



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION LIMITED
HELD AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, LONDON,
ON WEDNESDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2010**

Present:	Sally Bugden	Chairman & Gloucestershire Proxy Shareholder
	Andrew Petrie	Vice Chairman & Tournament Committee Chairman
	Mike Hill	Treasurer
	Barry Capal	General Manager & Merseyside & Cheshire Proxy Shareholder
	Jeremy Dhondy	Board Members & Laws & Ethics Committee Chairman
	Suzanne Gill	Board Member
	Graham Jepson	Board Member
	Jeff Morris	Board Member & Manchester Proxy Shareholder
	Alan Nelson	Board Member
	Malcolm Oliver	Board Member
	Martin Pool	Board Member
	Heather Dhondy	Selection Committee Chairman
	Gerard Faulkner	Vice President & Norfolk Shareholder
	Tony Parks	Auditor
	John Pain	Minute Taker
	Karen Durrell	Reception
	Matt Betts	Photography

County	Shareholders: Present	Apologies	Proxy	County	Shareholders: Present	Apologies	Proxy
Avon		Mrs S O'Hara	P Green	Lincolnshire	J Smith	Mrs D Brown	J Smith
Bedfordshire	C Parkin			London		Mrs C Duckworth	
Berks & Bucks	N Thompson			Manchester	S Travers	K Cormrie	S Travers
Cambs & Hunts				Merseyside/Cheshire	M Newman	A Clark	B Capal
Channel Islands	Mrs P Panter			Middlesex	P Hasenson		
Cornwall		JM Booth	G Warren	Norfolk	R Hillman	R Arney	JG Faulkner
Cumbria				North East	JG Faulkner	J McCourt	
Derbyshire		Mrs J Floutier	J Wilcox	Northants	G Hedley		
Devon		T Treeby	D Hugo	Notts	Mrs J Burgess	K Rodgers	Mrs J Burgess
Dorset	R Heath			Oxford	Mrs B Harris		
Essex	Mrs M Curtis	I Moss	D Green	Somerset	Mrs S Nicholson		
Gloucestershire	D Green	JA Simons	Mrs S Bugden	Staffs & Shrops	Mrs S Maxwell	PD Hackett	J Withers
Hants & IoW		Mrs M Gale		Suffolk	Mrs R Brown		
Herefordshire	WK Palmer						
	RR Ray			Surrey	PB Bentley	MR Curtis	
	R Underhill	G Harrington	R Underhill		H Marsen	Mrs P Griffin	H Marsen
Hertfordshire	B Blackman			Sussex	PJ Bates		
	BN Eddleston				Miss JB Simpson		
Isle of Man	M W Minting			Warwicks	D Evetts		
Kent					C Lang	Mrs J Jeffreys	H Marsen
Lancashire	BR Crack			Westmorland	J Pyner		
	B Brelsford			Wiltshire	P Green		
Leicestershire	Mrs J Wright			Worcester	P Hammond	Mrs JA Skelton	P Hammond
	RH Northage			Yorkshire	P Mason	Mrs L Millet	P Mason
	J Wilcox				I Rodger		
					Mrs J Latham		

The following people were also present: Ian Rankin, David & Anne Gilling, Dave Harrison, Bill & Freda McCarthy, Peter & Marit Langston and Ted & Alma Bond.

Opening the meeting Sally Bugden wished the U21 team (who had received a late invitation to take part) good luck in the World Bridge Series in Philadelphia. She thanked all those who had donated funds which have allowed the team to participate.

On a sad note, Sally reported the recent deaths of TD Ian Muir (North East) and Ian Monachan (Channel Islands). Condolences were expressed to all their families.

1 Apologies for absence

See Page 1 for County information. Apologies were also received from Vice Presidents David Harris & Peter Stocken.

2 Announcement of Dimmie Fleming Award

Sally said it was a great honour to present the Dimmie Fleming awards given to members nominated by their counties for service over and above the norm at both county and club level. She also thanked Philip Mason, Jeff Morris and Margaret Curtis for organising the awards.

Awards were presented to:

David and Anne Gilling (Bedfordshire)

Both David & Anne have been actively involved in the promotion, development and administration of bridge in Bedfordshire for many years at both county and club level.

