



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION, HELD AT BROADFIELDS, AYLESBURY
ON WEDNESDAY 8 MAY 2002**

Present:	D R Harris	Chairman
	D A Robson	Vice-Chairman
	J D Neville	Hon. Treasurer
	T J Bradley	
	J M Carter	
	J G Faulkner	
	Ms A M C Hamilton	
	D G Martin	
	P G Mason	
	Terry Collier	General Manager
	Karen Etchells	Administration Manager

1 Apologies

MG Oliver

2 Minutes of the Meeting of 20 March 2002

Accuracy

The Minutes were **approved** as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

2.1.1 International On Line Bridge Club (item 2.2.6) - Mr Faulkner asked whether Mr Justice had made any contribution towards our legal fees. The General Manager reported that the Mr Justice was now taking separate legal advice and each party would therefore be responsible for paying its own legal fees.

2.1.2 Budget 2002/03 and Five Year Plan (item 5.3) - Mr Faulkner asked when the paper mentioned in the penultimate paragraph, relating to the issue of Master Points, would be available. The General Manager reported that this would be presented to the next Board meeting.

2.1.3 European Junior Championships 2002

Mr Bradley reported that he was pleased with the way things were shaping up. Thanks were extended to Bridge Holidays Abroad for the donation of two £1k prizes. It was acknowledged that Bridge Holidays Abroad would get sponsor publicity in the event literature and at the venue. 38 entries had been received and the entry fees were being paid directly to the EBL. The EBU would issue an invoice when the final figures were known. Requests had been received from three countries for financial

help. Torquay contacts had offered to assist with accommodation. Mrs Duckworth had agreed to let Mr Faulkner have details regarding child welfare requirements and expected procedures. The Criminal Records Bureau scheme was still not in place, but it was hopeful that it would be by July. In summary, Mr Bradley was pleased with the amount of work being done. It was hoped that as many Board members as possible might attend during the championships.

2.1.4 Commonwealth Games Bridge Championship

Mr Robson reported that one team had dropped out. The Mayoral Reception was not a free function and would not be promoted as such. The Press Launch was still provisional and confirmation of the Minister of Sport's availability was still awaited for either 17 June or 1 July. The General Manager reported that Ron Boddy had sent press releases to the Festival of Friendship organisers, local radio stations, etc. He is now working on the press launch. The proposed 16-page programme in *English Bridge* would not now go ahead; instead a 2 page centre spread would be shared with Torquay. The official programme would run to about 24 pages to be distributed to competitors and possibly sold to spectators. 12 teams had so far entered the Challenge Trophy event, together with 2 sponsored teams. The estimated income from this would be £8K. Mr Robson had revisited the budget and this would be circulated after consultation with Max Bavin. It was hoped that the EBU would get considerable publicity in the period immediately preceding the games.

3 Disability Discrimination Act

The General Manager recommended that the EBU should encourage disabled people to play bridge and actively promote such a policy. The EBU should publish its support of the Act and advise clubs that only those that comply will be used for national competitions. Clubs should also be advised that there could be grant opportunities available for any alterations required to their premises as venues. An article in *English Bridge* could help get the message across that the requirements of this important Act are being seriously taken on board.

It was agreed that the General Manager would write to clubs advising them of our intentions and also to give thought to who could draft an article, possibly with assistance from Mrs Carr and Les Brown.

4 County Secretaries Meeting – 19 June 2002 – Items for the Agenda

Mr Mason agreed to Chair the meeting. Suggested items for the agenda to be relayed to the General Manager.

5 Financial Matters

Treasurer's Report (attached herewith)

The Treasurer had nothing significant to add to his report.

6 General Manager's Report

Registered Trade Mark

Neither the English Bridge Union nor BridgeClubLive had their trademarks registered. It was agreed that the General Manager should pursue this at a cost of £450 each.

Press Agent

The general principle of appointing Ron Boddy as press agent was **agreed**. Mr Faulkner expressed concern regarding the sponsorship element, payment and definition. Further exploration of the nature of this sponsorship and what it could include was required. It was **agreed** that the General Manager would prepare a draft agreement for discussion at the next meeting.

Membership – Added Value

The Board noted the added value ideas put forward by the General Manager. With the exception of the Legal & Financial Needs Ltd proposal, the Board **agreed** that the General Manager should explore these further.

Meeting with Cassell Publishing (now Orion)

The General Manager and Ms Hamilton had met with Peter Crawley to discuss publishing options for the Really Easy series of books. The outcome of the discussion was that Orion was not interested in publishing the Really Easy series because the commercial market for beginners book was limited. However, they were interested in obtaining EBU accreditation for certain of the bridge books they do publish. It was **agreed** that the General Manager would set out precisely what the proposed arrangement would be for discussion at the next Board meeting.

7

Committee Reports

Computer Working Party – 25 April 2002

CASS – Initial trials have commenced, however, this did not include an overview of what the system could and could not provide. It was **agreed** that before the final version is issued, multi section/session scoring capability was needed together with an overview of the facilities available. It was still expected that it was still hoped to distribute the system would be made available to all clubs in September. The Treasurer suggested that the introduction of CASS should trigger a review of the way Master Points are currently issued and paid for. It was **agreed** that the General Manager would prepare a paper, including an analysis of the cost implications, of moving from the current system to a new one.

Website – It was acknowledged that competition results should be immediately available and should be keyed in directly to the website from the event. Tournament Directors would need to be trained to do this and the subject would be discussed at the next Tournament Committee.

Editorial Board – 3 April 2002

The minutes of the meeting of the 3 April 2002 were tabled. Ms Hamilton reported that David Burn had joined the Editorial Board.

Education Sub Committee – 16 April 2002

The minutes of the meeting of the 16 April 2002 were tabled. Mr Bradley had nothing to add.

8 EBL & WBF Matters

The Chairman reported that celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of the European Team Championships would be taking place in Salsomaggiore in June.

9 Bridge Great Britain – 17 April 2002

Mr Faulkner reported two incidents relating to the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer Trophy matches which needed further action.

One hotel bedroom which was allocated to the Republic of Ireland and two to Scotland were left in an appalling state and the hotel had to bring in specialist cleaning contractors before they could be re-let. Scotland has paid its share but Ireland will not accept responsibility for these rooms as they say their players did not stay in the rooms in question. It was **agreed** that the General Manager would take the matter up with Ireland, requesting proof that they did not occupy the room before pursuing the matter further.

The Junior Camrose Trophy had gone missing at the event and only turned up when it was reported to the police. It was **agreed** that the General Manager would ensure that our NPCs were formally made aware of their responsibility for ensuring that any trophy presented to them was returned to Aylesbury.

10 Constitutional Changes

Herefordshire County CBA - Mr Faulkner sought and approval was given to support the proposed constitutional changes. These would be presented at the next available Council meeting in October.

11 Bye-laws Review

The Chairman reported that the Honorary Solicitor had given his assurance that the review would be completed well in advance of October Council.

12 Any Other Business

Stephenson/Spoors article for *English Bridge* – The Treasurer was concerned about the recommendations made in an article drafted for the next edition, regarding calling the director to table at club matches. It was agreed that the article needing amending, and Ms Hamilton said she would deal with this.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 26 June 2002 at 12.30pm
at the Swan Hotel, Bedford

J. S. Reville
26.6.02