



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION
HELD AT KETTERING PARK
ON MONDAY 5 JULY 2004**

Present:	Denis A Robson	(DR)	Chairman
	Philip G Mason	(PM)	Vice Chairman
	Tom J Bradley	(TB)	Treasurer
	John Carter	(JC)	
	Alaine Hamilton	(AH)	
	David Harris	(DH)	
	Jeff K Morris	(JM)	
	John D Neville	(JN)	
	Peter Stocken	(PS)	
	Terry Collier	(TC)	General Manager
	Tony Parks		Auditor
	Karen Durrell		Minute Taker

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES

The Board officially noted with regret the resignation of David Martin on 18 May 2004 and placed on record their thanks for his past efforts on behalf of the EBU.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 12 MAY 2004

2.1 Accuracy

No matters of accuracy were raised and it was noted that the new style of Minutes and attribution of comments has proved acceptable.

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

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 EBU Trust

Mr Harris presented the draft Declaration of Trust for the formation of The EBU Youth & Education Trust and it was agreed to proceed as outlined.

It was also agreed that a bank account should be opened in the name of the Trust and that a sum of £5,000, as gifted by Maple Finance, should be transferred to it.

TC

2.2.2 *Ryder Cup Event*

Mr Harris reported that he had discussed this matter with the EBL who supported such an event but said that they would not fund it. It was agreed that the Chairman would explore this matter with Mr Hackett and potential sponsors, especially with regard to the home event in Ireland in 2006.

DR

2.2.3 *Promotional Activity*

There is considerable concern that we are not actively promoting our events and that more effort is required. The General Manager is to explore ways of improving this situation.

TC

2.2.4 *Hackett Offer*

It was noted that the editorial offer was for the EBU website rather than *English Bridge*. This had been reported to the Editorial Board.

2.2.5 *Sports Show at Earls Court*

Mr Morris, who had attended all four days of the Sports Show, presented a paper identifying lessons that had been learnt. Some interesting contacts had been made and it was generally felt that our participation had been worthwhile. Attendance at future shows would be dependent upon cost and suitability.

3. FINANCIAL MATTERS

3.1 *Treasurer's Report*

The report was noted.

3.2 *Accounts for Year End 31 March 2004*

Mr Parks reported that whilst that audit had been brought to a satisfactory conclusion, he had experienced similar problems to those of last year, due to difficulties with the MIAMI system. He was pleased that the Board had taken steps to introduce a new IT system and hoped that similar problems would not occur in the future. It was noted that Mr Parks wished to be involved with the transfer of financial data to the new system and to agree all necessary balances before the system goes live. To this end there remain a number of reconciliation matters that need to be resolved before then. This was noted and agreed.

TC

Mr Parks was thanked for undertaking the audit and for his efforts.

3.3 *Accounts for Two Months ended 31 May 2004*

The accounts were noted and accepted.

3.4 Membership Subscriptions 2005/06

The proposed membership fees were noted and would now be presented to Council for approval.

3.5 Licence Fees

TC

The proposed fees were approved to take effect from 1 October 2004.

4. IT PROJECTS

4.1 Enterprise - Update

It was reported that the membership data had been successfully transferred from Enterprise and that this data had been installed at Aylesbury, allowing staff to become conversant with the new system. Enterprise training commenced on 5 July and would cover all agreed operating topics by 23 July 2004. Work on writing new programs to deal with Master Points, Reporting and Batch Entry of Cheques was underway and would be available for testing before the end of July. All matters are now programmed into the project's schedule and a "go live" date in early September is proposed.

TC

4.2 CASS

TC

It is proposed that the final version of CASS would be available in September and would include the provision for Multi-Section, Multi-Session, Butler, Ladders and Handicaps. It was noted that 42 clubs are now fully registered and that 23 have successfully uploaded Master Points and that a further 15 clubs are expected to sign up.

4.3 Bridgemate Terminals - Update

Mr Carter's efforts were noted and appreciated; however, it was agreed at present that the EBU does not wish to become commercially involved. Our future role should be to appraise new technologies and make our members aware of them.

5. CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

It was noted that a number of amendments to both the Articles of Association and Bye Laws have been received and that these would be reported to Council on 14 July. It is still proposed to proceed with the formation of a "Single Entity" at the AGM on 6 October 2004.