David served on the BBA committee for 9 years in total from 1995-2004. He was Vice-Chairman in 2000-2001 and County Chairman from 2001-2004. Since he stepped down from the committee, David has continued to support the county and has often acted as a proxy at the EBU shareholder meetings.

The latest event which Anne is organising to promote bridge in Milton Keynes is a stand at an exhibition this autumn in Central Milton Keynes shopping centre including a table of four continually at play. Anne has already recruited a number of volunteer helpers.

They are both actively involved at present in administration at both Milton Keynes and Leighton Buzzard bridge clubs.

Anne has been involved with Milton Keynes Bridge Club since it was formed 35 years ago and she was the founding treasurer. Over the years, Anne and David have held various posts on the club committee. They regularly taken on extra activities to help attract, recruit and retain members. At present, David is a regular director in the club, while Anne takes a leading role in organising the club's more social events amongst other things, where her attention to detail is especially valuable. As well as supporting and promoting the work of local bridge teachers, Anne and David have given up a lot of their free time in recent years to run informal bridge classes in their own home.

Anne has been the driving force behind actions to save Leighton Buzzard Bridge Club from closure. She stepped in at a time when there was only one person left on the club committee. Supported by David and others, she re-energised the club and established a new active committee of which David is the current chairman.

Anne & David have contributed selflessly to the development of bridge in Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes both individually and together over many years. They are tireless in their enthusiasm and consummate advocates for the game.

Dave Harrison (Cambs and Hunts)

Dave has done sterling work over more than 30 years for both the County Association and the Cambridge Club in a variety of role, and was instrumental in producing early bridge scoring programs.

He is currently a Vice-President of the association and has been Tournament Organiser and County Captain, while for the Cambridge club he has been Chairman and TD, and also scorer since 1976.

He has won The NICKO, Garden Cities, ECL (as captain, which was the first time Cambs & Hunts had won it), and 3rd in the Tollemache and Pachabo. He has also won almost every County Competition – just the County Individual has eluded him. His remaining ambition is to reach Grand Master.

Mike Minting (Hertfordshire)

Mike has given outstanding service both to the County and the Welwyn Garden City Bridge Club over the past 25 years.

He served as Secretary on the committee at Welwyn Garden City Bridge Club from 1985 to 1992 and is a key player within the club.

Mike was elected onto the Hertfordshire Bridge Association committee in 1991. Originally as Assistant Tournament Secretary and since 1996 Tournament Secretary organising the complete county programme of events including county leagues and county green pointed events.

Each year Mike produces the County's comprehensive programme of events' & information on clubs and teaching in the county which is distributed to all Hertfordshire's members.

He has been Herts EBU Shareholder for over 10 years attending EBU Council/Shareholder meetings.

Mike is extremely efficient and effective and spends many hours each month ensuring that all events run smoothly, and is so successful that many of the counties members don't realise just how much effort is required.

Bill McCarthy (Oxfordshire)

Bill has been a member of Thame Bridge Club for over seventeen years, and has captained one of its club teams for many years.

Bill is also on the committee for Aylesbury Bridge Club for at least 10 or so years. He was the sole scorer until Bridgeweb came into use. He set up his own website to show the Aylesbury Club results and ladders. He is also stand in scorer for Thame Club.

He duplicates board for both Aylesbury & Thame Bridge club, as well as Oxfordshire Bridge Association home county matches; directs at both clubs and has taken on responsibility for movement cards. He regularly directs and/or scores various charity events.

Bill ran the OBA county championship for at least two years and was an active member of the OBA Tournament Committee for several years and has maintained the websites for the results of all the County league competitions.

Peter Langston (Sussex)

Since becoming Chairman of Patcham Bridge Club Peter has succeeded in turning it into one of the most popular clubs in the county and has boosted club membership considerably. He has also introduced a lot of county heats and events into the club and has directed at club and county level with skill and confidence.

Peter was a full and active County Committee member for 10 years and held the post of Honorary County Treasurer for 8 years during which time he modernised the County financial organisation and controls. More recently he has volunteered to take on the arrangements for duplimating the board for county events. He is a most public spirited and is an enthusiastic supporter of Sussex bridge.

