



**Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors held at
Baker Tilly Management Centre,
Thursday 28th October 2010**

Present:	Sally Bugden	(Chairman)
	Andrew Petrie	(Vice-Chairman)
	Michael Hill	(Treasurer)
	Jeremy Dhondy	
	Heather Dhondy	
	Suzanne Gill	
	Graham Jepson	(Note taker)
	Malcolm Oliver	
	Barry Capal	(General Manager)

On behalf of the Board, the Chairman congratulated the Under 21 team for winning a Silver Medal in the World Championships in Philadelphia October 2010. Her personal congratulations went to NPC Michael Byrne for raising £8000 from individuals, clubs and counties to finance the team.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all those Board members who had been re-elected and welcoming new Board member Heather Dhondy.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 28th September

2.1 Accuracy

The Minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting. The Chairman thanked Jeremy Dhondy for producing them.

2.2 Matters arising

2.2.1 BGB

The Chairman reported that she had received no response from either the President of the WBU or the President of the SBU. Andrew Petrie, Jeremy Dhondy, Barry Capal and Sally Bugden will be meeting on 23 November to finalise the proposals to send to both NBOs. She will send the finalised proposals to all Board members before sending them to the SBU and WBU by the beginning of December. The Chairman stated she would be writing to both Presidents within the next few days to invite them to attend a meeting in London in the middle of January 2011.

In the last BGB Sims only 6 EBU non-affiliated clubs entered. It was estimated that approximately 80% of CLUBS were EBU affiliates generating around 85% of all players taking part.

2.3 Review of action list

- 6 Honours group will report back in Jan 2011
- 7 Assisted Entry for Juniors is agreed and will be sent to the Tournament Department and Youth Squad Managers.
- 9 Sanctions - Sally Bugden will follow up with David Harris.

3. BOARD

3.1 Roles and responsibilities

Sally Bugden – Chairman, Chairman Editorial Board, Business Planning Team, Communications, Marketing Research, Induction for volunteers, Fundraising co-ordination, Research in to benefits of playing bridge to society, All Party Parliamentary Group. Ex officio member Selection, Tournament and Laws and Ethics Committee

Andrew Petrie – Vice Chairman, Chairman Tournament Committee, Business Planning Team, Corporate Governance, Charity registration. Ex officio member Selection, Laws and Ethics Committee.

Michael Hill – Treasurer, Business Planning Team, Ex officio Tournament Committee

Jeremy Dhondy – Chairman Laws and Ethics Committee, Bridge Great Britain, Tournament Directors Development Group, Editorial Board English Bridge

Heather Dhondy – Chairman Selection Committee, Tournament Directors Panel

Suzanne Gill – Education Working Group

Graham Jepson – Club Committee

Malcolm Oliver - Business Planning Team, Future of Aylesbury project, Shop.

3.2 Appointment of directors to fill skill gaps

All members of the Board agreed that it would be a good idea to have a solicitor on the Board who had experience in corporate and commercial law. It was decided that the best way to proceed would be to advertise for a volunteer to come forward. This would involve providing a job description with areas of expertise required.

The Board also agreed that we require an individual with expertise in fundraising to become a member of the Board.

3.3 To decide in which order the directors will retire.

After discussion the Board agreed to the following rolling programme of retirement to achieve the three year rolling programme by October 2014:

In Oct 2011 Suzanne Gill and Malcolm Oliver

In Oct 2012 Andrew Petrie, Graham Jepson and Jeremy Dhondy

In Oct 2013 Sally Bugden, Michael Hill and Heather Dhondy

3.4 Succession planning

There was a lengthy discussion about the future of volunteering across all of the Union's work, including counties. It is important to ensure that the energy that currently exists and work that is currently undertaken continues. As a starting point it was decided that all Chairmen of Standing Committees should write down what they see as their roles and responsibilities and objectives for their committees (using their committee's terms of reference will help in this task).

