



**Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors held at Baker Tilly Management Centre,**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

<b>Present:</b>	Sally Bugden	(Chairman)
	Andrew Petrie	(Vice-Chairman)
	Michael Hill	(Treasurer)
	Jeremy Dhondy	
	Suzanne Gill	
	Graham Jepson	
	Jeff Morris	
	Alan Nelson	
	Malcolm Oliver	
	Martin Pool	
	Barry Capal	(General Manager)
	David Harris	(Honorary Counsel) for Item 9 only

**1. Apologies for Absence**

None

The start time was confirmed as 13.00 for future meetings as this allowed cost savings on rail tickets

**9. Sanctions in the Age of Universal Membership**

This item was taken out of order.

DH attended to explain his paper of earlier in the year regarding sanctions in the age of P2P. Many more members are affected by this since P2P started. In addition those joining an affiliated club become members. This gives rise to some fresh problems which need to be addressed.

It was accepted that if a member was banned from the EBU then it was undesirable to enforce this prohibition on clubs however effective sanctions were needed in the rare cases brought before a disciplinary tribunal.

When problems do develop it was considered that clubs should be the first port of call in resolving difficulties – hence the need for a club constitution that had disciplinary procedures in line with Laws of England and Wales in force - and if this failed then

counties had a role and only after these were exhausted should the EBU become involved.

Counsel reminded the Board that monetary fines were already a part of the disciplinary process (up to a maximum of £500 and that these should be used more often. He suggested that some general advice on the sanctions including possible level of fine should be prepared by him to update current advice and included in it should be a discount for those who admit guilt. The Board accepted his offer.

There was discussion about the withholding of benefits from banned members e.g. magazine, diary, registering of master points. It was felt by the Board that the current rules permit this to happen.

Counsel also suggested that in the event of an appeal resulting from the decision of a disciplinary panel a deposit of £500 should be considered. It would be within the remit of the panel to withhold this deposit in the event that the appeal was both dismissed and lacked merit. A bye law change would be necessary to implement this change.

## **2. Minutes**

Karen will no longer take minutes and notes will be taken by Board members in rotation from this meeting onwards

2.1 The minutes of the meeting of August 12<sup>th</sup> were accepted. There were no points of accuracy.

2.2 Matters arising

2.2.1 BGB

No response had been received from Wales or Scotland to the letter sent about the existing agreement. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and England's representative to BGB would meet in November to formulate proposals to update the agreement due to expire in April 2011. They would then seek to organise a meeting with the other countries in January 2011. Reciprocity of Green Points item to be discussed at the November meeting re BGB.

2.2.2 ODGP correspondence deferred to Later in the meeting (licensing matters)

2.3 The action list from June 8<sup>th</sup> had been dealt with

## **3. Financial Matters**

3.1 The Directors report 31/3/10 was presented

3.2 The Treasurer's report for the AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> October was presented

3.3 The proposed membership subscriptions for 2011/12(Direct, Clubs, EBUTA and BfA were presented

3.4 The Treasurer produced the August management figures. These showed an improvement over the July position. There had been a reduction in staffing costs as a result of a non return from a maternity leave. There is no current intention to replace this member of staff. The magazine is running below budget and the Business Planning Team had looked at some alternatives to help address this. An

online version is to be investigated but it was agreed at this stage that if this was offered it would be as well as the existing magazine. The Editorial Board are to look at ways to improve the advertising income. A bye law change will be proposed so as to move forward the cut off date (currently 31<sup>st</sup> July) for those renewing membership. Uncertainties this year had led to a large number of additional magazines being produced.

#### **4. Funding of international Teams**

Two papers were produced (by Andrew Petrie and Jeremy Dhondy) as a follow up to Alan Nelson's paper and subsequent discussion in June. The following matters were agreed by the Board

- It has a duty to set a budget for the Selection Committee
- International representation and success is important to the organisation. The Board fully support the Selection Committee's attempts to further our international aims.
- It will give guidelines on which tournaments should be considered as priorities and ask the Selection Committee to report back if it wishes to amend this at some future date
- Expenses to players and officials should be in line with the procedures manual which will have a section for representative teams to cover such items as mileage rate, meals, travel and accommodation
- The players must be clearly informed, in writing, before they go what will or will not be paid for
- The Board do not wish to micro manage the selection process and record their thanks for the progress made by the Selection Committee over recent times.

