

Minutes WBU Management Committee Meeting
Tuesday 14th April 2020 by Skype video call

Present: David Newman (Chair)

Neville Richards (Acting Chief Executive)

Fiona Noyce(Treasurer)

Paddy Murphy (NWBA)

Alan Screen (MWBA)

Steve Webb (Masterpoint& Membership Secretary)

Gareth Jones (WWBA, minutes)

Simon Gottschalk (technical assistance, EWBA non-voting)

Apologies: Geoff Evans (EWBA); Jean Hand (NTO)

Meeting commenced 10.40a.m. (delayed due to technical problems)

2. Minutes of MC meeting 25/02/20 accepted as correct apart from typo in Treasurer's name.
Formally adopted Proposer AS, Second NR nem con.

3. Officers' Reports

Treasurer: written report already submitted (q.v.)a query was raised as to whether the item inthe accounts labeled outsourced administration was sufficiently clear. Agreed to discuss this at next meeting. Queries relating to subscriptions and Graded Masters subject of separate agenda items.A query re sub-committee expenses answered by email.

NTO: had expressed concern that complaints had been received re cancellation of Graded Masters.The complaints were felt to be largely unjustified and no further action required.

Masterpoints Secretary: There is currently virtually no activity in the masterpoint scheme. As always there are some payments outstanding ,(1200 pounds in total) as clubs are encouraged to pay only when an appreciable amount is owing. The deadline for payment of 2020/21 WBU subscriptions has been put back to 30th September. It was agreed this would apply also to area subscriptions. These arrangements together with possibility of revising the subscription to be reviewed in 2-3 months. Action: SW and NR to put together a letter to clubs explaining this plan, which NR will mail to clubs.

4.Interim report Working Party

This was considered at some length. Despite a notice having been sent to all clubs and put on the website asking for everyone's views the President expressed disappointment at the lack of responses.. Some felt the report was insufficiently detailed the importance of universal member benefits was generally agreed. Action: President to contact Laura Woodruff with a view to re-instituting the Newsletter. Preference was for this to be mainly a web publication with clubs helping members who needed a physical print but this to be discussed with Laura. Action: President to accept an offer received from Sarah Amos with regard to setting up weekly competition for the WBU on the BBO website.Initially for a month . The possibility of setting up WBU -branded online bridge with StepBridge , who provide a service for the Australian and Netherlands federations, was being investigated by NR.

The proposed composition of Management Committee was noted to be very similar to that

envisaged ten years ago when MC was first created, although that had been unacceptable to the membership at that time. The recommendation to appoint a Chief Operations Officer on an employed basis caused concern: the priority was to identify the right person and then determine the best form of contract for that person. It should be possible to proceed immediately with advertising this post if he was identified as synonymous with the chief executive in the existing constitution. More detail was needed however on the responsibilities and time needed for the duties. With more widespread acceptance of technology management should be looking to more frequent, shorter meetings.

5. Selectors.

The MC was happy to affirm that they had complete faith in the integrity of the selectors. This to be communicated. Currently only one person had responded to advert on website for selectors with one other prepared to consider the role in the future. Action: PM and President to work with previous selectors to prepare a paper on selection methodology.

There had been some interest in the post of Webmaster.

6. Graded Masters

After consultation with expert EBU directors no better solution to the scoring problem had been found. Action: Treasurer to disburse the prize money according to previously published results.

9. Laws & Ethics

Recent events had highlighted the need for committee members to treat related correspondence as well as committee proceedings as confidential. Action: AS to draft a notice to this effect for the website.

Normal procedure was for MC to receive complaints and if appropriate refer them to L&E committee.

8. Juniors Antwerp

This competition had been cancelled and is currently rescheduled for November. Treasurer had reimbursed expenses which had already been incurred. There is a possibility that these can be claimed from the credit card company in which case the funds will return to WBU.

10. AGM

It was planned to hold next month's meeting of Council using Zoom. The previous decision to defer the AGM to when the Bridge World has returned to normal may then be reconsidered.

13. Website Favourable comments were made on inclusion of the Ron Klinger bridge column.

14. Juniors training had not been unduly disrupted by the lockdown with lessons proceeding via Zoom. Indeed without having to brave a strange club some new recruits had appeared online.

15. Publicity

With many events cancelled, news organizations such as BBC might be glad to publicise bridge as an activity for the isolated.

Meeting closed approx 1.14p.m.