Chairman of committees that are set up as sub committees of the Board i.e. the Club Committee, the Education Working Group (and its future education committee) should also undertake this task. All the Officers would also undertake this work. At the next Board meeting the next steps for this process will be explored.

3.5 Dates and venues of meetings for the year 2010-11

The list below shows the dates for the Board, Shareholders meetings and the County Chairmen's meetings.

Thurs Jan 20	Board - London
Thurs 24 March	Board - London
Wed 13 April	Shareholders - London
Tues/Wed 14/15 June -2 Days	Board - Doncaster kind permission of Peter/Dinah Stocken
Wed 29 June	Annual County Chairmen's Conference - London
Wed 7 September	Board - London
Wed 5 October	AGM - London
Wed 2 November	Board - London

4. FINANCIAL MATTERS

4.1 Treasurers Report

Treasurer reported things were broadly in line with expectations with a projected shortfall of £10-£15,000 against budget by 31 March 2011. Player sessions totalled 963,700 in the first 6 months of universal membership and, with seasonal variations; it looks like we are on target for over 1.9million player sessions for the year.

Gail Nancarrow was thanked for getting out the figures in time for Board meeting.

4.2 Budget process and timetable

The Treasurer presented the timetable and asked that all budget holders on the Board provide him by 1st January 2011 with details of any significant changes from 2010-11 planned for their budgets for 2011/12.

5. BYE LAW CHANGES

5.1 Disciplinary

5.1.1 Item 6 – Disciplinary committee

The Board agreed that it would be preferable if it could appoint any number of members to the Disciplinary Panel from whom the Chairman chooses individuals to sit on a panel for a disciplinary hearing. Currently only 10 individuals are allowed at any one time.

5.1.2 Item 8.4 – private to open

The EBU is governed by the laws in force and all its disciplinary hearings are open unless anyone under the age of 18 is involved. This process has been in operation for many years and needs to be embodied in the bye laws.

5.1.3 Item 10 – Appeals

David Harris had suggested that in order to stop petty appeals against decisions made by a Disciplinary Committee a deposit of £500 should be lodged with the EBU before the expensive appeal process is put in motion.

5.2 Change to membership lapse date

In order to avoid having to guess how many copies of English Bridge to print because members may or may not have lapsed by 1st August, the Chairman requested that a new lapse date be decided upon at the end of a month when the magazine would not be in production. The Board agreed the 30th June.

Barry Capal was asked to compose the changes to the wording of all the above bye laws for the Shareholders to vote on at their next meeting on 13th April 2011.

6. PLANNED PROJECTS FOR THE YEAR – RESPONSIBILITIES AND TIMETABLES

6.1 Fundraising

Bridge England Fund

Approaches to Patrons for the Bridge England Fund had been held up due to a number of reasons:

- Necessary fundraising for the Under 21s to visit Philadelphia
- Loss of one of the key fundraisers

Sally Bugden agreed to raise the matter with the Selection Committee to determine whether the project was currently viable.

Small Scale Society Lottery for Education

The Small Scale Lottery would provide a fundraising vehicle for education and development whilst providing those members who bought a ticket with the opportunity to win between £100 and £2000 per draw. However the viability of the lottery needs some research as it will require an extra person to be paid to run it on behalf of the EBU. Sally Bugden agreed to ask questions about whether members would like to take part in the membership survey – see below.

6.2 Membership Survey December 2010 – January 2011

The Chairman reported that we would be running a membership survey online from 17th December 2010 to 14th January 2011. The survey would be promoted as the front cover of the December issue of English Bridge and participants will have the opportunity to enter in to a prize draw for £500 of holiday vouchers. Sally Bugden asked all Standing Committee Chairmen and Sub Committee Chairmen to get any questions that they wished to ask the members via the survey by 15th November. The survey will be tested by staff at Aylesbury and a band of knowledgeable volunteers before it goes live.

