



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HELD IN THE COLSON ROOM, CCPR, BURWOOD HOUSE,
14-16 CAXTON STREET, LONDON, SW1H 0QT,
ON WEDNESDAY 24th MARCH 2010.**

Present:	Sally Bugden	(Chairman)
	Andrew Petrie	(Vice-Chairman)
	Jeremy Dhondy	
	Suzanne Gill	
	Graham Jepson	
	Jeff Morris	
	Alan Nelson	
	Malcolm Oliver	
	Martin Pool	
	Barry Capal	(General Manager)
	Karen Durrell	(Minute taker)

The Board noted with great sadness the untimely death of John Carter. The Chairman reported that she and the General Manager had attended John's funeral and that she had delivered a eulogy on John's life in bridge.

The Chairman proposed that Suzanne Gill be co-opted on to the Board of Directors, for the rest of the elected year, effective immediately. This was carried unanimously. The Chairman welcomed Suzanne Gill to the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were noted for Mike Hill.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 22nd OCTOBER 2009

2.1 Accuracy

2.2.4 Sentence was amended with "A letter has been sent to Hilary Benn, regarding the Water Rate Bill, a summary for the EBU website & Club Focus was completed on the 1st October."

2.2.3 First sentence amended to "Jeremy Dhondy reported that he had spoken with Mario Dix."

7 Fourth paragraph, second sentence was amended to "It was decided that it should be 6 years or 6 years out of any 10."

11 Eighth paragraph was corrected to "Club committee to meet 2 times a year". Subject to spelling corrections and these changes the minutes were signed as a true record of this meeting.

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 Integration of youth international selection.

A meeting has been arranged for 27th April 2010 at the West Midlands Bridge Club. Malcolm Oliver, Heather Dhondy, Paul Hackett and the Squad managers will attend.

2.2.2 County Constitutions

The Cumbria constitution was approved; Lancashire, Surrey, Northampton and Wiltshire were approved subject to minor changes to be agreed with Martin Pool. Berks and Bucks county constitution was not approved by the Board and Martin Pool is waiting to hear back from the county.

2.3 Board Minutes availability

The Board discussed the comments raised at the Shareholder Meeting held on the 9th March. It was agreed to put a summary of business discussed at Board meetings on the website to ensure that the shareholders and members are kept informed. This will be replaced with the relevant Board meetings minutes when they have been approved. Jeremy Dhondy offered to produce the summary for the website, once he has received draft minutes from the EBU Chairman.

2.4 Review of action list

All the items on the action list have been reviewed and are reported in these minutes.

3

FINANCIAL MATTERS

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chairman presented his report.

There is a cosmetic change to the way some numbers are being presented in the budget summaries and management accounts. In the past, some costs have been shown net of any directly related income. In future, gross costs will be shown, and the related income will be shown separately under "income".

Jeremy Dhondy noted that the costs of the compilation of the White Book were not included in the re-forecast and that this will reduce the surplus by £2,500

The Vice Chairman asked if there was a budget for Charity legal fees, the General Manager confirmed that there was.

The General Manager reported that we are on target for 1.9 million player sessions. The Chairman reported that the Editorial Board have restructured how we deal with advertising sales and printing liaison. The Board agreed that the 2010/11 budget will be a testing one, with reduced staffing levels and the advent of universal membership and Pay to Play.

3.4 Personal expenses and allowances fee & charges

All rules and conditions to the above remain unchanged. The subsistence rates quoted apply to non-EBU employees only. The equivalent rates for EBU employees are £5 and £15 respectively.

The Board agreed the proposed Tournament Director expenses, allowances, fees and charges; and the Tournament Director Training Tutor fees and these will apply from the 1st April 2010.

3.5 Licence Fees

There had been an ongoing discussion on licence fees for commercial organisations, looking at the contribution that these companies make to the EBU. After investigating various options, it was agreed that the fees for commercial organisations, like those for one day joint ventures, would remain unchanged for 2010/11.

