



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HELD ON TUESDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2007 AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL,
LONDON.**

Present:	Peter Stocken	(Chairman)
	Sally Bugden	(Vice-Chairman)
	Michael Hill	(Hon. Treasurer)
	John Carter	
	Graham Jepson	
	Philip Mason	
	Jeff Morris	
	Alan Nelson	
	Malcolm Oliver	
	Martin Pool	
	Barry Capal	(General Manager)
	Sandra Claridge	(Minute taker)

Opening the meeting the Chairman welcomed the members of the Board to the first meeting of the new year.

1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 11TH SEPTEMBER 2007

The minutes were signed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

Sponsorship

The General Manager reported that a meeting had been arranged with a potential sponsor, during which all avenues would be explored, and the benefits of advertising via English Bridge would be highlighted.

Youth Committee

The Chairman said that he had invited Clive Owen to chair the first meeting of the Youth Committee on 24th October. Jeff Morris and Graham Jepson would be the Board representatives, and Sandra Landy would be representing the Selection Committee. The remaining members were Christine Duckworth, the two Squad Managers and the Youth Officer. It was confirmed that no decision had been taken as yet on the formation of an U25 Girls Squad.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 3RD OCTOBER 2007

The minutes were signed as an accurate record.

3 BOARD MATTERS

Board Responsibilities for the year 2007/8

<i>Chairman:</i>	Aylesbury; Youth Committee; TD Panel
<i>Vice-Chairman::</i>	Chairman, MDAG; Chairman, Editorial Board; TD Panel; Education
<i>Michael Hill:</i>	Treasurer; MDAG
<i>Philip Mason:</i>	MDAG; BGB Delegate; Tournament Promotion
<i>Alan Nelson:</i>	Chairman, Tournament Committee
<i>Martin Pool:</i>	Chairman, L&E Committee; TD Panel
<i>John Carter:</i>	MDAG; County Liaison
<i>Malcolm Oliver:</i>	Sponsorship
<i>Jeff Morris:</i>	Youth Committee; Mind Sports; Political Issues
<i>Graham Jepson:</i>	Youth Committee

It was agreed that in future communication between Board members and Aylesbury staff would be via the General Manager. Exceptions to the above would be Chairmen of standing committees and their Secretaries, as well as the Treasurer and Accounts Manager.

John Carter pointed out that the recent MDAG consultation exercise had revealed that the way in which the Union engages with the county associations was not as effective as it could be, and that every effort would be made to improve the situation. Barry Capal endorsed this view, but stressed that there must be an integrated approach to seek to alleviate the reported poor relationship between clubs and counties. It was vital, therefore to encourage increased communication with the Club Liaison Officer.

Sally Bugden said that one of the initial responsibilities of MDAG would be to ensure that the EBU does everything possible to understand the needs of its counties and to assist them with their objectives.

Dates and Venues for meetings for the year 2007/8

Thursday 17 th January	40 Bernard Street, London, commencing at 12.30 pm
Thursday 6 th March	40 Bernard Street, London, commencing at 12.30 pm
Wednesday 28 th May	40 Bernard Street, London, commencing at 12.30 pm
Tues/Wed 8/9 July	Stubbs Walden, Doncaster, commencing at 1.00 pm, Tues.
Thursday 18 th September	40 Bernard Street, London, commencing at 12.30 pm
Thursday 23 rd October	40 Bernard Street, London, commencing at 12.30 pm

4 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that figures to the end of September were broadly as expected, and that the Union was on course to achieve a small surplus at 31st March 2008. The only item of note was that income and expenditure were both down in relation to Competitions and the Bridge Shop. Income from Hilton Hotels had been transferred in the budget from *English Bridge* to Overheads. From 1st January 2008 the responsibility for the Cost Centre already in existence for income and expenditure on Youth Matters, and the budget for Junior Internationals would be transferred from the Selection Committee to the Youth Committee. It was agreed that a Marketing & Development heading would be introduced from 1st April 2008.

