



**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION
HELD AT THE KETTERING LEISURE VILLAGE
ON TUESDAY 14TH MARCH 2006**

Present:	Denis Robson	Chairman
	Philip Mason	Vice-Chairman
	John Neville	Treasurer
	Sally Bugden	
	John Carter	
	David Harris	
	Graham Jepson	
	Jeff Morris	
	Alan Nelson	
	Martin Pool	
	Max Bavin	Acting General Manager
	Clare Smith	Minute Secretary

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2 MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ACTION GROUP

A presentation given by David Graham on behalf of the Membership Development Action Group was well received by the Board. The report outlined the importance of the need to make our membership more attractive to our existing members and potential new members alike. The group requested that specific matters be approved by the Board as follows:

- Formal endorsement and support of both the Board and the standing Committees *approved.*
- Co-ordinated access to resources at Aylesbury and low-level expenditure, to be conducted in consultation of John Neville *approved.*
- Consideration would be given at a later stage regarding the establishment of a permanent Membership Development Committee.
- A similar presentation would be given to the Shareholders by John Carter.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 15TH FEBRUARY 2006

3.1 Accuracy

It was requested that the minutes of 1st November 2005 be amended and re-issued to the Board, Shareholders and the Website. In future all matters of accuracy should be incorporated directly into the Minutes concerned for the purpose of publication on the website.

3.2 Matters Arising

Max Bavin reported that *Bridgemates* and *Scorebridge* were recently used at two events and were working to a satisfactory standard.

Trust Account

David Harris advised the Board that complications with the bank had now been resolved and that he had spoken with Brian Smith at Aylesbury who will be re-presenting the Trust Deed to the bank, following which an application can be made for charitable status.

4 FINANCIAL MATTERS

John Neville presented the forecast for the current year and proposed budget for next year. The forecast was broadly in line with budget for a modest surplus, as was the budget for next year albeit against a trend of declining membership.

The budget was approved, subject to one small alteration relating to Kettering below.

It was agreed in future to confine the 5 year financial plan to matters of capital expenditure and International Department expenditure only, these being the two areas which vary significantly in yet a fairly predictable way from one year to the next.

5 KETTERING LEISURE VILLAGE

John Neville reported that he and Alan Nelson had met with the key Director and manager of the Kettering Leisure Village earlier in the day who had re-confirmed that they plan to build a 100 bedroom hotel to a similar standard as a Travel Lodge. There would be a breakfast bar, but no lounge; the price would be competitive with hotels in the area. There are also plans to build a theatre and new bar within the existing premises along with a complete revamp of the entrance area of the building and re-carpeting of the main function room. There are also proposals for an additional hotel to be built within one mile of the Leisure Village.

David Harris reported that he had earlier made enquiries of the local Planning Office, who had advised him that no plans had yet been submitted for the new hotel development. This was confirmed by the Kettering Leisure Village manager, though he pointed out that significant preliminary enquiries had been made. It was also confirmed that any planning application, when made, will certainly require public consultation and may well become the subject of a Public Enquiry and that this could be very time consuming. The Board had been working under the misapprehension that a full Planning Application had already been submitted; possibly the Shareholders also. It was agreed that a full statement should be made to the Shareholders on this subject at the earliest opportunity.

The earlier meeting with the Kettering Leisure Village Directors had also focused on the refreshment service, in particular the £3.50 per person per day compulsory surcharge for tea and coffee. This part of the agreement with the Kettering Leisure Village can be re-negotiated with effect from next season in exchange for a one-third (approximate) increase in the basic cost of venue hire. Water (only) would be provided within this increased charge; tea and coffee would be available for purchase. As at present, no food or drink should be taken into the Conference Centre.

After lengthy discussion it was agreed to continue for one further season on this re-negotiated basis, with David Harris voicing his strong dissent to this proposal preferring instead to withdraw entirely from the project. However, this re-negotiated agreement will be subject to there being real signs of genuine development by the time the new season starts; Max Bavin was asked to begin investigating alternative venues and costs in case the need arises.

To summarise, the current cycle of events, ending June, will be completed on the existing basis of a £3.50 per head per day charge for tea and coffee, but the next cycle (starting in November with the Tollemache qualifier) will be on the re-negotiated basis without the £3.50 charge.

