

Minutes of the Management Committee

28 Jan 2021@ 10am

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

1. Apologies - Fiona Noyce
2. Minutes of 14 Jan 2021 accepted.
3. **Membership and Subscriptions**

A letter to be sent to clubs (Chairs and Secretaries) has been prepared by Steve giving the clubs the option to collect membership subs as normal OR use the WBU website to collect monies for direct membership if they had difficulty collecting / contacting members.

What data is to be collected (such as renewal or new membership / area subs / etc), and payment with PayPal or Stripe integrated into a form to be discussed at a separate meeting. Steve to discuss and set up with Neville, and Fiona to discuss the different amounts paid for Area membership at Area Treasurers meeting.

Action SW and FN

It was confirmed that the WBU has abandoned collecting membership subs for 20/21. All members will remain members. However, Steve still needs membership returns from the clubs to update deceased members.

Some clubs collected money from their members last year. If this money remains held by the clubs for the members, it is up to the club whether to refund / use for next year's membership etc.

Discussion regarding direct membership took place. It was felt that we will be more successful collecting membership through the clubs rather than directly, and club collection was favoured. However the option of direct membership should be available via our website if clubs are having difficulty collecting their membership whilst the club is closed.

2021 Subs should be paid by 1st April 2021.

Marie thanked Gwynn for his assistance in drafting the letter.

Agreed: Area Treasurers need to hold a meeting to discuss this

Agreed: Steve to collect returns from Clubs and send out the letter in February

4. CEO's Report – Neville and Ceri

Neville raised the question of storage and control of WBU equipment – tables, bidding boxes, cloths, cards, screens etc. Currently these are stored at Crossgates. They can remain there for a while but new storage arrangements will need to be made (in Mid Wales) and someone found to manage the movement of the inventory. Ceri to investigate.

Ceri reported that the WBU afternoon sessions had commenced but only 4 tables played during the first event. The event will be monitored and reviewed to see how it progresses.

There is no prominent advert on the website or on Area websites, which may help to promote this event.

Action: CP

The facility to play on Realbridge for private matches / bridge parties will be advertised from Friday.

5. Treasurers Report – Fiona

No report.

6. Membership and Masterpoints Report – Steve

A proposal was put forward by Steve that if a club closes then the WBU should try and recover any outstanding debts (e.g. for masterpoints) from the club's funds, but waive payment (at the MPM Secretary's and Treasurer's discretion) if appropriate.

Agreed

Steve to write to one such club that has recently taken over the assets of a closed to inform them of this.

Action SW

7. NTO's Report – Jean Hand

The National Pairs has been scheduled for 14 March 2021.

The AGM, Perry and Spickett has been scheduled for 5/6 June, keeping same time table and format as in the good old days of face-to-face bridge.

Champion of Champions may be able to proceed with clubs playing their champions from last year.

Teams of 8 to be discussed at Area NTO's meeting. Jean to convene.

Action JH

Online TD rates were discussed. For now, they will be kept as the face-to-face rates. It was recognised that only one TD is normally required for an event, so the cost is not excessive.

Agreed: Retain current Face-to-Face TD Rates for Online events

Entry fees to national competitions was discussed. The standard rate on BBO for congresses and green point events (excluding EBU National events) seems to be £5 or BBO\$5 per session.

Agreed: charge £10 entry for National Pairs, with direct entry to Jean

8. Selectors Report – Ceri Pierce

Ceri reported on behalf of the Selectors. A Teltscher team was selected following the trial of Maggie Pierce and David McAndrew

Paul Denning and Paul Lamford
Alan Stevenson and Peter Kaufmann

A Lady Milne trial will be held at the weekend. Gilly Clench is trying to find additional entrants.

9. Appointment of CEO

Ceri left the meeting temporarily whilst this was discussed.

Agreed: Appointment of Ceri Pierce as CEO confirmed from 1st February

Neville was thanked for his long and excellent contribution to the WBU as CEO to date.

10. AOB

East Wales has sought clarification of the rules for representation of an Area for the purpose of playing in events such as the Tollemache and Western League - if a player represents East Wales in these English events, can they then represent a different Area in the Perry and Spickett, taking into account that players have an Area of primary allegiance?

Agreed: It is a matter for East Wales whether they wish to select players from another Area or not to play in the Tollemache or Western League.

This will not affect eligibility for representing their county of primary allegiance in the Perry and Spickett.

Gwynn to communicate to EWBA.

Action GD

11. Next Meeting

11 February 2021 @ 10.00 by Zoom