



## MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

**Date: Monday, 31 January 2011**

**Time: 07:30pm**

**Venue: Carleon RFC**

**Executive:** Linda Hutchinson, Jean-Yves Robic, Tony Smith, Judith

**Representatives from the following clubs:** W heatsheaf, The Barn, Cardiff Bay, Brecon, Penarth, Wenvoe, Panteg and Caerleon, a total of 25 members.

**01/11 Apologies:** Brian and Jenny Spooner, Dai Canon

**02/11 Previous Minutes:** The minutes of the general meeting held at Panteg House on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010 were agreed, proposer Jake Gaston, W heatsheaf; seconded Bob Pugh, Wenvoe.

**03/11 Matters Arising:** None

### **03/11 Officers Reports**

#### **03/11.01: Vice President:**

Jean-Yves Robic reported that the situation of the Executive this year is exceptional, with only four elected officers. Since election, the Executive had served the membership by responding to issues speedily, eg club transfer, and always worked together, irrespective of elected position, to keep the Association on the right track. The 2011 calendar has been published and the first round of the Welsh Club for Clubs has been played in early January. WPA membership renewal forms have issued to all cubs and contacts have been maintained within the FIPJP, the CEP and other UK Associations.

#### **03/11/02; Treasurer**

Linda Hutchinson reported that at present the WPA has approx £5.5k funds, £3.5k in a deposit account and £2k in a current account. The WPA will pay the affiliation fee for The Welsh Cup for Clubs so the £240 raised from entrance fees will all go to the winning Club. A new club has joined the WPA – Sir Henry Morgans. Linda reported that the WPA receive approx £4.5k yearly income from fees, and expenditure is approx £3k. Last year WPA spent a higher than usual proportion of income on kit as a lot of members newly qualified to represent Wales were given playing shirts, giving a profit at the end of the year of £850. A major expense for the WPA will be in 2012 when we host the Home Nations and we would need to look at sponsorship as early as possible.

#### **03/11/03: Publicity Officer**

Judith Smith reported since taking office the following initiatives have been undertaken: reporting of Welsh Cup for Clubs in newspapers in Cardiff, Vale, Gwent areas; WPA has been registered in Directory of British Associations; GumTree; Joe Public; Only Sport (UK wide), Gwent Sport, Gwent Sports Directory, Cardiff Sport Directory (all free). First drafts of posters for new members/advertising the sport, have been prepared and are currently being worked on. These will be for competitions and WPA/club events. Three quotes will be obtained to gain best price for production. WPA now has a Facebook site and the current Twitter site is very active. Judith



reported plans to obtain press coverage during the season to incorporate launch of the two new Cardiff Clubs and new Penylan ground. It is also intended to investigate other advertising

#### **03/11/04: National Coach**

Tony Smith reported that his aim for 2011 is to get a number of coaching courses going to get Club Coaches qualified. There will be a charge but Clubs can get funding from Community Chest grants of up to £1k per annum for small projects. Tony asked clubs to obtain forms to book coaching from the WPA website, where there is also information regarding funding. Tony also reported that he will be looking at developing contacts with clubs in the Netherlands, Holland and Denmark.

#### **04/11 Playing Calendar**

Competitions requiring venues were offered to clubs and the following were requested and accepted: special note that Senior Qualifier to be moved over two weekends, as requested by membership present:

27/2	Stuart Clarke Cup	Wheatsheaf;
6/3	Presidents Cub	TBC
13/3	Ladies Qual R1	The Barn;
20/3	Ladies Qual R2	Caerleon;
27/3	Grand Prix 1	Wenvoe;
10/4	Grand Prix 2	TBC – possibly Abergavenny
17/4	Grand Prix 3	Panteg
8/5	Grand Prix 4	Brecon
5/6	National Mix D	Brecon
19/6	National Singles	Penarth
23/6	WPA General Mtg	Brecon (from 8.00pm)
3/7	National Doubles	Wenvoe
16/7	National Shooting	Penarth
17/7	National Triples	Abergavenny (tbc) if not Wenvoe will host
3/9	Eng v Wales Junior	Monkstone Penylan
11/9	Celtic Chal Qual	Wheatsheaf
15/9	WPA Gen Mtg	Monkstone Penylan
19/11	AGM & Pres	ROF club / Hilton Newport – tbc
11/12	Welsh C4C R1	Pentwyn Leisure Centre

Other events announced were 24 July – Marches, at Brecon; 21/8 Brecon Open Triples.