Peter is a popular and friendly figure and is thought of very highly within the club and county.

Ted Bond (Yorkshire)

In early 1959 Ted was asked by his senior official at Yorkshire Bank head office to form a Yorkshire Bank Bridge Section, to organise practice bridge drives, to select a team of four for the League and to be the playing captain of the team. All this was fine except for one thing – Ted had never actually played bridge! Ted had to learn the game, learn how to run a drive and, the most difficult of all, to find a partner. The League lasted 40 years.

Ted has for two decades performed many duties for Yorkshire CBA. He retired from the last of these as Membership Secretary at the end of March. He was Vice-Chairman from 1990 – 1994 and since then his principal posts have included Treasurer, Editor of the Bulletin and Yorkshire League Secretary. For most of the 1990's Ted was one of Yorkshire's delegates to the EBU Council.

First started directing county events in the early 80's and finally hung up his "directing shoes" in 2008 having done many a score of club, county and charity events to say nothing of bridge holidays both in the UK and abroad.

As Treasurer Ted computerised the YCBA accounts, and as Membership Secretary he undertook the mammoth task of transferring well over two thousand members records to the computers. Ted also created a membership program that checked the eligibility of players in the Yorkshire League.

Awards for members not present at the meeting would be made when convenient to the recipients

Geoff Bell (Cumbria) – to be presented at the Cumbria Congress

Geoff has been a long time servant of bridge in Cumbria for well over 20 years, having been Secretary for a number of years previously and last year stepped into the breach again.

He has extremely and efficiently dealt with the P2P change over, including negotiating the County's new constitution. Geoff has also been the producer of the County Newsletter for a period of 10 years.

Anne Swannell (Gloucs)

Anne has been a member of Cheltenham Bridge Club for many years, being elected to the club committee in 1986. Since then she has been Chairman twice and worked in many different posts.

She has also served on the Cheltenham Bridge Congress committee for some 20 years and is the current Secretary. Along with her happy band of workers she has worked many a long hour to make it a continued success. She also manages to play as well!!

Some 10 years ago Anne also joined the GCBA Executive Committee and County members have benefited from her organisational skills on Monday evenings and weekend events during that time.

Anne also plays at the Gloucester Bridge Club helping out there. She has represented the Club and County in many competitions with a great degree of success and indeed played all over the country.

Anne is always smiling and a real "pocket dynamo", loving her bridge. In addition to all this she is still in employment and a mother enjoying time with her family. Quite incredible.

John Derek Rue (Gloucs)

Derek Rue has been a well known figure in Gloucestershire bridge since the 1960's. He first joined the GCBA Executive Committee in 1966 and apart from a four year spell spent working abroad, he was continuously a member of the committee until his retirement last May. During that 44 year period he filled many roles including President, Secretary and Treasurer. Derek was always a calm guiding influence prepared to undertake any task that benefited County members.

Derek was also one of the founder members of Cheltenham Bridge Club. In 1966 along with 11 other bridge players funds were raised to purchase No: 4 Tivoli Road and the club was formed. It has become one of the top 5 clubs in the country and currently has 500 members. Derek has worked tirelessly on the club committee. Carried out Chairman duties and has been a Club Trustee since 1988. He has represented the club in many competitions with great success including winning the prestigious Garden Cities Trophy on two occasions. He was also a silver medalist in the 2001 European Bridge Pairs Championship.

Derek is always willing to offer a helping hand to the less experienced with his wealth of knowledge. An extremely likeable man who deserves recognition for his considerable contribution to bridge at all levels.

3 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 7th October 2009

The minutes were a matter of note, having been formally accepted at the Shareholders' Meeting on 9th March 2010.

4 Minutes of the Shareholders' Meeting on 1st July 2010

The minutes were signed as a true record, subject to a correction in 10.2 'Mrs Golding' (unknown) was replaced with 'A delegate' and a minor typing error.

Matters Arising

It was confirmed that *Bridge for All* students are counted as Player Members for the purposes of voting rights.

A question was asked about when members on the database shown in 'yellow' would be updated. It was confirmed that 'yellow' members' membership lapsed at the end of July – as determined in the Bye Laws - and these people should be turned 'red' on 1 August. Updates of county records will occur in the next few weeks.

