

AGM 2024 – Motion 1

Suspension of The Council

The Management Committee propose that the WBU Council be suspended and its functions carried out directly by the Management Committee instead.

The rationale behind this is that the WBU is a lot smaller that it was when the Council was first set up, now consisting of around only 1,000 members and there is no longer a need for a two-tier structure for such a small organisation.

The Council consists of the current officers of the Management Committee (President, Treasurer, National Tournament Organiser, Master Point Secretary and Area Representatives) plus the immediate past president and up to two additional representatives from each area.

In past years The Council has met just once a year immediately prior to the AGM.

The Current Role of the Council :

- Oversees the Management Committee
- Meets at least once a year.
- Appoints Committees as follows : Management Committee, Finance Committee, Selection Committee and the Laws and Ethics Committee
- Appoints the Chief Executive and negotiates their contract remuneration and duties annually
- Receives reports from the Management Committee and advises the management Committee
- Makes By-laws in between General Meetings
- Determines honoraria and other remuneration as recommended by those members of the Management Committee unaffected financially

It is therefore proposed that the duties of the Council as determined in Section 8 – The Council of the Constitution be moved to Section 9 – Management Committee

Section 8 will be deleted (red and underlined) and Section 9 will have the amendments shown in **bold and red underlined** below.

8.0 THE COUNCIL

8.1 Introductory

The Council of the Union is the central governing body of the Union. It oversees the Management Committee, which is responsible for the management of the Union's affairs.

8.2 Composition

8.2.1 The Council of the Union shall consist of the officers of the Union, the immediate Past President and members elected as representatives to the Council by each Area Association.

8.2.2 Officers of the Union - The following officers shall be elected at each AGM from candidates proposed by Council or by Area Associations, each having signified in advance in writing a willingness to stand for election.

8.2.2.1 President - who is elected at the Annual General Meeting and who will serve for one year, but shall be eligible for re-election for one further year at the next ensuing Annual General Meeting of the Union. The office of President shall be filled successively by a member of each Area Association in rotation. The rota would now continue ... East, West, North, Mid Wales.

8.2.2.2 Vice Presidents - these officers shall be the Chairmen of the Area Associations. Their names shall be advised in writing to the Chief Executive of the Union by the Honorary Secretaries of the Area Associations.

8.2.2.3 Honorary Treasurer who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Union.

8.2.2.4 Honorary Tournament Organiser who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Union.

8.2.2.5 Honorary Master Points Secretary who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Union.

8.2.3 Other Council Members

8.2.3.1 Immediate Past President.

8.2.3.2 Two representatives to the Council appointed by each of the Area Associations. Their names must be advised in writing to the Chief Executive of the Union by the Honorary Secretaries of the Area Associations respectively.

8.2.4 Chief Executive

8.2.4.1 Council shall appoint a Chief Executive from applicants made directly to Council or via Area Associations. The Chief Executive shall attend all Council meetings but shall not have a vote. The Contract, remuneration, and duties of the Chief Executive shall be negotiated by Council annually at the meeting of council close to the Annual General Meeting.

8.3 Meetings

The Council shall meet at least once a year, including a meeting within two months of the Annual General Meeting of the Union. Eight members of the Council shall form a quorum. Only the following members of the Council shall have a vote: President, Immediate Past President, Vice Presidents, Honorary Treasurer and the appointed representatives from the Area Associations. The President shall be the Chairman of the meetings of Council. In the absence of the President those present at the meeting shall elect from amongst themselves a Chairman for that meeting only. The Chairman of the meeting shall have a second, casting, vote if necessary. No other individual may have more than one vote. The President shall prepare an agenda for each meeting of the Council and will include therein any motions received in writing by the Chief Executive of the Union at least twenty-eight days prior to the Council Meeting in question.

8.4 Appointment of Committees

8.4.1 At the meeting of the council close to the Annual General Meeting of the Union the Council shall appoint the following committees:

8.4.1.1 Management Committee - consisting of the President, Chief Executive, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Tournament Officer, and four members, one nominated by each Area Association.

