



West Wales Bridge Association

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COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: JULY 5 2016

1. MEMBERSHIP

Present:

Gareth Jones (Chairman), Anthony Stevens (Secretary), Keith Davison (Treasurer), Steve Burgoyne (Bridgend), Irene Delahunty (Tenby), Tony Disley (Swansea), Catherine Dudleyke (Llandybie), John Jamieson (Swansea), Margaret John (Llanelli), Judith Graham-Jones (Haverfordwest), Tony Haworth (Porthcawl), Lynn Morris (Llanelli), Irene Thomas (Bridgend), Jennifer Wardell (Co-opted), Beryl Warner (Haverfordwest), Frances Williams (Llandybie).

Recognising their special role in the Fishguard Congress, Gareth proposed and Judith seconded that Jennifer Wardell and Bob Alderdice be welcomed as Co-opted members, passed *nem con*.

Apologies:

Rory Gibbons (Port Talbot), Geoff Griffiths (Llanelli), Bob Alderdice (Co-opted *in absentia*)

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Committee meetings held on 2nd February and 8th May were accepted, and the Draft AGM Minutes were noted as an accurate record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1. February Minutes:

Keith confirmed that he is very keen to step down next year from his service as Treasurer. Tony Haworth reported that it is still not possible to upload results of teams events direct from scoring program to the MP database, and there are now two events not uploaded: Gareth will query with WBU.

The request for prompt circulation and additionally uploading of the Minutes to website was repeated.

3.2. May Minutes:

That at para 6 it be added that "Tony Disley had asked as a matter of principle that WWBA officers should be sought to reflect the geographical area, where possible".

4. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS

4.1. The letter from Chris Overton was taken as received.

4.2. An outline was given to the committee of areas of concern expressed by Catherine and Frances concerning application of rulings and scoring adjustments at WWBA events. A highly animated discussion ensued in conclusion of which the Secretary proposed that: "the minutes should reflect a robust discussion that having usefully aired issues of concern, notes this Committee is not able to conclude individual problems, but that we would take the strategic discussion forward under agenda item 6b to seek an improved understanding for the benefit of all players and the game as a whole", seconded by John Jamieson and passed unanimously.

4.3. Tony Haworth proposed and Irene seconded that the webmaster post be placed in the Secretary's hands, passed *nem con*.

5. COMPETITIONS REPORT

5.1. It was suggested that the poor attendance at the Ann Dolan event was partly due to over-aggressive attitudes by some experienced players. John Jamieson proposed and Irene seconded that the Secretary be asked to send out a copy of the WBU Good Behaviour at the Table to all club secretaries with the request to bring this to the attention of all players as a regional priority: passed *nem con*. It was also suggested that we may need to review how and where events are run in order to improve their appeal to more members.

5.2. The future of the President's Cup is in jeopardy – North submitted no entry this year.

6. AREA TOURNAMENTS 2016-17

6.1. It was noted that Steve Burgoyne was prepared to undertake the ATO role next year, welcomed by the Chairman as also fulfilling the regional representation balance mentioned by Tony. After some discussion Tony Haworth agreed to step into the current breach: proposed by Gareth, seconded by Beryl, passed unanimously with thanks.

6.2. After some discussion of the requirement to balance the needs of all standards of players and create a civilised playing environment with clearly understood and uniformly applied rules and appeals etc, it was proposed by Judith and seconded by Irene that the Secretary be asked to send to club secretaries the relevant WBU guidance on the Laws, passed *nem con*. It was further suggested that Tony may be able to frame some guidance for our website, in liaison with Gareth. It was proposed by Gareth and seconded by Keith "that all Area Events should be run under WBU rules", passed *nem con*.

6.3. Attention was asked for all clubs to try and support the EWBA/WWBA weekend on August 6-7: Irene was thanked for her work in continuing to manage entries.

6.4. At Porthcawl the format is largely unchanged from previous successful events, with the 'Novice' category of entry now described simply as 'Club Players'.