PS

6. NATIONAL BRIDGE CENTRE

The owners of the Kettering Leisure Village, Phoenix Leisure, have advised us that they wish to make progress with their plans to develop the space that they had allocated as a possible National Bridge Centre. It had always been their intention that this space would be used during the week for conferences and training and hopefully for bridge at weekends. To progress matters, two proposals have been presented to us:

TC

- a) that we form a new company to develop and operate the proposed centre
- b) that they undertake to develop and operate the centre and that we enter into a long term user agreement in terms of bridge use.

Further details in respect to both of these options have been requested prior to discussing it further with potential sponsors. It was agreed that a further report would be made to the next meeting of the Board.

7. DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Meetings with County Associations are still taking place and will probably continue well into the coming year. These meetings are, proving to be very successful in exchanging ideas and creating stronger working relationships.

TC

Plans for Andrew Robson and Ron Klinger Master classes are well under way and proving to be of great interest.

Proposals for Youth development are currently being prepared and will be presented in September.

8. EVENTS

TC

8.1 *Sim Pairs Proposals*

Proposals for the staging of additional Sim Pairs was discussed and concern was expressed that there are already too many. However, it was felt that if new events, perhaps of a different nature, could be devised, this might be of interest and might be a means of developing a database for use in establishing a handicap rating. It was agreed that John Neville, Alaine Hamilton and the General Manager would meet with Anna Gudge to explore this matter.

TC

8.2 *K Stanley Proposal*

There was discussion about this proposal, for the introduction of a new event. It was noted that a condition had been imposed, namely that Max Bavin should be actively involved in both the planning and staging of the event. Concern was expressed by the General Manager that Max had a heavy workload already which includes his commitments with the WBF and EBL and another commitment might be too much. It was agreed that this matter would be explored further with Max.

TC

9. MEMBERSHIP

9.1 *Home Service – Tony Forrester*

It was reported that the Daily Telegraph calculated that *Tony Forrester's column* attracts 375,000 readers. Initial discussion with Tony has identified a possible partnership opportunity whereby a new category of membership could be established for players who predominantly play at home. It was agreed that this matter should be progressed.

TC

9.2 *Club Discount Offer*

It was agreed that the Chairman and Peter Stocken would discuss this matter and report back to a future meeting.

DR

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 *Editorial Board - 10 June 2004*

The minutes were approved. A discussion about the viability of placing past pieces of editorials onto the website took place. Whilst this was considered a good idea there was debate about whether this should be a free service or one that could be linked into the previously discussed Home Service (9.1). It was therefore agreed not to proceed with this matter at present.

11. BGB MATTERS

The Minutes of 27 April 2004 and Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2003 were noted. Proposed changes to the Home International Schedule were also noted.

It was agreed that another Home Nations Meeting was not necessary at the present time.

12. EBL AND WBF MATTERS

The success of our Open Team in Malmö was noted and a letter of congratulations would be sent to all concerned.

Due to the above we could expect to receive an invitation for us to participate in the European Champions Cup to be held in Barcelona, 7 – 10 October 2004. It was agreed that the Chairman would discuss the selection criteria with Chris Dixon.

DR

Problems relating to the organisation of the Seniors event in Malmö was discussed and it was agreed that we could not be expected to be responsible for what was an EBL matter.

It was noted that the EBL is expecting to hold NBO meeting in January 2005 in Italy, and that some 4/5 people from each NBO may be invited.

13. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

The General Manager advised that there was nothing to report.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 14.1** In light of the Disabled Discrimination Access Act, the EBU headquarters requires plans to be drawn up for wheelchair access to the ground floor of the building, prior to being able to cost building works. It was agreed that plans should be produced at an estimated cost of £500. TC
- 14.2** Anna Gudge has requested “Fun Biographies” of Board members for the EBU website so our members can get to know us better. The General Manager said he would email a list of questions from Anna to Board Members . TC
- 14.3** An affiliated club has requested a loan from the EBU. It was agreed that the Treasurer should offer a maximum of £20,000 on appropriate terms. TB

BOARD MEETINGS

(all meetings commence at 12.30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated)

Thursday 2 September 2004, 40 Bernard Street, London

Tuesday 2 November 2004, 40 Bernard Street, London