It was noted that entry fees previously agreed for next season for events at Kettering would need to be revised (downwards); Max Bavin was asked to attend to this. It was agreed to fund the additional venue hire costs from out of central funds next year; this would be approximately 7K over a full competition year – less than this in the forthcoming financial year as some current season events will still be priced as before.

It was also agreed that, notwithstanding the above, the National Women's Pairs specifically should be relocated until such time as hotel accommodation is available on-site at Kettering.

6 COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Terms of reference for the three standing Committees (Laws & Ethics, Selection and Tournament) were presented and adopted, and are now appended to these minutes.

7 COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Laws & Ethics Committee 30th November 2005, 11th January and 25th January 2006

Martin Pool advised the Board of two small problems with the content of the Orange Book which he hoped could be easily dealt with. He confirmed that we are still on schedule for publication in June 2006 and confirmed that an article outlining the changes will be placed in *English Bridge*.

The minutes were adopted.

7.2 Selection Committee 15th November 2005 and 22nd February 2006

Jeff Morris requested approval from the Board for entry fees to be waived for junior squad players playing in certain approved events (approved by the squad manager). This was agreed, subject to squad players playing as a complete team in team events. It was also extended to include the provision of entry fees for specific approved events in Scotland and Wales.

The minutes were adopted.

7.3 Tournament Committee 6th December 2005 and 27th February 2006

The minutes were adopted.

7.4 Editorial Board 6th December 2005

Sally Bugden advised that *English Bridge* should be representative of the whole membership of the EBU and as such its contents should reflect this. She re-iterated the need to find ways of communicating with members over and above the magazine which would result in better targeted information securing results in terms of tournament interest and attendance.

BGB, EBL and WBF Matters

There were none.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1** Graham Jepson requested that Tournament Committee reports be placed higher up the agenda at Shareholders meetings whenever possible.
- 8.2** The Chairman read out a report relating to the number of “hits” on the web portal, and requested that the Board continue to be updated at each meeting.
- 8.3** Jeff Morris informed the Board that the Ryder Cup for bridge will be held in Ireland this year which will generate publicity for Bridge. As with the golf itself, this will feature a USA team versus a European team.
- 8.4** Sally Bugden requested that the SCCBA’s code of conduct “Best Behaviour at Bridge” be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next Board meeting.

(THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING)

**The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th May 2006 at
The EBU Office, Aylesbury.**

(All meetings commence at 12:30 unless otherwise indicated)



**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE EBU LAWS & ETHICS COMMITTEE
(APPROVED AT THE LAWS & ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING OF 30.11.05 AND
COMMENDED TO THE BOARD FOR ADOPTION)**

Terms of reference for the EBU Laws & Ethics Committee

1. Status

1.1 The Laws & Ethics Committee is a Standing Committee of the Board of Directors of The English Bridge Union Ltd, established under paragraph 16 of the Articles of Association of the company.

1.2 These terms of reference are established by the Board under the enabling provision in paragraph 8 of the Bye Laws of the company.

2. Responsibilities

The principal responsibilities of the Laws & Ethics Committee are as follows:-

2.1 to act as the National Authority for the game of Duplicate Contract Bridge in England, under Law 93C of the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge 1997, and as the equivalent body under any future revision of the Laws.

2.2 to discharge the functions relating to disciplinary matters delegated to the Laws & Ethics Committee by virtue of paragraph 6.1 of the Bye Laws of the Company and the Disciplinary Rules established under that Bye Law.

2.3 to issue interpretations of the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge 1997 and any future revision of the Laws, to the extent sanctioned by the Laws Committee or other appropriate body of the World Bridge Federation and/or the European Bridge League, which interpretations shall have force in England.

2.4 to issue regulations supplementary to the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge 1997 and any future revision of the Laws, and directives and other guidance in connection with the game of Duplicate Contract Bridge in England, including, but not limited to, the following matters:-

2.4.1 disclosure of system, alerting, convention cards and related matters

2.4.2 permitted methods

2.4.3 tournament direction

2.4.4 appeals

2.4.5 tournament regulations of extensive or general application (detailed regulations for specific tournaments being the responsibility of the Tournament Committee or the Selection Committee, as the case may be).

2.5 to cause to be published, in consultation with the Board, such records of the interpretations, regulations, directives and other guidance issued by the Committee as may be considered appropriate.

