

Draft Minutes of MC 17th Sept 2020 @ 10am

Present: Marie Topp, Fiona Noyce, Jean Hand, Gareth Jones, Simon Gottschalk, Ceri Pierce, Neville Richards, Paddy Murphy.

1. Apologies – Alan Screen
2. Minutes of 3 Sep accepted.

Matters arising – Ceri drafted a guidance note regarding Covid-19 for publication, which states that all Face to face WBU events cancelled until December. Agreed.

Action CP

3. Chief Officer Report

Ceri reported that the next Newsletter was due to be published on 5 October by Laura Woodruff. Thanks to Gareth for providing a Western Area contact for contributions.

The Calendar has been added to the agenda as it needs to be updated as a matter of priority. Work has been continuing on the website – many thanks to Neville for his expertise in supporting this.

The EBU has been in touch to report to make the WBU aware of a Tournament Director suspension. Ceri to contact the TD for more details to establish if this affects the WBU at all. There has been no problem in Wales.

Action CP

4. Treasurer's Report – Minutes of the Treasurer's meeting held last week were circulated in advance.

At the meeting there was little enthusiasm for subs to be collected from members for the remainder of the year as Clubs are still closed. Agreed that subs be further cancelled until April.

Instead, Fiona will invite Areas to contribute on a 50-50 basis with the WBU, based on membership numbers for the remainder of the year. This works out as £3.50 per member. Fiona will contact Area Treasurers with an invoice and explanation of why income is required. There would however be no compulsion for the Areas to pay.

Other outgoings this month include admin costs, IT Website and IT Infrastructure costs. A grant to the EWBA for the AGM needs to be recovered as it did not take place due to Covid. East Wales has sent congress license fees. North Wales to be asked for their congress licence fee.

Action FN

Fiona proposed that instead of providing a written report for the AGM, that it be published in the newsletter. Agreed.

Action FN

BBO Payment has been received but it is not clear how the money is to be allocated to the Clubs – Fiona to request more detailed information from Sarah Amos.

Action FN

Ceri to locate the BBO contract.

Action CP

Chasing of Area accounts is ongoing.

Our only source of income so far this year is master points and WBU competitions. We need to look at other means of income generation, e.g. monetising online bridge, as we are likely to be in this situation for some time. This needs further discussion.

5. Website sub-group

Tony, Neville and Guy are working hard to tidy up the website which is happening slowly. Testing is required and things signed off before going live.

Next meeting is in early October.

6. Selectors' Report – Report circulated in advance by email.

North Wales have put a proposal forward for Barry Lloyd Jones to become a selector along with Paddy Murphy.

Camrose trials - it was emphasised that the selection process and criteria need to be clear. If there is any conflict where a selector is playing, then they will remove themselves from the selection process.

3 tables have entered for the Camrose trials to date. The platform to be used has not yet been finalised. Entry fees also need to be finalised. Directors costs have been provided. Neville has developed an online entry form linked to PayPal.

Teltscher – a third pair has now been selected. As yet there is no NPC.

7. Master Points and Membership Report – no report as Steve not at the meeting.

Simon reported that he had 4 bridge players wishing to join the WBU. He will forward details to Steve. An online membership form where you can select which area you wish to join, with on-line payment, to be looked at for further new members.

Action SG/NR

8. NTO Report

Jean is gathering dates for the calendar from all Areas and hopes to have a calendar finalised by the end of the week.

9. Competition Journal

This need updating as the one on the website is out of date.

Action CP

10. Council Meeting

Date and time agreed for Friday 9th October at 11.00am.

Some members from the Areas are not known. Area reps to send Ceri names.

Action Area Reps

11. AGM – The delayed AGM is scheduled for Sunday 11 October at midday by Zoom. An agenda and associated papers will be sent out to the WBU mailing list. Members should register if they wish to attend. Neville has provided a registration link on the website.

The change to the constitution to include online bridge was agreed. Changes regarding collection of subscriptions to be removed – but to be included on the next Agenda.

12. Online Cheating

This was discussed. By default, the WBU follows the EBU regulations. Online bridge regulations can be found in the EBU sky blue book, and have also been published on the WBU website by Tony Haworth. Need to establish procedures for how we report suspected cheating.

13. AOB

None.

Date of Next Meeting -Thursday 1st October at 10.00am by Zoom.