4 BRIDGE GREAT BRITAIN

4.1 BGB

Jeremy Dhondy summarised the paper that he and Malcolm Oliver had produced for the 2010 annual meeting of BGB. The Board agreed that they would like the following items to be on that meeting's agenda:

- The revenue split from simultaneous pairs. (The previous agreement runs for 5 years from 2006 and we need to give notice in 2010 for change to take place in 2011)
- Gold Cup and Silver Plate finances
- The BGB website

The EBU Chairman reported that, due to a breakdown in communication, BGB were not fully aware of the detail of the EBU's proposal for charging a levy on players taking part in BGB Sim Pairs in unaffiliated clubs. The Chairman will write to BGB with the detailed proposal for discussion at their 2010 annual meeting.

The EBU Chairman thanked Jeremy Dhondy and Malcolm Oliver for their report. The BGB Secretary has requested that we do not renew the insurance of the Gold Cup and that it should be kept in safety deposit box with the bank. The General Manager will ask the Secretary to clarify who would be responsible for the trophy when it is in transit to the final. The English BGB delegate will raise this at the BGB meeting in April if it is not resolved by then.

5 UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Club affiliation update

The latest figures are:

579 positive club responses

212 negative responses

56 clubs have not replied.

This equates to 56,638 members of clubs - there will be duplication of EBU members in these figures - 18,191 club sessions, 55,430 tables which is 1,821,720 player sessions.

5.2 Implementation of IT systems and data collection

The General Manager reported that 242 clubs have sent and completed the process of membership data file transfer. 462 clubs have sent in their first submission file, leaving 117 clubs that have not done anything. Giving us at present 19,246 members of which 9,299 are current members.

Other aspects of the software are on target for 1 April 2010.

The Board thanked the EBU staff for all their hard work at this very busy implementation time.

6 CONSTITUTIONS

Martin Pool circulated Gerard Faulkner's suggested phrase to be added to County Constitutions to assist counties with the Regional Club Committee.

All affiliated Clubs are entitled to propose and vote for a County Representative to sit on the Regional Club Committee. All nominations for this must be submitted to the County Secretary in writing (or email) at least 28 days prior to the AGM. In the event that there is more than one nomination for the post each affiliated club shall have one

vote to be exercised (by the letter or email) to the County Secretary to arrive prior the commencement of the AGM.

The Board agreed but with this additional wording to be added at the end “*The representative for the Regional Club Committee should be independent of the County Committee.*”

Martin Pool reported that with the Chairman’s agreement the Essex constitution had been approved by the Board by e mail and that Essex CBA had been informed.

Middlesex and Westmorland were approved subject to minor changes to be agreed with Martin Pool.

Suzanne Gill suggested that where School Liaison officer is mention in constitutions that it should be changed to County Education Officer. The Board agreed with this principle but felt it would be better to leave this for a year whilst the Education Working Group undertakes its consultation.

6.6 Club Constitution

The Board discussed club appeals to the National Body (the Laws and Ethics Committee of the EBU) from their disciplinary process. To ensure that a club has the best chance of avoiding having to take such action, the Board should provide the clubs with a recommended appeals procedure and guidelines on compliance with current legislation.

If a club needs to appeal it was determined that the county should be referred to first - this would have to be agreed by both parties involved in the appeals process. However, it was recognised that counties may require some assistance with this process and the EBU would-provide help if required.

7 EBU OFFICE

7.1 General Mangers Report

Apart from the IT update reported earlier in the minutes, there was nothing else to report.

8 REPORTS ON MEETINGS

8.1 Editorial Board Meeting 4th February 2010

Nothing further to add from what was reported earlier in the minutes except to note that May 2011 is the 75th Anniversary of the EBU.

8.2 Education Working Party 3rd March 2010

Suzanne Gill reported that they held their first meeting on the 3rd March and have recruited another person to assist, Mr Douglas Wright.

The EWG is using Suffolk as its pilot county to determine the best way to consult on education on a county wide basis.

A questionnaire and discussion forum will be used to find out what resources are required for counties to initiate, implement and support educational development within their area.

The EWG is currently in the process of defining a suggested role for a County Education Officer, a paper will be produced for the next Board meeting. This can be used for guidance for the Counties. Counties may like to consider working together on a regional basis to assist each other for educational purposes.

There will be a nationwide county consultation using the same county groupings as MDAG used back in 2007. Being mindful of cost the EWG will endeavour to undertake the majority of these at the Brighton summer meeting.