#### **05/11 Competition Format**

Jean-Yves Robic advised the membership that the Grand Prix series will be run on the Swiss system with the top 8 teams determining the ranking. The top three teams plus the ladies will be invited to take part in 3 or 4 competitions to determine the final ranking (teams 1 – 3). The ranking will be calculated by the number of games won and lost and the final position in each competition. At the end of each competition the number of games won will be recorded and the team finishing at the highest position will get the maximum bonus points. The final ranking will be calculated at the end of the extra competition series.



## **05/11/01 League Rules**

Bob Pugh advised that there will be some changes to the league for 2011 onwards, and identified the main rules detailed below:

- The rules hosted on the WPA website are definitive – no other document will be valid
- All home fixtures must be played in one venue only
- All league matches to be played on a Wednesday only. If a team wants to play another night (eg due to holiday absences) they can ask their opponents
- Postponed matches must be played with two weeks of original date
- If a team fails to attend a match, the game must be played within the two weeks
- Results should be reported by the Saturday following play.
- Default reporting method is electronically via WPA website. Paper copies to be retained in the event of a dispute
- In the event of a draw in the Cup or Plate the winner is the team with the higher points; if all is equal the away team wins the game.
- The “3 game rule” does not apply to League, Cup or Plate (ie only members can play in these fixtures)
- Cup and Plate fixtures can be played on any weekday agreed between teams, but must be played by the date specified by the league organizer.

### **05/11/01.1 – Cup/Plate format**

Members were asked to vote on running this fixture as a knock-out. Votes for 15, votes against 1, abstentions 7. This motion was passed.

## **06/11: Rules for Club Transfer**

Tony Smith advised that this year there have been a number of requests for club transfers. The Executive has formalized club transfer rules. These are available on the WPA website

Tony Smith advised that the WPA have received one request to transfer from the EPA to the WPA, which is being considered.

## **07/11: Composition of National Executive**

Jean Yves Robic advised the membership that Abergavenny has questioned the validity of the current Executive, due to the positions of President and Secretary remaining vacant. The membership present expressed support of the current Executive and confirmed that the Executive had carried out its duties effectively since election. The membership asked that this issue be considered by the Constitution Working Group. Jean-Yves advised that he would write respond to Abergavenny in writing, advising them that the issue had been discussed at this meeting and of their right to call an EGM if they wish.

**Action: Constitution Working Group – ongoing review**

**Action: Jean Yves Robic to write to Abergavenny**



## **08/11: Any Other Business**

### **08/11/01: Appointment of Doctor**

Jean-Yves Robic reported that in line with FIPJP practices and requirements in relation to drug testing at certain events, Dr Clare Lipetz has been appointed as the WPA Medical Advisor. Her principal role will be to keep the WPA informed of the WADO list of prohibited substances, to check the medical form submitted by international players to the WP, and to advise players taking part in European or World competitions on possible problems with medication. Dr Lipetz is registered with the GMC and as a Data Controller with the Information Commissioner's Office (Data Protection Act 1998)

### **08/11/02: Vote of thanks**

Gay Evans wished to record a vote of thanks to the Executive for their work so far, on behalf of the membership.

### **08/11/03: Home Nations**

The Executive will formally request clubs to put forward expressions of interest to host 2012 Home Nations.

The meeting closed at 20:45.

**Date of Next Meeting: 23 June 2011**