In addition, a simplified, one-page Management Accounts Summary would be published on the EBU website for the benefit of the membership.

Budget Process & Timetable

The Treasurer's proposals for the budget process and timetable were approved. As a matter of courtesy and information the budget would be presented to Shareholders in advance of the June meeting.

5 STRATEGY PROPOSALS

The composition of MDAG was confirmed as: Sally Bugden (Chairman), John Carter, Philip Mason, Brian Crack, Barry Capal, Andrew Petrie and Michael Hill. Sally said that a very productive meeting had recently been held at which a schedule had been produced for the entire process up to 1st May 2008, when final proposals would be sent to Shareholders and clubs. Documentation would shortly go to all clubs, asking specific questions about their activity to enable MDAG to set an appropriate PTP fee. County Associations were facilitating the gathering of information, which would assist them in setting their fee for their own events.

Sally thanked the Committee for their assistance in producing the documentation and timescale, and Sandra Landy for offering to look at the material on the Committee's behalf.

6 PROCEDURES MANUAL

It was agreed that a comprehensive review of allowable expenses would be undertaken by the Treasurer, the General Manager and Max Bavin. Their recommendations would be considered at the next meeting, following which a revised version of the Manual would be circulated. The Chairman identified the need for an auxiliary document to encompass health and safety matters, complaints procedure and etc.

A procedure for International expenses would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

6.1 Personal Expenses and Allowances, Fees & Charges

Revised rates for implementation from 1st April 2008 were noted, and approved.

7 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Scoring software:

The new scoring software had worked well at the Great Northern Swiss Pairs, though a multi-session test needed to be undertaken. The possible introduction of results screens for EBU tournaments would be discussed by the Tournament Committee.

Constitutional Recommendations:

Advice of the EBU's Honorary Counsel had been sought in relation the possibility of clause 5.1 being in conflict with Human Rights Laws, and his opinion was that there was no conflict. It was agreed that necessary constitutional changes would be made if the strategy proposals were approved in June, and that a review of regulations concerning licensed and unlicensed events would be undertaken at that time.

Charities Act:

A paper on The Legal Structure of the English Bridge Union and Charitable Status produced by lawyers specializing in Charity Status, and its implications, was discussed. It was agreed that the General Manager should seek further advice on specific questions e.g. trading activity, VAT on competition entry fees, status of proprietary clubs.

Website advertising:

A request from a supplier to advertise on the EBU website was approved, subject to the advertisement being discreet and tasteful. It was suggested that website advertising could potentially increase revenue from *English Bridge* advertising.

Trust Fund:

The General Manager confirmed that Charitable Status for the Trust Fund had been granted. The Trust with funds of £10K was now operational, and an article to be produced by Matt Betts in consultation with the General Manager and officers would be published on the website and in *English Bridge*, promoting the Trust and seeking donations. Details would be provided on tax benefits by Gift Aid.

Central Council for Physical Recreation:

It was agreed that the Union would join a pilot Bingo/Lotto scheme being promoted by the CCPR on a zero cost/risk basis. Any monies raised by the scheme would initially be split between participating organizations, with the proviso that such funds would be used exclusively for grass-roots development.

Communications Officer:

Barry Capal was pleased to report that Matt had been successful in getting press releases or articles in the *Daily Telegraph*, *Bridge Plus*, *Bridge magazine*, *Best of British*, and the Cambridgeshire press. In addition, an interview with Mr Bridge was planned, he was

currently putting together ideas for a possible Countdown-style programme for a digital channel, and for a website for students, linked to the EBU site .

8 MEETING REPORTS

8.1 Annual General Meeting of EBU Ltd. 3rd October 2007

There was general agreement that the response on the Strategy Proposals had been very useful, and that the opportunity offered to all counties to report on their reaction had proved extremely popular. It was suggested that the practice could be repeated for other key subjects.

8.2 Editorial Board 9th October 2007

A proposal for increasing the pagination at reduced cost from the December issue had been approved. Necessary changes had been implemented, and a number of very favourable comments received. One issue to be addressed was the ratio of advertising/copy space.