6.5. Fishguard is set for 26-28 May 2017, and Bob and Jennifer have kindly volunteered to continue their excellent organisation: proposed by Keith Burgoyne, seconded by Keith Davison and passed unanimously with thanks.

6.6. The Teams League is expected to continue with Bob Alderdice as organiser.

6.7. The Draft Calendar was reviewed, and proposed adopted by Frances, seconded by Mike and passed *nem con*, to be published to website.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

7.1. A surplus of around £1500 was verbally reported, with some additional bills presented since the AGM.

7.2. Keith Davison proposed and John seconded that subscription rates be held at current rates for this year, passed *nem con*.

8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

8.1. A second issue of the WBU newsletter was expected back from the printers very soon and distribution was hoped to commence at Llandindrod congress.

8.2. No decision had yet been taken with regard to direct entry to the WBU Open Pairs event. Currently an area heat is scheduled for January.

8.3. In continuation of current policy the WBU would not be funding a team for the 2016 World Bridge Games.

8.4. There is an intention by WBU to hold a Graded Masters competition, probably in North Wales, details tbc.

8.5. Youth Bridge: 40 youngsters are attending an event in England. Patrick Jourdain's and Patrica Cunningham's efforts in East Wales were noted as a great exemplar for us to try and replicate, to foster a vital future for the game.

8.6. The WBU will be running Lady Milne at the Ramada Inn at Wrexham.

9. WBU MATTERS

9.1. Mike Reed wants to register his protest in the strongest possible terms to the WBU's imposition of mandatory WBU membership, which is despite explicit previous assurances given to his club. He predicts that this is likely to force Carmarthen's withdrawal from WBU affiliation and feels very strongly that this is a totally unfair and sudden imposition. The Chairman drew attention to some WBU moves to ameliorate the impact on small clubs – Paddy is the contact.

Tony Howarth also had a complaint about a sudden change by WBU – MPs submitted after 1st July seemed to be charged at the higher new rate with a retrospective impact – Gareth was asked to protest and clarify as a matter of urgency.

9.2. Auditor: Irene Thomas proposed by the Treasurer, seconded by Judith and passed *nem con*.

9.3. Council Reps: Tony Disley and Beryl Warner as current reps were proposed for this year by the Secretary and seconded by John, passed *nem con*.

9.4. Treasurer proposed by Judith for FinCom, seconded by Frances and passed *nem con*.

9.5. Selector's Committee vacancy: it was proposed to put Tony Disley's name forward to WBU by Irene, seconded by Margaret John, passed *nem con*.

9.6. Management Committee: it seems ideal to have the Chairman as this link, so proposed by Irene and seconded by John, passed *nem con*.

10. CONSTITUTION

The document was endorsed by Tony Haworth, Jennifer Wardle and Gareth Jones as a fair copy of the old document, and was proposed by Judith to be posted to the website, seconded by Frances, and passed *nem con*.

11. AOB

11.1. It was reported that the Chairman and Secretary had sorted and inventoried the WWBA assets held at Tumble Hall and Fishguard; in the light of this it was proposed by Tony Disley and seconded by the Treasurer that Gareth be asked to purchase four new tables of good durable quality.

11.2. **DONM: 4pm Tuesday 25 October 2016 @ Quins Rugby Club (provisional)**

Action points:

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| 1. Query to WBU re Teams results uploading: | Chairman |
| 2. Publish a copy of the Minutes to the website: | Secretary |
| 3. A copy to club secretaries of the WBU Good Behaviour at the Table: | Secretary |
| 4. A copy to club secretaries of WBU guidance on rules & appeals: | Secretary |
| 5. Guidance notes for publication on website: | ATO/Chairman |
| 6. WWBA Calendar to be published to website: | Secretary |
| 7. Liaison on behalf of Carmarthen club with WBU re membership: | Chairman |
| 8. Urgent protest to WBU re retrospective MPs cost hike: | Chairman |
| 9. Proposal to WBU for Tony Disley as a selector: | Chairman |
| 10. Constitution to be published to website: | Secretary |
| 11. Four new tables to be purchased: | Chairman |

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