



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HELD AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, LONDON, ON THURSDAY
18TH SEPTEMBER 2008.**

Present:

Peter Stocken	(Chairman)
Sally Bugden	(Vice-Chairman)
Michael Hill	(Hon. Treasurer)
Graham Jepson	
Jeff Morris	
Alan Nelson	
Andrew Petrie	
Martin Pool	
Barry Capal	(General Manager)
Sandra Claridge	(Minute taker)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from John Carter and Malcolm Oliver.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 8TH JULY 2008

2.1 Accuracy

Item 4.2, page 4. The dates for Eastbourne were amended to 2008, 2007, 2006.

Subject to the above amendment the minutes were signed as a true record.

2.2 Matters Arising

Item 5

Michael Hill reported that he had made a preliminary analysis of the EBL finances. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting in order to decide how to approach the EBL.

Item 4 – Youth Committee Minutes of 25th June

Barry Capal confirmed that an application had not yet been made to BUCS (British University & College Sports), and Jeff Morris offered to assist in progressing the matter.

3 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Treasurer said that he had nothing to add to his Report and Annual Accounts to 31st March.

In light of the current global financial situation it was agreed that everything would be done to ensure that the Union's finances were as secure as possible.

The report for the four months to 31st July showed a slight decrease in subscription income, but a fall in membership of just 88 members had been less than anticipated. Of a total of 940 clubs, 840 clubs had now renewed and reminders would be sent shortly to the remainder. Recommended subscription rates for the coming year were in line with inflation, and the increase had been kept to a minimum.

The commitment in the Strategy Document for apportionment of overheads was being progressed, and would be completed by the December closure. As much as possible would be attributed to direct costs.

Michael was thanked for all the work he had undertaken in his first year as Treasurer.

4 STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

Universal Membership Project Board

Sally Bugden reported that a meeting of the Project Board had been held on 7th August. Progress was being made on the System Requirement Specification and Pay to Play Reference Notes.

It was agreed that the deadline for policy changes for the Specification would be the end of October 2008, and that, to avoid any omissions, all current procedures would be incorporated.

The next meeting in October would focus on the first draft of the Club Contract and the proposed Pay to Play Handbook for Clubs. County Chairmen would be asked to detail their method of collection of PTP by April 2009, for inclusion in the Club Contract that would be circulated to all our clubs in July 2009.

The provision of accurate membership data was acknowledged to be an absolute priority, and two large bridge clubs had offered to assist with the testing process. In addition, there would be a master data system online for each club for reference, which would be as simple as possible to research.

It was agreed to publicise in *English Bridge* that IT assistance will be provided, on request, to clubs using Scorebridge for the first time.

It was noted that revision of the Masterpoint Handbook would be the responsibility of the Tournament Committee.

The Chairman thanked Sally and her helpers for their excellent contribution, and Jeff Smith and the Aylesbury staff for their invaluable assistance and commitment to the scheme.

Business Planning Team

Sally Bugden reported that at its first meeting the Business Planning Team had formulated Strategy plans based on the Board strategy meeting held at Stubbs Common Farm. All the processes therein would be subject to review and report on an annual basis.

The document “Bidding for the Future”, which represented a blueprint for the next five years, would be presented to the Shareholders at the Annual General Meeting on 2nd October, published in the December issue of *English Bridge*, clubs will be provided with a copy either via email or post. The document will be invaluable in future funding applications, approaches to government etc...

Club Committee

Graham Jepson, Chairman of the Club Committee, reported that it had met on 17th September, and, in addition to himself, its members were:

Barry Capal (General Manager)
Margaret Eddleston (Hertfordshire)
Tom Garrett (Berks & Bucks)
Suzanne Gill (Norfolk)
Phil Green (Wiltshire)
Barbara Herold (Sussex)
Terry Jacobs (Yorkshire)
Lesley Millet (Yorkshire)

Sally Bugden attended the inaugural meeting of the Committee as she had made initial contact with its members.

The initial task of the Committee was to gain as much information as possible from clubs, and each member of the group would be responsible for contacting approximately 100 clubs in their region. Club Committee members would also identify clubs who would need assistance with universal membership through Pay to Play, and organise a central point of contact for liaison with the Committee.

