

## Minutes of MC 27 May 2021@ 10am

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

1. Apologies – Steve Webb, Tony Disley, Gareth Jones
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting - accepted.

### Matters Arising

#### a) Sage Software

Fiona circulated a comprehensive review of current accounting packages.

**Agreed** to continue using Sage as the most appropriate package, as other software is not so relevant although it is cheaper.

Fiona confirmed that it is possible to upgrade the package to the next level if required to do multi-company accounts e.g. for Areas.

Gwynn and Fiona to meet to discuss use of Sage for Area accounts, once Gwynn has received the mandate of Treasurer by East Wales.

#### b) Teams of 8

There will be an even number of teams and it will be held on Realbridge.

Mid	1 team
North	1 team
West	2 teams
East	4 teams

A TD needs to be appointed.

**Action JH**

#### c) Llangollen Congress Venue

No venue at present as the Bryn Howell is still closed and will be for some time. Jean suggested The Beaufort Park in Mold. Neville to progress.

**Action NR**

### 3. AGM

NTO Report – Jean has prepared the NTO's report for the AGM, but it will need to be updated when the meeting has discussed the use of Robots in competitions later on the agenda.

Master Points and Membership Report - Ceri to chase.

President's Report - will be verbal.

Treasurer's Report – accounts have been circulated. There has been a slight change to the signed off accounts relating to East Wales Congress money.

CEO's Report – Neville and Ceri to make a brief verbal report. CP and NR to discuss content.

### 4. Selectors Terms of Reference

The Terms of reference submitted by the Selectors were reviewed and the following points were made:

The appointment of Selectors – imperative that Selectors with integrity and good judgement are appointed.

Agreed that the MC should invite each area to provide a selector and they should be approved by the MC.

Ideally there should be 5 selectors – 1 from each area and 1 selected by the Management Committee.

**Agreed** - No Proxy voting should be allowed

**Agreed** - selection policy published on the Selectors' Bulletin

**Agreed** – minutes are confidential and it is inappropriate to publish them

Player Responsibilities.

**Agreed** - Premier League is a guide to selection.

**Agreed** - People who are prepared to represent Wales should be made aware that they should also be prepared to be substitutes or NPC if asked.

Ceri to amend and send to Selectors.

**Action CP**

5. Face to face Bridge

**Agreed** - it is up to each individual Club as to when they return to face to face Bridge. Guidance to be published on the website.

**Action CP**

6. Perry, Spickett and President's Cup

Mid Wales do not have a President's Cup team. The ATOs have been asked to submit pairs for a President's team instead and East Wales ATO is trying to raise a team. Mid Wales thanked East Wales for helping out.

7. Use of Robots in National Events

**Agreed** that Robots should not be used in National Events, and that a sit out is preferable.

**Agreed** that Areas can determine their own policy but we will advise no robots to be used. If one player drops out, then their partner should also leave the event.

Ceri to circulate to ATOs. Conditions of Contest should also be updated.

**Action CP**

Robots were recently used at the last minute in the Mixed Pairs due to the non-arrival of one pair. The TD was trying to provide the best solution in the absence of guidance.

Robots were also used in North Wales Lazslow Pairs, when one player dropped out and was substituted by a robot. (As an aside, this matter is being referred by North Wales to the Laws and Ethics Committee for advice).

8. Laws and Ethics Committee

Noted that the current Chairman of the Laws and Ethics Committee, Mike Tedd is retiring. Marie sent thanks to Mike Tedd on behalf of the WBU for his work over the years on the Laws and Ethics Committee. Tony Disley will be joining the Committee.

The Document prepared by Mike answering queries was reviewed and agreed.

**Agreed** – a directory of Tournament Directors should be maintained. Ceri to compile and maintain the list.

**Agreed** – Ceri will ask Tony Haworth if he is willing to continue TD training as required.

The website needs to be linked to the most recent revision of the Sky-Blue Book, which the WBU will adopt. Any changes to the regulations should be put to the EBU for consideration.

The practice of looking at your own system card in online tournaments was discussed. This is the current regulation and is allowed.

Suspension of membership notices are published by each NBO. Agreed that the WBU will publish WBU suspensions. All suspensions made are communicated between NBOs and the EBL in line with the other NBOs. The EBL are planning to produce a current list and maintain it which will be able to be used in the future to maintain consistency across all NBOs.

9. AOB

Jean requested clarification as to whether a refund would be provided if someone just doesn't turn up.  
**Agreed** no refund unless prior notice given.

Fiona provided a brief review of finances and noted that there had been no BBO communication since March. Individual membership payments are coming in but hard to keep track of PayPal and stripe payments on the bank statements. A substitute for Ceri to take her place if she is temporarily indisposed should be provided in order to meet IR35 regulations.

Area subs – there is a lack of clarity of what has been paid. Fiona confirmed that Area subs will be passed to the Areas after a report from Steve. Noted - it would be useful to emphasise on the website that people should use a reference when making online payments.

Cross Gates – Neville confirmed that the equipment can remain. It is still in the outbuilding for the time being but can be moved back inside. Not happy with location in hall and 2 cupboards have been made available. Although it will not be secure, this does not pose a risk at the moment.

The laptops (used for Vugraph) are old and of no value. Six are on windows 7 and the rest are on XP.

**Agreed** - that the old IBM Laptops could be offered to Clubs.

10. Date of Next meeting - Thursday 17th June at 10am on Zoom.