A question was raised on the NBO budget to the EBL. Whilst congratulating David Harris on being elected EBL Treasurer it was noted that there was a conflict of interest when dealing with the EBU over our new contribution based on the larger membership numbers. The Chairman stated that she believed negotiations would take place with another EBL committee member to avoid any suggestion of a conflict of interest.

A question was raised about the results of the Social Benefit survey amongst MPs. It was confirmed that the survey was still open for completion but that only 5 MPs had completed the survey to date which was recognised as disappointing.

The General Manager agreed to look at the possibility of re-opening the Shareholders Forum.

A question was asked about the logistics of getting club reps for the new Club Committee. It was confirmed that it was up to the national club representatives and counties to work together to sort out the best way to proceed.

5 Chairman's Annual Report for the year 2009/2010

This has been a momentous year for the EBU and for its Board. The building blocks of our philosophy have been cemented in, with the implementation of universal membership and its resulting streamlining at Aylesbury. At our Board meeting in May, we agreed that with more members than have ever existed within the Union, we would have to keep abreast of the impact on Aylesbury and review this before the end of this financial year.

An additional aspect of our philosophy to determine how to gain more members via education initiatives has also been implemented with the club teacher programme and our research amongst the counties to look at their education development needs.

We will also be undertaking an online marketing research survey of our membership at the end of this calendar year, measuring how and if we are meeting their needs and researching what services we should develop for the future.

On my election two years ago I promised that I would work to demonstrate to decision makers and stake holders that bridge can have a beneficial effect on society through education, family activity, helping to obtain and maintain a healthy and agile mind and through the creation of communities for older people. I would like to thank Baroness Henig for her continued support at Parliamentary level for these initiatives. I

would also like to thank Ron Millet who has worked so hard to help us in these matters, always looking for opportunities to raise funds to carry out some robust research, never feeling defeated. Ron undertakes this work as a volunteer. Which brings me on to the subject of how the EBU currently operates.

The majority of work that takes place in duplicate bridge in England, probably 95% of it, is carried out by valiant volunteers, in our clubs, in our counties and at national level. In a world of austerity, government budget cuts and ideas of the Big Society, this is the model that is likely to continue within the resources available in the coming years.

So, as well as increasing the number of duplicate bridge players, we need to aim to increase the number of individuals who volunteer. Why? Because if we don't we will not be able to capitalise on all the good work that has already been undertaken as well as getting fresh blood in for new ideas. So, how can we do this? We need to open up volunteering by opening up an understanding of how volunteers work within the EBU so that each and every potential volunteer knows what to expect and what is expected of them within their counties or within the national body. How they fit in to the overall objectives and strategies and how what they do makes a difference to duplicate bridge players locally or nationally. This will require a supreme effort by all existing volunteers to chart and define our roles and the roles and objectives of our committees, which must include timely reviews. We will also need to look at best practice in other organisations that survive on the dedication of a volunteer workforce. So that we can create a body of information which can be disseminated to ensure that the EBU and its constituent parts continue to welcome not only new members but new volunteers to carry on this important work.

I am honoured to be able to take this opportunity to show my appreciation of the support and hard work of volunteers who work at the national level:

Heather Dhondy for her Chairmanship of the Selection Committee and her work on the Tournament Directors Development Group. I look forward to working with Heather on the Board.

Jeremy Dhondy for his Chairmanship of the Laws and Ethics Committee and equally for his work with Bridge Great Britain. Jeremy is also a member of the TDDG.

Andrew Petrie, not only for his continued Chairmanship of the Tournament Committee addressing all the new master point and licensing issues but for the phenomenal amount of work he has undertaken as Vice Chairman on addressing corporate governance and charity registration.

Mike Hill for his work as Treasurer, his excellent advice and constant monitoring of all that impacts on our finances.

Malcolm Oliver for his help with business planning and the shop.

Suzanne Gill for coming on to the Board and managing the Education Working Group project

Graham Jepson for his Chairmanship of the Interim Club Committee.

David Harris for his dedication and work as our Honorary Counsel

Richard Fleet, for volunteering his advice and experience to the Board on selection matters

Gerard Faulkner for his excellent contribution as our pro bono advisor

To all the members of the National Grading System Working Group who have continued their hard work and commitment to the project in a year when their Chairman, John Carter, tragically died.