A letter to County Chairman outlining the role and aims of the Club Committee, was approved.

5 SELECTION POLICY

It was agreed that the Chairman's paper outlining a policy and revised terms of reference for the future, would be put to the new Selection Committee. In the meantime Max Bavin would be asked to provide costings on the proposals.

6 TD ASSESSMENT PANEL

The Chairman reported that the Panel had interviewed sixteen Tournament Directors during the Brighton Summer Meeting, including four promotion interviews. Over half of our TDs had now been interviewed; the time and attention given had clearly been appreciated, and there was positive support amongst all those TDs interviewed for *Best Behaviour at Bridge*.

7 CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman said that his Report would be circulated to the Board in the next week.

8 COUNTY CONSTITUTIONS

It was noted that under the current Bye-laws each County produced their own Constitution, subject to the inclusion of certain elements to conform with the Union's requirements, e.g. the Human Rights Act and the Disabilities Act, that all members must be members of the EBU and that their Constitution must be approved by the Union. However, it was agreed to recommend to the Shareholders that a Bye-law change be proposed in October 2009 to enable a model County Constitution to be available, to which could be added local clauses as appropriate.

Martin Pool offered to produce a draft model Constitution and to assist Gerald Faulkner in progressing the Suffolk, Kent, Gloucestershire and Yorkshire Constitutions.

9 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The General Manager reported as follows:

- A contract had been signed with Entrust IT Ltd. in regard to desktop hosting, the Board having given its authority to the General Manager to go ahead with it.
- The Aylesbury offices had passed a Health and Safety inspection with flying colours.
- The Tournament Committee would be asked to examine a use for a number of trophies donated by the late Rixi Markus.
- An endowment had been offered for an annual "Sportsmanship" Award in memory of John Armstrong. The endowment would be announced at the forthcoming AGM, and an article would be produced by Elena Jeronimidis for *English Bridge* inviting recommendations for the award.

10 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Editorial Board meeting on 12th August

Sally Bugden reported that Blue2 had been renamed LOUD.

There had been an excellent response to the 64-page August issue, and it had been agreed to continue with 64 pages, the extra cost of £3K p.a. hopefully being offset by increased advertising revenue.

Laws & Ethics Committee meeting on 4th September

Martin Pool said that there had been very positive feedback from the Club Committee regarding the new proposal for alerting doubles, as follows: "Only doubles that are highly unusual will require alerting".

Frances Hinden was currently drafting for the clubs a simplified version of the *Orange Book*.

11 INTERNATIONAL

BGB Matters

The BGB Secretary reported that the question of alerting regulations for the Gold Cup had been resolved by Scottish teams playing against each other adopting WBF regulations, English/Welsh teams using EBU regulations, and Scottish/English opponents agreeing their own arrangements or using WBF regulations as default.

The arrangements for Home Internationals hosted by England in 2009 were noted as follows:

Final Camrose weekend: 6th/8th March at the Barceló Oxford Hotel, Oxford.
Seniors Camrose: 29th/31st May at Oxford Spires Hotel, Oxford.

EBL/WBF Matters

The Chairman reported that David Harris would be the Union's nominated representative at the Beijing Olympiad.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jeff Morris said that as a direct result of an excellent presentation by David Adelman of Minibridge to teachers, the material was now available on YouTube.

Barry Capal reported that a £20K p.a. donation to the Youth Education Trust would be used to fund a scheme for training teachers to teach children to play Minibridge.

The scheme would be run initially by David Adelman under contract, and the first course would be in two weeks' time in Manchester. It was hoped that a meeting could be arranged with Baroness Henig to attempt to get Minibridge adopted into the national curriculum. Graham Jepson said that every effort was being made to persuade ninety of Sheffield's primary schools to support a Minibridge teaching initiative.

The Trust had received donations from other sources, and income would be reported annually.

Sally Bugden, on behalf of the Board, thanked Peter Stocken for his enormous contribution as Chairman over the last two years. In response, Peter said that over all the years that he had served on the Board, he had never known one with such unity of purpose; he thanked them all for their support and for the tremendous amount of hard work they had all done. Such a committed and determined team boded well for the future of the English Bridge Union.