2.6 to exercise a general supervisory role in relation to the game of Duplicate Contract Bridge in England, and to take such action as may be considered appropriate to ensure that as far as

possible the game is played in accordance with the Laws and applicable regulations, directives or other guidance.



**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE EBU SELECTION COMMITTEE
(APPROVED AT THE SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING OF 22.2.06 AND
COMMENDED TO THE BOARD FOR ADOPTION)**

Terms of reference for the EBU Selection Committee

1. Status

1.1 The Selection Committee is a Standing Committee of the Board of Directors of The English Bridge Union Ltd, established under paragraph 16 of the Articles of Association of the company.

1.2 These terms of reference are established by the Board under the enabling provision in paragraph 8 of the Bye Laws of the company.

2. Responsibilities

The principal responsibilities of the Selection Committee are as follows:-

2.1 to determine the selection of players and officials to represent England in the international bridge competitions and championships listed below, and for such other international competitions, championships, invitation events or friendly international events as the Board requires or the Committee considers desirable.

2.1.1 The Camrose Trophy (Home International Series – Open);

2.1.2 The Lady Milne Trophy (Home International Series – Women);

2.1.3 The Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer Trophies (Home International Series – Under 25s and Under 20s respectively);

2.1.4 The European Teams Championships (Open, Women and Seniors);

2.1.5 The European Youth Championships (Junior, Schools and Girls);

2.1.6 The World Teams Olympiad (Open and Women);

2.1.7 The Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup World Championships, subject to qualification;

2.1.8 The World Youth Teams Championships, subject to qualification;

2.1.9 The Junior Channel Trophy (under-25s and under-20s).

2.2 to make recommendations to the Board concerning participation in international events, and the budget for such participation.

2.3 to determine the format and conditions for entry of any trial or series of trials which the Committee considers necessary or desirable for the purposes of discharging its selection responsibilities.

2.4 to make suitable arrangements for the training, preparation or coaching of teams selected, subject to budget approval by the Board.

2.5 to commission such reports as it considers appropriate from players or officials representing England in international events.

2.6 to seed national knockout events as requested by the Tournament Committee.

3. Limitations

3.1 Subject to paragraph 3.2, no elected member of the Selection Committee is eligible for selection as a player for any event listed in paragraphs 2.1.1 to 2.1.9 above or to participate in the trials for such event.

3.2 Exceptionally, an elected member of the Selection Committee is eligible for selection as a player if but only if:-

- (a) qualification to represent England arises as of right from winning a competition which is not primarily designed as a trial, and whose Conditions of Contest are determined by a body other than the Selection Committee; and
- (b) participation in the international event concerned is funded to a substantial extent by the players themselves and not by the EBU.

3.3 No elected member of the Selection Committee may participate in the discussions of, or voting on, any item in respect of which they have any material or financial interest.

3.4 No elected member may participate in the voting on any item in respect of which any close relation (including but not limited to child, spouse, sibling or parent) is involved, nor in the discussions of any such matter unless the Chairman so rules.



**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE
(APPROVED AT THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF 27.2.06 AND
COMMENDED TO THE BOARD FOR ADOPTION)**

Terms of reference for the EBU Tournament Committee

1. Status

1.1 The Tournament Committee is a Standing Committee of the Board of Directors of The English Bridge Union Ltd, established under paragraph 16 of the Articles of Association of the company.

1.2 These terms of reference are established by the Board under the enabling provision in paragraph 8 of the Bye Laws of the company.

2. Responsibilities

The principal responsibilities of the Tournament Committee are as follows:-

2.1 to oversee the programme of tournaments staged by the Company in accordance with a budget approved from time to time by the Board.

2.2 in relation to each such tournament, to establish, publicise, review, and where appropriate, make changes to:-

2.2.1 venue

2.2.2 format

2.2.3 timetable

2.2.4 entry conditions (including entry fees)

2.2.5 specific conditions of contest and other regulations (tournament regulations of extensive or general application being the responsibility of the Laws & Ethics Committee)

2.2.6 Master Point awards

2.2.7 prizes

2.2.8 publicity arrangements

2.3 to establish new tournaments and if appropriate discontinue existing tournaments.

2.4 to supervise the maintenance of forward calendars for the Company's programme of tournaments.

2.5 to keep under review and, where appropriate, make changes to the Company's Master Points scheme.

2.6 to make recommendations to the Board concerning the budget for the Company's programme of tournaments.