#### **5. Recommendations from the P2P, master point and licensing review committee (This item , item 7 of the agenda, was taken out of order)**

Recommendations made by the group would go to counties inviting feedback. Most of the changes will take place from April 2012 but it is proposed that from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011

- the licence fee for County Green Point events (ODGP and congresses) should fall from £7.50 to £6.80 to bring it into line with other licence fees.
- the proposal for a minimum number of plays at a club to qualify for Garden Cities or NICKO will not be introduced but clubs will be offered a set of guidelines and be asked to police that all entrants are bona fide members of the club.
- Aylesbury will collect the county membership element of the affiliation fee on behalf of the counties provided the member agrees.
- Other changes for 2012 will be circulated to the Shareholders and clubs for them to provide their input via email. The Board confirmed its approval of the policy to return to licensing for ODGPs and end capping. This will be discussed at the forthcoming AGM.

5.1 It was confirmed that licensing of all overseas bridge events was undertaken by England. An amount is passed annually to Scotland and Wales to reflect this. This is part of the agreement that was made at the last Tournament Committee meeting of the British Bridge League to deal with this matter on the creation of BGB. All events, such as holidays, advertised in English Bridge must bear the line "Bridge Licensed by the EBU" The Board authorised the Vice Chairman to send a letter to an advertiser to confirm licensing arrangements.

## **6. Honours**

There was a discussion about honours. The existing committee which oversees the Dimmie Fleming awards (Margaret Curtis, Philip Mason & Jeff Morris) are to be asked to provide a set of criteria for these awards and also a set of criteria to apply if seeking external recognition for members. Criteria when established will be published on the website in order to assist counties when nominating candidates.

## **7. Assisted and Free Entry to EBU competitions for Juniors**

A paper was introduced by Jeremy Dhondy giving detail of changes to the policy. It was accepted in total by the Board. Key recommendations are

- that from now on the term Junior would include all members under the age of 25 on the day of the competition (in the case of a knock out event this to be the closing date for entries)
- that all competitions be available for half price entry with the exception of Junior Events, Overseas Congresses and Simultaneous Pairs
- half price entry would only be available if the person entering both entered in advance and also had his or her date of birth recorded with the EBU.
- free entries would be available to members of any of the junior squads.
- to be eligible they had to have signed a contract and the contract must be lodged at Aylesbury HQ
- the recommendation of the squad manager (or the Chairman or Vice Chairman of selectors) is needed for a free entry to be processed. There is a specified list of events
- the right to free entries will expire when a player is in their 25<sup>th</sup> year and the team has been selected for a European championship (unless they are members of the team or reserves)
- Any player suspended from the squad automatically loses the right to free entry
- A budget of £3500 pa will be available in 2011/12 to cover the difference between free entries and half price entries and from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 the year for funding will run from April. This does not include the Premier League
- A separate cost centre will be set up to keep track of entries granted and their cost.

## **8. Constitutions**

The Constitutions of Isle of Man, Norfolk, Surrey, Hants and the Isle of Wight were accepted, subject to minor amendments which will be communicated through Martin Pool.

## **10. General Managers report**

- Stratification: The software is now ready for trial amongst a select number of clubs with a view to a full release early in 2011
- National Grading System: This has made progress and proof of concept testing is going ahead. A further report will be available at the next meeting
- The Board selected the charity “Help the heroes” for the small surplus remaining from various charity events in the last year.
- Based on 4 months’ worth of data P2P numbers are marginally ahead of the target of 1.9m player sessions in the year.

## **11. Committee Reports**

These were accepted. A report on each will be given at the AGM

## **12. EBL/WBF matters**

The EBL are having dialogue with IMSA about their decision to admit Poker as a mind sport

2011 payments to both organisations will be based on the last audited membership numbers these being for the year ending 31 March 2010. Negotiations will begin soon on payments from 2012 onwards which will be based on the new membership model.

## **13. AOB**

The Chairman thanked the outgoing members (Jeff Morris, Alan Nelson & Martin Pool) for their dedicated service to the Board and the EBU as a whole.

Martin has undertaken to complete his work on revised constitutions and Jeff will continue to represent the EBU at CCPR and other sports associations.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at 13.00 at Baker Tilly, Russell Square W1