And to all the members of the Disciplinary Panel who work on difficult and complex issues on behalf of the membership

And I must say goodbye to three members of my Board.

To Jeff Morris who has been a member of the Board since 2002 serving previously for two years from 1992-1994. Jeff has worked tirelessly to ensure that the EBU has a profile within the CCPR, the representative organisation for all national recreational and sporting bodies and through that organisation helped get bridge and other mind sports recognised in the 2006 Charity's Act. Jeff will continue to represent the EBU on the

CCPR and will continue to be a member of the Board's subcommittee dealing with EBU awards and honours for volunteers.

To Alan Nelson, who joined the Board in November 2004. Alan has been a guiding light with our business strategies, giving us the benefit of his extensive corporate experience, not only with finance but with the most important asset of the EBU, its people. Alan will continue to serve on the Tournament Committee and I know, will be available for us to consult on strategic matters.

And to Martin Pool. Martin has been a member of the Board since 2005 and a member of the L and E Committee since 1999 and its Chairman from 2003 to 2008 during which time a new Orange Book was published. Martin has in the past year been the Chairman of the Tournament Directors Development Group which ensures that our existing TDs continue to meet the needs of our customers at our tournaments and also that we have new recruits who benefit from a new mentoring system.

Martin has reviewed all the new county constitutions, and has very kindly offered to complete that task for us in the coming year or so. Martin will also remain on the L and E and as a member of the Tournament Directors Development Group.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those who continue to fund us. To all those individuals who donated so generously to send the Under 21s off to Philadelphia, to the Milton Damerall Trust, to Helen Schapiro and to Baker Tilly.

And finally I would like to thank Barry Capal for his dedication in fulfilling the Board's policies and to all his staff at Aylesbury who have worked so hard during the last year.

6 Hon. Treasurer's Annual Report for the year 2009/2010

The report was noted. The Treasurer said that he had nothing to add but would be happy to answer questions. There were no questions.

7 Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2009

The report was approved and the annual accounts to 31st March formally adopted nem con.

8 Re-appointment of Auditors for the year 2010/2011

A proposal from the Chair that AD Parks & Co. be re-appointed was carried nem con. The Treasurer thanked Tony Parks for his contribution over a number of years. Philip Mason wished to thank the officers for their hard work and the meeting concurred with acclamation.

9 Pay to Play and membership subscriptions for 2011/12

The Board had provided a paper on the increase of the Pay to Play contribution which provided two options either an increase of 3p to 32p – the Board's preferred option - or an increase of 2p to 31p.

The Treasurer said that the original figure of 29p had been derived using 2007 financial numbers but, to allow clubs to base their discussions about affiliation on a known figure which was then set as the actual rate to apply in 2010 with no change for inflation built in – so the 2010 figure of 29p was lower than it should have been in real terms. He also made it clear that the actual figure for player sessions in the period April – July was just over 635000. Although there were quieter months (August and December) there were also busier winter months to come – so the estimate of 1.9m player sessions looked on course to be met. The Treasurer said a figure of 32p for 2011/12 might need an inflation adjustment in 2012; a figure of 31p for 2011/12 would need an inflation increase and a loss of income increase.

The Chairman made it clear that the Board had fiduciary duties as directors of the company to inform shareholders on the financial arrangements.

There was a wide ranging debate where many options were discussed. At the end of the discussion the Chairman asked for the Shareholders to vote on the options provided in the paper.

In a vote the motion to raise the Pay to Play contribution for 2011/12 from 29p to 32p was DEFEATED by 15 votes to 24.

In a vote the motion to raise the Pay to Play contribution for 2011/12 from 29p to 31p with a further rise in 2012 to recover the rest of the lost inflation was CARRIED by many votes to 6.

Other proposals to raise the following subscriptions were carried nem.con.

