

WELSH CHESS UNION

Draft Minutes of the Management board meeting held at the the Twyn Community Centre, Caerphilly, on Friday 16th March 2012

Present:- Bill Harle (WH), Howard Williams, Ian Eustis, Tom Brown, Debbie Evans, Sarah Kett, Andrew Trickey, Robert Taylor, Beryl Hughes, John D Thornton, Peter Bevan, Jon Gilbert. (AT and JG arrived during item 3)

1. **Apologies for absence**

None recorded

2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 21st August 2011 after correction of a date were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

3. **Matters arising not on the Agenda**

(a) 2. The agreed statement had been sent to John Trevelyan and notified to others. John's response had been very negative.

(b) 6(b) There had been no communication with Charles Morris.

4. **The Geof Tyrrell Best Game Prize.**

AHW reported that 20 trophies in the shape of a dragon had been purchased at a cost of £13 each. There was a small amount of money left over. The first two winners had been determined: Richard Jones and Tom Brown. These trophies were to be presented at the opening of the Welsh Championships. He was happy that the criteria seemed to be satisfactory at this stage.

5. **Arrangements for the Danailov-Topalov Visit**

WH told the meeting that the visit was to be combined with a visit to Scotland on the weekend 28/29 April. He had tried to contact the SCA unsuccessfully, so that both countries did not arrange their meetings on the same day.

There was need for a suitable venue. AT was asked to see if the Sennedd would be available, and also to see if Carwyn Jones would be free to meet them.

The meeting agreed that the strongest available juniors would be given the opportunity to take part in the Topalov simul, with adults being used to fill up any remaining spaces.

6. **Arrangements for the AGM**

The meeting agreed to either 11/12th June as the date for the AGM which was to be held in Bridgend. AT was asked to find a suitable venue. It was noted that posting on the website of the date and venue required 56 days notice if we were to comply with the Constitution.

7. **Conflicts of Interest**

This had been raised arising from a Junior Committee meeting. There was concern expressed that on the BBC transcript of a report on Juniors' trip to London, there was mention of Chess Academy Wales, but virtually no recognition of the WCU. DE strongly contested the implications. WH was not keen for the matter to get personal, and stated that he was happy with DE's work for WCU and that all members must be aware of any conflict of interest in what they were doing.

8. **Correction of the Inscriptions on the Ladies' Championship Trophy**

BH had been doing work to making a complete and correct list of Welsh Lady Champions. She believed that inscriptions on the trophy were incorrect. There had been a trophy in the form of a clock from 1991 until 1999, but this had been replaced in 2000 with a new slate trophy. Jane Richmond was believed to hold the older trophy. There was some dispute at the meeting as to the correctness of BH's information. JG said he would help to check the

information which was in doubt.

9. **The Format of the Ladies Championship**

BH was concerned that the current format of the Ladies Championship as part of the Welsh Championship excluded possible participants who were not strong enough to qualify for the latter. There was also a view expressed that participation in the Ladies Championship should possibly be a requirement to be selected for the Olympiad, to raise the profile of the Championship with a view to obtaining possible sponsorship.

WH curtailed discussion ruling that any decision relating to this should be left to the Ladies' Committee, who should let us know what they wanted.

10. **Definition of Roles**

This had been raised by Susan Owens. There seemed general agreement that for each Director to say how they saw their role with a view to this being put on the website was a sensible idea.

11. **Reports of Directors**

(h) Publicity Officer (DE)

In addition to the written report provided which DE took the meeting through, she also reported that with the London 2012 Olympics now approaching, she had done some work which now enabled us to use the Inspire Mark on our website.

There was also mention of Briant Bourne the second Welsh Champion, who was in North Wales. There was a suggestion that we send him a birthday card, and also that if an interview could be obtained this be put on the website.

DE left the meeting after presenting her report.

(a) Finance Director (AHW)

AHW presented the meeting with the accounts which were accepted. He pointed out that any deficit on the accounts was usually about the size of any loss made at the Welsh Championships. Since these were sponsored this year, we were not likely to make a loss, and so the projected increase in membership fees would not be asked for.

(b) Home Director (AT)

(i) The re-organisation of the jamborees seemed to have gone down well – with positive feedback. There had been no problem with the £2 levy on players at the event.

(ii) Penarth was the likely venue for KO finals day.

(iii) He was looking to canvass opinion as to whether the start of the first round of the Welsh Championship could be brought forward to 3pm from the current 6pm

(iv) There was information about a new correspondence association, which was looking to represent Welsh chess. The meeting approved this, subject to ratification at the AGM.

(v) There was a suggestion that the full WCU grading lists be made available electronically, rather than members having to go to the relevant zonal lists.

(c) International Director (TB)

TB's written report was accepted. Our team in the ETC had struggled to a score of 5.5/36 AHW's performance at this event had been good.

(g) Grading Officer (RGT)

RGT was trying to get the WFM title for Debbie Evans, based on an Olympiad performance. There was some problem because of various name changes. TB was to help him chase this up with FIDE.

RGT left the meeting after presenting his report.

(d) Junior Director (IE)

The meeting accepted IE's written report.

(e) Development Director (SK)

SK's written report was accepted

(f) Ladies Director (BH)

Other than item's already discussed, BH reported that she had been in touch with Jane Richmond, and had been taken aback by the fact that despite having played 70 or more games for Wales Ladies' team, Jane was no longer eligible to represent what she regarded

as her country, because the 10-year's consecutive residence rule had been removed from the constitution. JDT was asked to check on the number of year's Jane had been resident, with a view to re-instating such a rule at the AGM. AHW would help with drafting.

(i) Executive Director (WH)

With the Danailov visit and the AGM sorted out earlier in the meeting WH had nothing further to report.

12. A.O.B

AHW raised the point that with Richard Jones passing away last year, we were currently without a President. This needed to be rectified at the AGM, with members were requested to think of suitable candidates and let WH know.