the next Freshers Fair; Simon G has good contacts with two chess teachers who would like to participate, and he is confident that his Insurance Company will pay for three adjoining stalls at the Fair. We need to have 20 bridge players at the University before we can have an affiliated club to the Student's Union. WBU and EWBA will then help to get the club started. Other perks of an affiliated club would include being able to borrow a people carrier from the Union. Of course, at the second Fair, we'd have a larger presence of students, all hopefully wearing their Junior Camrose/Peggy Bayer shirts.

8 Students will be taking part in a Congress in Antwerp this April. Mel will probably drive them over in a people carrier-we hope that Simon G's Rotary vehicle might be available.

Two teams have entered the Portland Cup -event for bridge teams from schools and Universities, run by the EBU. It is hoped that the WBU may glean some more Juniors from this event as surely some will have Welsh parentage even if domiciled elsewhere.

We don't expect great things from our juniors-maybe not for some time, but we are very happy to have them and will do what we can to promote their love for our game.

4. Women's Bridge

1. Should the Women's Bridge weekend be master-pointed? We would all like to see the event grow and not go downhill-about 13-14 tables of Pairs and Teams last time. A similar event in London has grown to 25 teams in just 4 years. No profit has been made as none was required. Surplus funding went to Prosecco receptions each day and gifts of flowers. If it is to be a WBU event, then all need to be WBU members. Thus, as there were 4-5 English teams last time, could leave it as an Open event. All are EBU/WBU members. If a WBU event, 12.5% of Entry Fee goes to WBU for Masterpoint licence. Do the participants need masterpoints? Not necessarily. Could possibly advertise event as 'Women's Invitation Pairs and Teams Weekend.

2. Lady Milne. 4 pairs entered the trials this year and only 5 this year (of which two pairs entered by word of mouth). MC have received two letters of complaint re the selectors' handling of the trial and the peremptory address of the email to all entrants stating that there would be no trial and the team chosen was as shown.

Gilly felt that a more pro-active approach was needed to holding women's trials; last year, when it was apparent that only 4 pairs had signed up, she quickly got six more pairs to say that they would play, only to be told that it was past the closing date. This year, the two verbal entries came after the closing date and were accepted.

5. Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer.

There will be a full complement of 12 teams taking part. Wales will only field one Junior Camrose team, and Northern Ireland will not field a Peggy Bayer team. England will field 4 teams to make up the numbers, the first team is the England team and the second styled the EBU team.

Two days after this meeting, we were informed that all teams had agreed to the £259 cost for accommodation, which was higher than that requested by BGB, but all competitors would now have single rooms. Currently we are expecting 92 at the closing dinner. The cost of the playing rooms is £840 per day. Added security at a cost of £300 would be required for the playing rooms for Saturday and Sunday as these rooms are not usually open on these days. Closing meal will be at Pierre's Bistro in the City Centre

6. Officers' Reports

Treasurer's Report.

This is attached. Currently we have 2198 members. We pay World Bridge Federation approximately 73pence per member. Total costs for European Bridge Union and WBF are less than £2 per member. We have 17 juniors, 14 in the Cardiff area.

Area subs to the WBU-decided by the Area themselves-

Mid -Wales £2; some is used to offset competition entry fees for members.

North and West Wales-£1 each.

East Wales £1.50

Junior membership to the WBU is currently £1; there may be a motion at the AGM to raise this to £5.

Memsec Report. **This is attached.** Paddy Murphy has been awarded 10 Greens to compensate for results from EBU knock-out events which have been lost over a three-year period.

NTO Report.

Jean would like entry numbers for Teams of 8 heats by the end of May.

Champion of Champions - ATO'S and Area Secretaries to chivvy up their clubs, please, as there is a cancellation fee from the Metropole if the event does not

go ahead. Clubs encouraged once again to pay the entry fee for their representatives.

Webber Cup

This will be held over 2 days, originally in West Wales, but now more likely in Mid Wales!! 30/31st May had been suggested, but more likely now in June. ATO to arrange venue and NTO to arrange running it.

Mixed Pairs heats. 4 Area heats. Recommended entry fee by NTO is £3.75 per head. However, Area events for WBU are not supposed to lose money (See Fiona's letter to Lisvane Club); East Wales will be charging £10 per head. West Wales have stuck at £7 per head. For Qualifying rounds or Area heats of WBU Competitions, £3 per head goes to WBU. This may appear more than 12.5% licence fee! Prizes to top 3.

Graded Masters.

Mid Wales and East Wales had normal heats. At the North Wales heat, one pair walked out - the woman was being verbally abused by her partner. Will probably go to Laws and Ethics. In the West Wales heat, the first session results were not saved and were expunged. All competitors were awarded 50% for their troubles. However, as Green Points are awarded, then West Wales competitors were awarded 11 draws for this session. This has caused problems - eg a team from Mid Wales who won 6 matches and no draws would receive much less than a West Wales pair who won 6 matches and were awarded 11 draws. People should not get Masterpoints for games that they have not played. Paddy suggested that the first half could be scored over 3 Areas, and the second session over 4 areas, and the totals combined. Paddy said that he would consult with Gordon Raynsford. Chief EBU director, for guidance. To be continued.... West Wales refunded the entire entry fee to the competitors, resulting in a loss of £375.

Income from event:

North £80, West £40.32. East £184. Mid £64. Total £368.32

Expenditure: WBU Fee $55 \times 24 \times 0.11 = £158.40$, prizes £200, Sundries £8, Profit £1.92!!

7. The report on the Working Party provided no further action. We are still awaiting an update from Lee.

8. Correspondence. A letter from Lisvane Bridge Club was deferred to the next meeting. Three complaints had been received regarding selection of teams for the Welsh Open Team for Europe and the Lady Milne. The President suggested passing these on to Council (who select the selectors), but the rest of the MC felt that it should be dealt with at Committee; passing it to Council who meet in March/April would appear to be sweeping the matter under the counter.

Gilly had suggested ripping up the rulebook - new ideas were needed to encourage more entries. Paddy said that there had been no feedback from the selectors, even though at one stage Mike Tedd was due to be at this meeting to discuss concerns. Time was already pressing, so it was decided to postpone this item and have it as one of two main topics at the next MC Meeting, along with the Junior Camrose aftermath.

9. Sponsorship of Champion of Champions. No further progress.

10. Teacher Training. The event planned at the Cardiff Club was cancelled-only 6 of the places had been taken up. It is hoped that this will go ahead at a later date.

11. Graded Masters - discussed elsewhere.

12. Competition Review of Webber Cup and National Teams of Eight.

This item was deferred.

13. Best behaviour at Bridge. A review was circulated ([attached](#)). Comments were welcomed.

14, 15. Website and Publicity were not discussed.

16. AOB. Nothing was raised. The time was now 3.45, and the meeting was brought to a close. Date of next meeting would be after the Junior Camrose.