	(for info) 2008/2009	(for info) 2009/2010	(for info) 2010/2011	Proposed 2010/2011
Existing Members	17.00	18.00	N/a	N/a
New Members				
Joining between 1 April 2010 and 31 October 2010	17.00	18.00	N/a	N/a
Joining between 1 November 2010 and 28 February 2011	8.50	9.00	N/a	N/a
Direct Members				
UK	26.00	28.00	23.00	24.00
Overseas	28.00	30.00	25.00	26.00
EBUTA Members				
Existing or new members joining before 31 October 2010	14.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Joining between 1 November 2010 and 31 March 2011	7.00	7.50	7.50	7.50
Junior Members				
Over 17 and under 25 years old on 1 January 2010	5.00	5.00	N/a	N/a
Under 17 years old on 1 January 2010	2.00	2.00	N/a	N/a
Affiliations				
Club (via County)	20.50	20.50	30.00	30.00
Club (Direct)	41.00	41.00	30.00	30.00
University	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Schools	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

10 Election of Directors

Following the change to the Articles in July only eight places were now to be elected. There were eight nominations for the eight places so they were elected en bloc.

Elected:

Sally Bugden, Heather Dhondy, Jeremy Dhondy, Suzanne Gill, Michael Hill, Graham Jepson, Malcolm Oliver, Andrew Petrie.

The Chairman welcomed Heather Dhondy to the Board. She also made it clear that at the first meeting of the new Board it would be decided (by lot if necessary) who would stand for re-election in one year or two years time, reflecting the change to the three-year election pattern.

11 Election of Chairman for the year 2010/2011

Sally Bugden, having been duly nominated, was re-elected unopposed.

12 Election of Vice-Chairman for the year 2010/2011

Andrew Petrie, having been duly nominated, was re-elected unopposed.

13 Election of Hon. Treasurer for the year 2010/2011

Michael Hill, having been duly nominated, was re-elected unopposed.

14 Appointment of Company Secretary for the year 2010/2011

Barry Capal was formally appointed for the year 2010/11.

15 Election of 3 members to the Laws & Ethics Committee for the year 2010/2011

Three nominations had been received for three positions. Frances Hinden and Neil Morley were re-elected and Tim Rees was elected for three-year terms of office expiring in 2013.

16 Election of 3 members of the Tournament Committee for the year 2010/2011

Three nominations had been received for three positions. Margaret Curtis, Philip Mason and Andrew Petrie were re-elected for a further three-year term of office expiring in 2013.

17 Election of 2 members of the Selection Committee for the year 2010/2011

Two nominations had been received for two positions. Heather Dhondy and Paul Hackett were re-elected for a further three-year term of office expiring in 2013.

18 One Day Green Point Licensing

Andrew Petrie confirmed that a full review of the financial arrangements for ODGP events had been carried out. The review had concluded that with normal inflation the rate should rise from £7.50 to £7.80. However the review had also concluded that the current rate was too high and the licence fee will be reduced to £6.80 with effect from April 1st 2011.

The review recommended a return to the fixed licence fee for ODGP events rather the current capping of the lower of the prevailing licence rate or 50% of the 'profit'. The Board supported this suggestion and now proposed it to shareholders.

In a vote the motion to return to a fixed licence fee for any county one day green pointed event taking place either as a standalone event or as part of a county congress after 31 March 2011 was CARRIED by 25 votes to 13.

19 Ordinary Resolutions

19.1 To reduce Shareholders meetings to two per annum

It was also proposed to hold an annual County Chairman's conference.

In a vote the motion to reduce to two shareholders meetings per year plus a County Chairman's conference was CARRIED by 28 votes to 5 votes.

19.2 To accept a new schedule of voting for counties to reflect Universal Membership

Andrew Petrie said that the groundwork for this proposal had been carried out by the late John Carter. A delegate asked how the figures were arrived at and delegates were reminded that the figure was based on those who were members on March 31st in any year and that the numbers given were an illustration only. Another delegate asked what happened if the numbers fell below the required figure – how did the county decide which Shareholder would be dropped? It was confirmed that it was the responsibility of the county to decide who would and who would not be a shareholder, having due regard to its constitution.

In a vote the motion to accept the new schedule was CARRIED nem con.

20 Bridge Great Britain

Sally Bugden said that the Board had given notice to the core committee of Bridge Great Britain under the 2004 agreement to alter the terms of that agreement. Consequently there would be a review with the SBU and WBU probably in January 2011. She confirmed that the Board's wish was for BGB to remain successful.