8.3 Law & Ethics:

8.3.1 Minutes of the 21st January 2010

Jeremy Dhondy reported that the Tangerine Book was complete and published on the EBU website. It has received positive feedback. The White Book is complete in its new form and published on the EBU website. Any comments about either of these publications will be reviewed at the next meeting. Discontinuing the printed publication makes updating these booklets easier and more cost effective.

Jeremy re-iterated the need to encourage clubs to have a disciplinary procedure included in their constitutions.

An "Appeal Focus" electronic newsletter will be published next month and be produced twice a year.

The EBU Chairman suggested that Best Behaviour at Bridge might become a regulation rather than a code of conduct. Jeremy Dhondy confirmed that this will be discussed at the next L&E committee meeting in April.

The Board discussed the need to ensure that banned or suspended EBU members do not take part in heats of county or EBU competitions in affiliated clubs. A banned player should not be able to play in EBU or county events. The Board will consult David Harris, Honorary Council on a player's right to receipt of MPs in club events and *English Bridge*. It was determined that if a player was banned or suspended the clubs in which they play should be informed of the ban. However, it is up to the clubs as to whether they allow the member to continue to play there.

8.3.2 Terms of reference

The Terms of reference for the Law & Ethics committee were approved by the Board.

8.4 Club Committee Meeting 8th February 2010

Graham Jepson reported that the club committee confirmed that members can change the primary club and discussed:

Club constitutions

The page placing of BB@B in the 2012 Diary

The Tangerine Book

The new club simultaneous pair's event.

8.5 County Chairmen's Conference 16th February 2010

The meeting was interesting, productive and pleasant. Notes of the meeting have been circulated to all counties.

8.6 Shareholders Meeting 9th March 2010

The Shareholder meeting firmed up many of the subjects discussed at the County Chairmen's Meeting. The shareholders have been requested to consult with their members and clubs on a number of issues including representation.

8.7 Tournament Committee Meeting 10th March 2010

After complaints regarding 1 Heart and 1 Spade transfer opening bids the Tournament Committee asked for assistance from the L& E committee for help to find a solution.

The Vice Chairman thanked the L&E Committee for the solution that they have provided - adding Level 4 Restricted to the playing levels to accommodate competitions

where this convention will not be allowed - and noted that it will be actioned immediately 1st August except that Brighton 2010 will not be affected. The NICKO and Garden Cities competitions will only be open to affiliated clubs and their members. From 2011 the club members will have to have played a certain number of times in that club the previous year to be entitled to play in these competitions. It was decided to determine the precise level of qualifying plays after receiving views from players and measuring pay to play data from our clubs.

9 EBL AND WBF MATTERS

The EBU Chairman will attend the meeting being held on 27th June at Ostend, Belgium during the 50th European Team Championships. There is a special award being made to any country whose teams have won a European Championship in the last 50 years to mark the EBL's 50th Anniversary. The EBU is delighted and honoured to receive this award.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Voting Schedule for Counties

The Vice Chairman had reviewed the work that John Carter had started on this schedule and adapted it to meet the current numbers of members. The Board agreed the scale as an indicator but will need to review the voting scale in light of full membership details at its June meeting.

N.B Since this meeting the Articles have been further reviewed Article 4.8 stating that: "The total number of Shares which each Association is entitled to hold beneficially (via its nominees holding legal title to such Shares in accordance with Article 4.5) at any time will be determined by the number of Relevant Player Members of that Association on the immediately **preceding 31 March...** Thus the shareholder allocation will be reviewed at the October AGM when we have a better view of the number of members overall and in each county.

10.2 National MP Awards to EBU Members in unaffiliated clubs 2010/11

The Board agreed that members that play in BGB and CiN Simultaneous pairs at unaffiliated clubs should receive National Master Points but would not be able to receive the club awards as these are not available in unaffiliated clubs.

10.3 TD Development Group

The TDDG held a meeting on 12th March where it discussed the training, mentoring and development needs of our tournament directors. The allocation of TD work was also discussed. A meeting to discuss these initiatives will be held in Aylesbury in mid April.

11 POLICY ON CHARITABLE GIVING

Was circulated in February and was approved formally by email on 26th March 2010 as the meeting ran out of time.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING
1.00pm 8th June 2010
Stubbs Common Farm
Yorkshire