



NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN COUNTIES WORKING GROUP

AT Richmond Bridge Club

ON Wednesday 2 July 2014 @ 7pm

Metropolitan Regional County Representatives:

County	Name	County	Name
Berks & Bucks	Anders Wallen	Kent	Brian Crack
London	Kath Stynes	Surrey	Shirley Pritchard

Invited Members:

County	Name
EBU Board	Darren Evetts

Apologies:

County	Name
Sussex	Peter Bates

No Representative from Middlesex

Chairman: Darren Evetts

Brian had circulated a paper before the meeting, the main points of which were:

- Shareholders meetings currently cover areas which are not relevant to shareholders eg meetings of sub committees.
- Twice yearly Shareholder meetings take up a lot of time and also result in large quantities of paper based information which could be circulated electronically.
- Suggest one Shareholders meeting and one Chairman's meeting annually.

Points which came out of the meeting were:

- The Chairman's meeting should decide strategic issues
- To ensure accurate and up to date County contact information, Aylesbury could find out when each County's AGM is held and then issue the County Information Request Form post each County's AGM.
- Communications from the EBU to County Secretaries do not necessarily include copies to Shareholders and Chairmen.
- Clubs who re-affiliate could be asked why they are doing so.
- A number of large clubs are not affiliated. It is a great pity that these clubs choose not to be a part of the National Organisation and the development of Bridge in England.
- The EBU should not make openly available publications such as the model club constitution, the blue book and the White book. These should only be available to affiliated clubs (not individuals).

- In order to show clubs the benefits of affiliation a six months trial affiliation is recommended.
- There are two types of bridge players and clubs – social and serious. Managing the two provides a challenge to the EBU.
- Clubs should be encouraged to run ‘gentle’ duplicate sessions concurrently with their ‘normal’ sessions, to enable a better transition.
- The County Working Group (CWG) provides the opportunity to share best practice, resources and knowledge. We are all reinventing the wheel.
- A regional development officer and/or education officer is something that should be aimed for.
- Bridge does not provoke any interest in the national press - the same does apply to some other sports such as table tennis and judo.
- Fresher’s weeks were mentioned as an opportunity to get younger people involved in bridge - Surrey are trying it this autumn - their experience should be shared.
- It is important that CWG’s do not end up as talking shops - they must have people who are prepared to facilitate actions.
- Holding heats in clubs was suggested as a way of involving more people in County events.
- Darren thanked everyone for attending.

Darren asked for a volunteer to attend next week’s national CWG in Solihull - Anders agreed to attend.

The meeting finished at 21.10.