The reason to re- negotiate was to obtain a more effective and efficient organisation with a greater understanding between the core nations. Distribution of the income, from the BGB Simultaneous Pairs, also needs to be discussed along with other considerations. It was confirmed that any player taking part in the BGB Sims in an unaffiliated clubs will be charged an additional 50p starting from the Autumn event 2010.

21 Hon. Treasurer's Report for the year to date

Michael Hill reported that performance was a little below budget, but that he had no particular concerns. It had been assumed in the budget that the new Club Teacher Training courses would deliver students in the first year but it was now acknowledged there was a time lag between the courses being held and student classes starting. Advertising in *English Bridge* was also down but he put that down mainly to the current economic climate.

22 Minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors

22.1 June 8th 2010

The delegates from Leicestershire wished to thank Martin Pool for all his hard work on helping them with their constitutions. Other counties concurred.

A delegate asked how the launch of the Patron scheme was progressing. Sally Bugden said that Patrons would be approached personally and would be asked to contribute a minimum of £500 for three years. However, this coincided in the summer with the request for funding for the U21s to play in Philadelphia. It was felt that the personal approaches for the Patron scheme needed to be delayed. In the mean time Michael Byrne had achieved great success by raising £8000 to send the youngsters. This received a huge round of applause from those present.

The question of members suspended or banned from the EBU was raised. It was confirmed that EBU Honorary Counsel had attended the latest Board meeting to give his views. This may involve some bye-law changes. It was confirmed that under current bye-laws clubs were not bound by the decisions of the EBU Disciplinary Committee and therefore clubs could allow banned or suspended EBU members to play in their own domestic club events (but not heats of Simultaneous Pairs, heats of the National Pairs, NICKO or Garden Cities).

22.2 12th August 2010

There were no comments but a delegate complained that the papers had only been tabled on the day of the AGM so proper consideration of them had not been possible. The Chairman stated she would take comments at the next meeting.

23 Minutes of the Meeting of the Laws & Ethics Committee of 14th July 2010

Presenting the minutes Jeremy Dhondy highlighted a number of points:

Best Behaviour at Bridge: It was clear that the policy was not being enforced sufficiently and at the forthcoming TD Training Weekend, TDs would be reminded of their obligations. It was noted, however, that at the recent Brighton Summer Meeting one contestant had received several penalties. He also acknowledged that players needed to be more aware of their obligations to ensure that all members had a pleasant experience when playing. It was still not quite correct he acknowledged.

Deposits: there had been a discussion as to whether the current monetary deposits of £20 (pairs) and £30 (teams) were the correct way to proceed. Some members favoured deposits in terms of score or even Green Points. However, the L&E committee had left things as they were.

Jeremy also outlined the new Level 5 which had taken effect on August 1st. This meant that the majority of players at our events would not have to meet highly artificial systems where predominantly short rounds of two or three boards were played. The majority of players would be unaffected by the change.

Level 5 could only be played in top-level events (such as Premier League, Crockfords) where rounds tended to be longer.

He also reminded delegates that updated copies of White, Tangerine and Orange Books were available from the website and that changes would only take effect on August 1st each year.

24 Minutes of the meeting of the Selection Committee on 14th August 2010

Heather Dhondy presented the minutes, and said she was delighted that it had been possible to send an U21 team to Philadelphia following the unexpected invitation when there had been no money in the budget.

Answering a question she said that the financial loss on the trials had been lower than anticipated owing to larger entry resulting in more from entry fees.

25 Minutes of the meeting of the Tournament Committee on 6th July 2010

Andrew Petrie presented the minutes. He said that the committee had considered carefully the views received about the NICKO and Garden Cities. He confirmed that entries could now only be received from affiliated clubs.

He also talked about the proposal to try to define what a bona fide club member was. The committee had suggested that such a member must play 12 times before the member could represent the club. However it was now acknowledged that there were many reasons why genuine club members might play fewer times than this without reducing their worth. Consequently that idea had been shelved. It would be for clubs to decide who bona fide club members were and it would not be for the EBU to lay down some arbitrary rule. Nevertheless clubs were reminded that it was up to them to maintain the integrity of the events. It was acknowledged that some clubs had imported members in previous years and Mr Petrie said that guidelines would be produced.

