

Minutes of the Management Committee

18 March 2021 @ 10am

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

1. **Apologies** - none

2. **Minutes of 25 Feb 2021**

It was confirmed that the Cambria player who was not a WBU member has now joined the WBU. Other items that were requested to be put on this agenda deferred to next meeting.

3. **Cardiff Bridge Club**

A request for financial assistance made by Cardiff Bridge Club last April was discussed at length, following an email from their Chairman in March. It was the view of the MC that at the time (last April), that the intention was for Cardiff to retain the WBU subs that were collected until they were required, and it was not understood that additional financial support was being requested.

Ceri to write to Cardiff to clarify the position.

Action CP

4. **Masterpoints and Membership Report – Steve Webb**

Several complaints regarding the reinstatement of membership subs for 2021/22 have been received, along with some messages of support. The position was discussed.

It was felt that the WBU could not support a second year of no subs and it was hoped that face to face bridge will resume later in the year.

The WBU has 20K in the cash account (of which 12.5K is made up of ringfenced legacies – 7.5K in reality). There has been very little income this year due to subs being suspended. There is 80K in the reserves – not an unreasonable amount for a national organisation. It will last provide working capital for 2 to 3 years with no further income, but would leave the WBU in a very vulnerable position.

It is also likely equipment will need replacing upon the return to real-life bridge, as much will have perished having been stored for 18 months or more in cold, damp places.

The WBU has been criticised for holding large reserves, but they have actively been reduced over the last few years with the match funded grants available to Clubs as follows:

East Wales	21K
Mid wales	3K
North Wales	5.5K
West Wales	11K

It was noted that a term of the grant was that Clubs remain affiliated for 5 years.

It was clarified that where a club was not functioning at the moment, then their affiliation would not lapse, but where a club was operating, then membership subs would be due as normal.

If a member of a closed club wished to join the WBU directly, to continue playing in WBU events / collect master points, then the website has a facility for direct membership.

A batch membership facility for Clubs to join their members is also available.

Ceri to draft a letter to send to clubs to re-enforce this and explain the reasons behind it.

Action CP

5. Selectors' Report – Simon Richards

Simon joined the meeting to present his report.

The Camrose has been completed with Wales finishing 3rd. They were in contention if they had secured a big win against England in the last match, but this was not to be.

Lady Milne and Teltscher trials were held in January. Teams and NPCs have been selected.

Wales entered teams in both the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer. Both finished a creditable 4th which is excellent considering that the Peggy Bayer players have only been playing for 18 months.

We do not know yet if the Europeans will go ahead face to face in June. A decision by the EBL will be made on 31st March. If it moves on-line this may impact the Open team as one pair may withdraw. The Europeans is also the qualification event for the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup.

Next year, Wales will be hosting the Lady Milne and will need 2 teams. Gilly Clench to be appointed Women's Co-ordinator to help promote and develop women's bridge.

The Terms of Reference of the Selectors' Committee are being reviewed and will be submitted to the MC for approval when complete.

6. AOB

NTO

Jean reported that the Open Pairs attracted 10 tables and 2 new WBU members.

A problem with IBEX employing EBL rules was identified following an appeal made by a player.

Agreed that all WBU events should be held under WBU regulations. This should be specified when engaging a director.

A problem with one of the IBEX directors being rude to a player may result in a formal complaint.

Quotes to be obtained to run the Mixed Pairs, which will be held on BBO.

Sarah Amos has informed Jean that she will only direct as part of IBEX, not independently.

Perry and Spickett

Paddy reported that the organisation of this is ongoing and notices will be put out to Areas soon.

7. Next Meeting

1st April 2021 @ 10.00 by Zoom