Asked what would be the effect on cost of a substantially increased print run if the strategy proposals were adopted, Sally Bugden said that the current cost of *English Bridge* was £3 per member p.a. but this would reduce substantially per member if the strategy proposals were successful. The cost of postage was currently 29p per copy, but the possibility of bulk mailings to clubs would be considered. Advertising revenue was currently around £100K p.a., and it was likely that this will rise if circulation is increased.

8.3 Laws & Ethics Committee 18th October 2007

Martin Pool gave a verbal report on the meeting, and said that the manner of minuting the considerable number of confidential disciplinary matters was deliberate. The Chairman reminded Board members that limited privilege was extended to members of the Laws & Ethics Committee and to members who sat on disciplinary panels, and that it was essential, for the protection of all parties concerned, that absolute confidentiality was maintained. Any interested party must be excluded from the discussion, and on the Honorary Counsel's advice, non-voting members of the Committee, who were present when disciplinary matters are discussed, could listen but must not speak unless invited to do so, nor seek to influence the Committee in any way. In light of recent experience, the Committee was attempting to introduce a "caution" system, which would not necessitate a change to its current Terms of Reference.

The Laws & Ethics Committee recognized that from time to time there would be incidents which the Committee would wish to censure or comment upon, but which did not fall within its remit, since they were not bridge-related. It was agreed that a review would be undertaken of the Union's disciplinary procedures to determine the separate responsibilities of the Board and the Laws & Ethics Committee, and that an

announcement would be placed on the EBU website that abusive behaviour towards any of the EBU's staff or volunteers would not be tolerated under any circumstances.

A recent case where it was agreed that the integrity of the EBU and its personnel had been grossly impugned, was discussed at length. It was agreed that the Chairman of the Union would determine as soon as possible what the full facts were, following which he would write to the member concerned in the strongest possible terms, copied to the relevant County Association, demanding a full apology. If such was not forthcoming, under the terms of "Best Behaviour at the Office", the EBU would not accept any communication from the member to the Aylesbury staff, on any subject.

The Chairman offered to deal personally with another complaint.

Martin Pool reported that the new Laws had been finalized, and, on Max Bavin's advice, would come into effect in England on 1st August 2008. The WBU and SBU would be informed.

9. BRIDGE GREAT BRITAIN MATTERS

Jeff Morris said he was pleased that England would be sending an Under-25 girls team to the Channel Trophy before Christmas.

There followed a brief discussion on extending the number of teams in the 2008 Junior Camrose and Jeff Morris and the Chairman agreed to bring up the points raised at the following day's meeting of the Youth Committee.

10. EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE & WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION MATTERS

The Chairman was requested to contact the EBL and WBF directly to complain about the late calendaring of international events.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 EBUTA Jamboree

The General Manager reported that the EBUTA Jamboree was being reintroduced, and would be held on the three days preceding the Junior Teach-in at Loughborough University.

11.2 University Challenge

The EBU's application to take part in *University Challenge – the Professionals* had sadly been unsuccessful. Eighty teams had applied for ten places. The BBC however had suggested that we should try again and it was agreed that we would do so.

11.3 Corn Cairdis

John Carter said that he had provided Norfolk CBA with a blueprint “body of knowledge” organizational document to assist Norfolk, and other potential county hosts.

11.4 Model Club Constitution

It was confirmed that a model Club Constitution would be published on the EBU website. Production of a model County Constitution would be undertaken in 2008.

11.5 Crockfords Plate Final

Graham Jepson said that the teams in the Crockfords Plate Final had been very disappointed that there had been no EBU presence or trophy at the Final. It was regrettable that on this occasion arrangements had been made at short notice, but that in future every effort would be made to arrange attendance. It was noted that the NICKO Final had been arranged for 1st December.

Next Meeting:

Thursday 17th January 2008 at 12.30 pm
McAlpine Offices, 40 Bernard Street, London.