A delegate asked about the delay in the results from EBU events not being available on the website until (sometimes) Monday after the event. Mr Capal said that often the delay was down to WiFi or connectivity issues. He also said that Jeff Smith (who produced the scoring programs we use) was working to provide a method of sending results direct to the website. Mrs Bugden said the Board would work with the Tournament Committee to try to improve the expectation of this service to members.

Another member asked about the state of the playing cards used for tournament boards. Mrs Bugden reported that new funding had been secured from Baker Tilly and that new cards (with borders) were currently being printed and would start to replace the current cards as soon as they arrived.

A delegate asked about the demise of events held, until recently, in the North (Great Northern Swiss Pairs, Northern Easter Festival) and why counties had started to take them over.

Mr Mason reported that the GNSP had been revived and held by Yorkshire over the weekend October 2/3 and the entry had risen from 41 tables when the event was last held in 2008 to 58.5 tables this time. He also said he had been approached with a view to taking over the running of the Northern Easter Festival which had been dropped from the calendar for 2011.

Mr Petrie said that EBU events had certain criteria that had to be met and where events were failing were put on a risk list. Once the event had been on the risk list for two years they were dropped if they showed no sign of improvement. He was grateful to Yorkshire for taking over the GNSP who would have made some money from running the event.

Mr Mason said that one the reasons why their profit would be larger was that as a county they were not liable for VAT so the entry fees and possibly slightly larger prize awards.

26 Dates for Shareholders' meetings for the year 2010/2011

<i>Wednesday 13th April</i>	Shareholders' Meeting – Royal National Hotel, London (Imperial being refurbished)
<i>Wednesday 5th October</i>	Annual General Meeting – Imperial Hotel, London
<i>Wednesday 29th June</i>	County Chairmen's Conference – Imperial Hotel, London

All meetings would now start at 1pm. The later start time allows for those with longer journeys to obtain more preferential travel rates.

27 Pay to Play, Master Points and Licensing Regulations

Mr Petrie introduced a paper tabled for the meeting about revisions to the arrangements following the introduction of Pay to Play. He acknowledged that some modifications were needed and asked delegates to take the paper away to discuss with their counties in time for the April meeting.

He confirmed that the interim arrangements made with counties for the year to March 31st 2011 would be extended until March 31st 2012.

The paper will be discussed at the next Shareholders' Meeting in April 2011.

The new arrangements, will take effect from April 1st 2012.

A delegate raised the question of Direct Members not now having to belong and pay a county fee. Mrs Bugden agreed to look at this in the review.

28 Any other business

- a) Graham Jepson presented the National County League Final trophy, which was competed for on July 28th, to Warwickshire. Colin Lang accepted the trophy on behalf of his county.
- b) Mr Petrie reported on the progress of the move to obtain Charitable Status. He was disappointed to report that the Charity Commission had called a consultation on mind sports registration. This might delay our application some time. Consequently no money would be committed to the application until the outcome of the review was completed.
- c) A delegate asked about progress to the National Grading Scheme. Mr Capal said that following John Carter's death there had been a period of inactivity. However Peter Lee and Mike Christie had agreed to be involved with the project and were currently testing the mathematical rigidity of the scheme with live data from a small number of clubs. He hoped their testing would be completed shortly in order to present a report to the Board by the end of October.
- d) Suzanne Gill thanked all counties who had taken part in the consultation process set up by the Education Working Group. She asked for counties to complete and return their questionnaires as quickly as possible.
- e) A delegate asked about the advertising in *English Bridge* by the Full Tilt poker company and how it affected our status with the gambling act. Delegates were advised that the Board had taken Honorary Counsel's advice before accepting the advert.
- f) A member asked the Treasurer about the publication of budgets traditionally done at the July meeting. The Treasurer said that budgets were for information, not approval and would be circulated at the April shareholders meeting.

Closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked Shareholders for their attendance at what had been a very productive meeting. The meeting closed at 4pm.

**Date of the Next Meeting is Wednesday 13th April
at the Royal National Hotel, Russell Square, London
Start 1pm**