8.4.1.2 Finance - consisting of the President, Honorary Treasurer and one representative nominated by each of the Area Associations.

8.4.1.3 Selection - consisting of at least five and not more than seven members. One member may be nominated by each of the Area Associations, and the remainder to be elected by the Council.

8.4.1.4 Laws and Ethics - consisting of three members elected by the Council, with powers to co-opt as necessary with the President's approval.

8.4.2 If not appointed as voting members, the President and Chief Executive shall be invited to attend at least one formal meeting each year of these Committees, but without voting power.

8.5 Powers

The Council shall have power to:

8.5.1 receive the Management Committee's reports;

8.5.2 advise the Management Committee, particularly on matters of concern to the Areas and clubs;

8.5.3 submit recommendations for any alterations to this Constitution or any rules made hereunder to the Annual General Meeting of the Union;

8.5.4 in the interim between general meetings to make by-laws operative until the next general meeting not inconsistent with the Constitution or the International Laws of Contract Bridge;

8.6 Remuneration

The responsibility for determination of honoraria and other remuneration rests with the Council subject to the recommendations of the those members of the Management Committee unaffected financially, acting as a group for this purpose

9.0 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

9.1 The Management Committee is the body responsible for the management of the Union's affairs.

9.2 Membership: the President, Chief Executive, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Tournament Officer, and one member nominated by each Area Association and approved by the Council.

9.3 Conduct: The Management Committee should elect its own chairman. It should meet regularly face- to-face or by using means such as email or telephone conferencing. Decisions should be reached collectively.

9.4 Powers and Duties: The Management Committee shall have management authority over the affairs of the Union, including, but not limited to, the power to:

- 9.4.1 plan the programme of Union tournaments, congresses and other events and ensure the running thereof;
- 9.4.2 grant patronage or licences to such Open Bridge Tournaments and Congresses played within Wales on such conditions as it deems fit;
- 9.4.3 make arrangements for all International or other National representative matches played within Wales;
- 9.4.4 incur, within the available resources, such expenditure as it considers appropriate in pursuit of the objects of the Union;
- 9.4.5 appoint such Committees and persons as it may from time to time determine with such powers as it considers expedient to delegate;
- 9.4.6 receive estimates of income and expenditure; monitor all items of expenditure of the Union;
- 9.4.7 deal with any master point matters, consulting with the Honorary Master Point Secretary;
- 9.4.8 report regularly on its activities by publishing frequent reports on the WBU website, and by annual reports the AGM;**
- 9.4.9 where vacancies occur in mid-year for officers or in committees normally appointed by Council
- 9.4.10 or by the AGM, to make interim appointments which must then be confirmed by Council or by the AGM when the relevant body next meets.
- 9.4.11 It should be noted that in "emergency situations" such as covid, the Management Committee may operate outside the constitution from time to time.
- 9.4.12 appoint a Chief Executive from applicants made directly or via Area Associations. The contract, remuneration and duties of the Chief Executive shall be negotiated annually close to the Annual General Meeting.**
- 9.4.13 At the meeting close to the Annual General Meeting the Management Committee will appoint the following committees :**
- 9.4.13.1 Management Committee - consisting of the President, Chief Executive, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Tournament Officer, and four members, one nominated by each Area Association.**
- 9.4.13.2 Finance Committee – consisting of the President, Honorary Treasurer, and one representative nominated by each of the Area Associations.**
- 9.4.13.3 Selection Committee – consisting of at least five and not more than seven members. One member may be nominated by each Area Association and the remainder to be elected by the Management Committee**
- 9.4.13.4 Laws and Ethics Committee – consisting of three members elected by the Management Committee with powers to co-opt as necessary with the President's approval.**
- 9.5 If not voting members, the President and Chief Executive shall be invited to attend at least one formal meeting each year of those committees, but without voting powers.**
- 9.6 The Management Committee will have powers to make by-laws operative until the next general meeting not inconsistent with the Constitution or the International Laws of Contract Bridge**
- 9.7 The responsibility for determination of honoraria and other remuneration rests with the those members of the Management Committee unaffected financially, acting as a group for this purpose**