6.3 Education Working Group analysis, report and publication

The Chairman thanked Suzanne Gill and all members of the Education Working Group for their hard work. She especially thanked Suzanne for undertaking the onerous task of organising the majority of the nationwide county meetings.

All replies from questionnaires will be analysed and a report will be provided for next Board meeting in January.

Suzanne asked the Chairman to send a letter to all County Chairmen to thank them for their attendance and to ask those who had not yet done so to complete and send her their questionnaires.

Suzanne mentioned that she had been provided with a paper on an assessment scheme for learning bridge which would provide a series of grades for attainment – similar to those provided by the Royal College of Music for music students. The Board said they would wish to see a proper business proposal before agreeing to support or implement such a scheme.

6.4 Opening up volunteering – County Chairmen's Conference 2011

The Board agreed that volunteering for counties was one of the key issues that affected each county body and the national body. It was hoped that this subject would be a major part of the County Chairmen's meeting in 2011.

7. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

7.1 Selecting the Selectors

The Chairman thanked Richard Fleet for his paper on this subject which had been discussed at the Board's strategy meeting in June 2010. She also thanked Jeremy Dhondy and Heather Dhondy for the paper which they had provided for the Board to discuss at this meeting.

The Board understood that whatever method it recommended for selecting the selectors and then these selectors selecting players, would always be open to debate and that it could not satisfy everybody who is affected by the process. However, the Board was adamant that the process should always be transparent and governed by a code of conduct which not only protected the potential players but those who had been elected by the Shareholders to carry out this task. There was a lengthy discussion looking at many options including the methods undertaken by other countries - supplied by Max Bavin at the beginning of this year. It was decided that before any changes were determined as necessary and put to the Shareholders, that the players that take part in the Premier League would be asked, via questionnaire, what options they favoured as they would be most affected by any changes. In the meanwhile the Board decided that greater communication should take place about the work that the Selection Committee undertake when they choose internationals and that there should be greater promotion of the EBU Policy on Conflict of Personal Interests of Committee Members at National Level.

7.2 Funding - next steps on the policy agreed at the last meeting

This matter had been discussed and reported in detail at the last Board meeting. Issues about communication to the players on their expenses, insurance etc... have been rectified by the production of a pro forma. The Chairman thanked Andrew Petrie for his work on this project.

There is already a form that must be signed by players, NPCs and coaches as a formal acceptance of the offer to represent England.

It was determined that the Player Guidelines should include a section on Conduct and Behaviour. It was made clear that any incidents of bad behaviour by players whilst representing England, would be put before the Laws and Ethics Committee.

8. DEVON CONSTITUTION

This was accepted by members at the Devon AGM. Due to an oversight on our behalf, two specific clauses were incorrect. However, like all counties, Devon is a constituent member of the EBU and thus is governed by the EBU Constitution and this will suffice until Devon can make the appropriate changes at its next AGM.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Minutes of the AGM 6 October 2010

The lengthy draft minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting and the Chairman would request that Aylesbury put them on the website.

9.2 Report from the Tournament Committee Meeting 27th October 2010

Gordon Rainsford employed for 1 day a week by EBU from 1.4.11 to work as Assistant Chief Tournament Director.

Yorkshire CBA to hold Northern Easter Congress on 6-8 April 2012

Midlands Counties to be asked to run National Women's Teams in 2011

10. EBL/WBF MATTERS

There was nothing to report other than clarification from David Harris that IMSA hope that the World Mind Sports Games would be held in Manchester in 2012 but there was still no definite agreement and it is still a "hope".

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There had been some doubt whether the Learn to Play Bridge programme based on the ACBL version was available on the website. Suzanne Gill would check with John Pain.

All county Pay to Play amounts for 2011/12 should be with Aylesbury by 1st January 2011.

There was mention of a central deposit of all EBU policy documents. This to be discussed at the next Board meeting.

The Chairman thanked those present and closed the meeting at 5.30pm.