

Minutes of the Management Committee

11 Feb 2021@ 10am

Present: Marie Topp, Jean Hand, Gareth Jones, Gwynn Davis, Ceri Pierce, Neville Richards, Steve Webb, Alan Screen, Paddy Murphy, Fiona Noyce

1. **Apologies** - none

2. **Minutes of 28 Jan 2021**

Accepted with some alterations – Champion of Champions is going ahead if possible, with Champions from the previous season; David Kaufman is actually Peter Kaufman (sorry Peter).

3. **Matters arising**

Online TD rates were confirmed as the same as Face-to-Face rates, as only one TD is normally required for an event rather than several TDs/caddies etc.

4. **Membership and Subscriptions**

Steve, Simon G, Tony H and Neville have met to discuss putting a PayPal facility on the website for people who wish to joining directly rather than through a club next year, given the uncertainty of the situation regarding the re-opening of clubs due to covid-19. Tony H has made good progress with this.

Agreed: make the fact that the Area fee is additional clearer.

Area fees currently vary by area. Discussion was held regarding standardisation of these and whether the WBU should collect Area subs on-line when members join directly and then reimburse areas, or leave Areas to collect their own subs, which may prove problematic/messy.

Agreed: The WBU will collect Area subs on behalf of an Area, if members wish to renew online on the WBU website and reimburse the Area.

Agreed: Steve to amend his letter to clubs to clarify this.

Membership subscription amount was discussed. Steve recommended that it should be slightly less as there is still unlikely to be any face-to-face bridge for some time.

Agreed: WBU membership subs for 2021/22 set at £10 (plus Area sub).

Clubs will be given the option in Steve's letter which will be sent to clubs (Chairs and Secretaries) to collect membership subs as normal using BACs / Cheque OR use the WBU website to collect monies for direct membership if they had difficulty collecting / contacting members.

Agreed: Steve to ask Areas to confirm their subscription rates ASAP, standardising at £2 if possible. We will collect these on the WBU website if it is not possible for the Area/Club to do so and return the Area subs to the Areas.

Action SW

Tony H is setting up a batch membership form so that clubs can enter multiple member details and payment on the WBU website if they wish.

Target date for payment is 1st April 2021.

Fiona noted that there is a transaction charge on all payments made on the website by PayPal or stripe.

5. CEO Report

Two requests for funding have been received.

The first is for training materials to use for training the juniors. Gilly has been doing lots of work with the Juniors and has arranged mentors for them. The materials in question are being developed for the U26 English squad and are not for beginners. They could be used for other training as well as for just the juniors.

Agreed: to refer to Selector's training budget

Action CP

The second request was for online lessons for children. A tutor has been identified with experience in coaching juniors and developing bridge programs in schools, who is doing lots of work for the CBAI at the moment. He has offered a 50% reduced rate to run courses of 10 lessons at 150 euros each for 4 juniors at a time – lower rate for 8.

A discussion followed about juniors in general, and it was agreed that we need to support juniors, but a more co-ordinated and strategic approach was required rather than an ad-hoc course of lessons.

Action CP

It was noted that there is no junior co-ordinator at the moment.

6. Treasurers Report – Fiona

The last of the 6 months admin fees was made on 8th Feb.

Invoices have been issued to BBO for payment for Nov and Dec.

The TD has been paid for the trials and players who required a refund, have been refunded.

Fiona is investigating IR35 rules and how they affect the WBU, and whether the WBU is responsible for NI and Tax for people contracted to carry out work for the WBU. A written declaration or policy may be required.

The monies for the Welsh and Cambria Cups have been finalised for 2018/19 and 2019/20 now being discussed.

The current Independent Examiner for the WBU accounts will ratify the 20/21 accounts, but thereafter a new Examiner will need to be appointed.

The balance at the bank at the moment is around £25,000.

Jean queried whether any payment had been received by the WBU for a NWBA one-day event held in Oct. Fiona confirmed that she had not.

A small profit was made from the Camrose, Teltscher and Lady Milne trials.

7. Membership and Masterpoints Report – Covered in Item 4

8. NTO's Report – Jean Hand

The National Pairs has been scheduled for 14 March 2021. Jean is progressing entries with Simon G's entry form (BESS).

The proposed date for the Area AGMs will be 9th May. Jean to inform Areas.

Action JH

Champion of Champions can proceed using last years Champions

This and teams of 8 to be discussed at Area NTO's meeting. Jean to convene.

Action JH

9. Selectors Report – Ceri Pierce

Ceri reported on behalf of the Selectors. A Lady Milne team was selected following the trial:

Ceri Pierce and Mia Deschepper

Gilly Clench and Aida Aris

Margaret Lane and Lee Collier

Reserves – Sarah Amos and Andrea Knox

The selectors are reviewing their Terms of Reference, as they are 7-8 years old.

10. AOB

Accounts

The accounts from NWBA have not been presented to the WBU for 3 years. Paddy to send to Fiona ASAP and the last years accounts, following their AGM.

Action PM

It was noted that NWBA will have a new Treasurer following the AGM, Mike Clare.

It was noted that the presentation of Area accounts to the WBU is a constitutional requirement.

Perry and Spickett

It was confirmed that the Presidents Cup would be held as well as the Perry and Spickett. The platform to be used can be decided by the NWBA as hosts.

It was confirmed that the event should be run as one event with 3 sections for the purpose of tournament directing, (as it would be in real life).

There is a grant of £500 for the Presidents Cup, although costs will be less this year, as it will be held online.

11. Next Meeting

25th Feb 2021 @ 10.00 by Zoom