

Minutes of WBU Council meeting 2nd June 2019

Whitchurch Rugby Club 9.00

Those present ; Sarah Amos (Outgoing President), David Newman (WWBA), (Incoming President), Fiona Noyce, (WBU Treasurer), Geoff Evans, Adrian Trickey, Simon Gottschalk, Gwynn Davis (all EWBA), Neville Richards, Alan Screen, (Mid Wales), Rod Sheard, Rhiannon Whittaker (North Wales), Gareth Jones, Tony Disley, (WWBA), Phil Bowers, (Masterpoint Secretary), Dennis Backer, (Junior Co-ordinator).

1. Apologies for absence; Jean Hand (WBU ATO), Jean Cuffley,
2. Minutes of last Council meeting, 19th March, 2019.

These were accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising. None.
4. Future management of the WBU-Proposed amendment to Constitution

It was decided to form a working party(WP) of no more than 5 to discuss possible reformation of the Management Committee. Positive input from all interested parties was to be welcomed, to create a paper that could be put to the full Management Committee at a later date.

GD: The MC was conceived as a small body to run the WBU, but some Areas insisted that they needed representation; as a result, the four Areas each sent a delegate, possibly making the MC too unwieldy.

SA: Agreed to be on WP with DN. Nothing is set in stone-everything to be looked at. All Areas need not be represented.

AS: The original MC format did not include Area representatives, but democracy ruled.

AT: WG should cover all areas of the WBU; a slimmer structure for the MC might prove more effective.

RW: Was shocked by the bitching and arguing within Welsh Bridge. There was much rivalry within the so called 'Power Structure'. She suggested one person to oversee the WP, one strategy person, and a working group under these two.

GD: The life of the WP should be 3-4 months only, and it should be started as soon as possible.

FN: The proposed amendment to the Constitution should be abandoned until the WP has completed its findings.

However, the amendment had been put down by 2 people (AS and NR) and only they could withdraw it. Both agreed to do so.

NR: Other parts of the Constitution needed to be looked at, such as allowing telephone conference calls or Skype to MC meetings. Suggested that Mike Tedd look at this issue.

DN said that he would organise his own Working Party. MC would co-opt people to help WP on specialist issues.

DB: WP to organise remit. No restrictions;-clean page. However, remit to WP should not decide strategy.

RW: Wales always has demographic problems. There should be inclusion of on-line bridge. Must include Juniors or there will be no serious players in 20 years.

RS: There was a proposal to adopt a similar structure to 'Pay to Play' to include non-affiliated clubs. Affiliated clubs may be able to pay more than non-affiliated.

FN: Management change is very delicate; a new structure needs to be wide in its expertise and not cut out regions.

TD: Circulate WP's ideas after maybe 2 months for people to read and discuss.

AT: The availability of people to work on the WP will be dependent on who can do the work; a 'meeting of minds' required more or less every day.

SA: Non-affiliated clubs should be circulated-they need to be represented.

AS: After Sara and David, WP needs 3 people with energy, wisdom and thought.

RW: Set up the information for the WP with a chatroom so that input can be done online, thereby including everyone.

GD: Sarah and David, can you come up with some suggestions for the WP and consult other people whom you think might help?

SA: Happy to agree.

AT: As a consequence of this, there will be no appointment of an Honorary Secretary, but no nominations had been received anyway!

5. Teams of Eight. This item was referred back to the Management Committee.

6. Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer 2020.

This is to be held in Wales next February; to date we have no venue and 5/6 players when we should be fielding 4 teams of 6 players. Situation now getting desperate. Last time, we used the Seabank at Porthcawl, but they seem to have cut their ties with bridge organisations. We also need a Match Manager.

NR suggested Baskerville Hall as a possible venue (where our midweek congress will be held in October). We will need BBO operators, which will mean extra costs.

Normally, juniors tend to share rooms.

TD said that Mold had been a successful venue for our last two International events.

7. Appointment of Committees.

8. Laws and Ethics happy to stay on (Alan Screen, Mike Tedd, Paddy)

Selectors happy to stay on (Paul Denning, Tony Disley, Alan Stephenson, Mike Tedd)

Tournament Committee -wait until the WP have come up with the first round of ideas. NTO and ATO's to be consulted.

9. Any Other Business. RS suggested that the AGM weekend should be moved to Llandrindod permanently as it was getting more difficult to get players from the North to travel to South Wales.

Phil Bowers announced that he would be stepping down from his role as National Masterpoint Secretary and Membership Secretary.

The meeting closed at 10.10.