



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HELD AT STUBBS COMMON FARM, STUBBS WALDEN, DONCASTER
ON TUESDAY 8th JUNE 2010.**

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

The Chairman on behalf of the Board thanked Peter Stocken for hosting the June Board Meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 24th MARCH 2010

2.1 Accuracy

Subjected to minor changes the Board Minutes were approved.

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 Venues for EBU Meetings

At present the Board and Standing committees have been using three different venues for their meetings. After discussion covering location, time taken for travel and associated costs it was agreed that the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square was deemed the best option for hosting both Board and Tournament Committee meetings. The Chairmen of the Selection and the L&E Committee will determine the best option for their committees.

2.2.2 Commercial Licensing

The Board will review licensing for commercial organisations on an annual basis. The Chairman confirmed that only licensed holidays can be advertised in *English Bridge*.

2.3 Review of action list

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

3.1 Treasurer's Report

Management Accounts will be circulated at the end of June. We have processed Pay to Play sessions for April and May, which suggest we are on target for 1.9 million player sessions in a full year. Jeff Morris informed the Board as a Bridge Club proprietor he has been impressed with the technical processes involved. The Board gave a vote of thanks to the staff at Aylesbury for all their hard work on this project.

3.2 Draft Annual Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2010

The draft Accounts are not yet finalised, with a few minor issues to be resolved. The current position is a surplus of £48,000, with the major saving against budget delivered by doing most of the work on the universal membership project in-house. On behalf of the membership, the Chairman thanked the Treasurer and General Manager for these project savings.

The Board agreed to give the Treasurer and Chairman the right to approve the draft accounts.

3.3 Pay to Play Fee 2011-12

The Board agreed to have a meeting in Brighton to discuss the 2011-12 Pay to Play rate on Thursday 12 August at 10.30am.

3.4 Pay to Play Statement For Clubs

The original statement template caused some confusion but this was changed and seems to have been met with approval. Currently statement processing is going as planned. The Chairman is to write to the non affiliated clubs on how well Pay to Play has been received.

3.5 EBL and WBF subscription fees

The Chairman had a meeting with David Harris and had informed him that she needed to open discussions with the EBL and WBF re the rates that the EBU has to pay now it has 48,000 members – which is substantially more than recent forecasts. There is still time for discussion as the new rate will not need to be paid until April 2012 (all amounts payable are based on the last audited membership figures - so the payment at the beginning of 2011 will be based on the audited number of members for the EBU year 2009-2010). The Chairman reported that David Harris was hoping to become Treasurer of the EBL and the Board recognised that this appointment would cause a conflict of interest in these discussions.

3.6 Fundraising for internationals and education

The Chairman reported that we were currently in the process of creating a prospectus for patrons to support our internationals which should be ready by the Brighton Congress this August.

At least fifty potential patrons will be approached. Each patron will be asked to give £500 per annum for a minimum of 3 years which will provide many benefits including the patrons' free entry to a celebratory dinner at the House of Lords, hosted by Baroness Henig.

A plan for fundraising for education is also being developed and this will be targeted across the whole membership.

RE-CONSTITUTION OF THE BOARD AND THE STANDING COMMITTEES

The Vice Chairman reported that 13 out of 39 counties had so far sent in a response to our request for opinions. In summary the feedback was:

- 3 Year Term of Office for Board and Officers - Strong support.
- Some appointed Directors - Majority in favour but many respondents said keep to a minimum.
- Standing Committee Chairman appointed from the Board – Small majority of Counties in favour but Standing Committee members against.
- Some appointed Standing Committee members – Small majority of Counties in favour but Standing Committee members against.

After discussion the Board agreed to keep the status quo for Standing Committees but agreed that the Chairman, if not a Board member, may be invited to attend the Board meeting when annual budgets are set.

The Board accepted the Officers' proposal that the Board should consist of 8 elected and 2 co-opted members.

It was pointed out that with the proposed Articles, it was likely that the 3 Officers would all be up for re-election at the same time and this was not ideal. The Vice-Chairman was asked to propose a system that drew lots when Directors had the same retirement date.

The Board reviewed the summary of proposed substantive changes to the EBU Articles and, subject to minor amendments, these were agreed.

5 SANCTIONS IN THE AGE OF UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP

The Board had received a paper on sanctions from David Harris, Honorary Counsel. After much discussion it was agreed to invite David to the Board meeting in September to clarify certain issues for us about sanctions in the age of universal membership. The General Manager is to ensure that our IT systems flag suspended and banned members.

6 BGB – REPORT ON ANNUAL MEETING 5TH MAY 2010

Jeremy Dhondy reported back from the Annual BGB meeting.

Neville Richards WBU representative and current Chairman of the BGB has taken on the responsibility to get the website updated and hosted.

Gold Cup and Silver Plate finances - it was agreed that certain administrative streamlining would take place to reduce costs. The EBU's offer to run these on behalf of BGB to be reviewed after the competition had run in this new streamlined way for a year.

The BGB committee proposed a 50p per player levy for those players taking part in the BGB Simultaneous Pairs in non affiliated bridge clubs in England. This would be implemented from the Autumn BGB simultaneous pairs onwards. The Board accepted the proposal and the Chairman agreed to write to the BGB Chairman accepting this proposal.

The revenue split from the BGB Simultaneous pairs of 60.20.20, was discussed at length. Jeremy reminded the Board that the previous agreement runs for 5 years from 2006 to 2010 and that notice needs to be given in 2010 for any change to take place in 2011. The Board are aware that they must look after the interests of EBU members whilst not compromising the objectives of BGB.

In response to a question from the General Manager, Jeremy reported that BGB intend to keep the Gold Cup in a bank security box for the duration of the Gold Cup competition and only remove it to take it to the finals for presentation. The General Manager will check whether the Gold Cup is covered by its current insurance when in transit.

The Vice Chairman raised the issue of reciprocity of Gold Points which was originally raised at the January board meeting. Max Bavin to investigate the other home unions' schedules for Master Point awards and report to the Board for its meeting in September.

7 EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

The group held 2 meetings on the 5th May, first meeting was a committee meeting where Douglas Wright joined the committee. Two extra members needed to assist with the county consultations, Graham Jepson and Mike Eden agreed. The second meeting was with Suffolk who agreed to act as our pilot for the national county education consultations. The meeting with Suffolk went extremely well, it was a positive and constructive meeting. Douglas Wright took the notes for the meeting and sent Suffolk the amended questionnaire.

The Role of County Education Officer has been completed but is to be used as a guide only, and will be reformulated as time goes by.

The questionnaire had been prepared and sent out to Suffolk, which should be returned by the end of June. The questionnaire is to be used to found out what resources are needed nationally to help counties at local level initiatives, implement and support educational development within their area and also to determine the role of the EBU appointed Education Officer.

The next county meeting to be held on the 6th July at the Young Chelsea, for Surrey, Kent, Middlesex, Essex and London. The southern counties, Channel Islands, Sussex, Hants & IOW meeting to be held in Brighton on the 11 August, Jeff Morris at the Manchester Bridge Club will host the Cumbria, IOM, Lancashire, and Manchester, Westmorland, Merseyside and Cheshire meeting in October. Graham Jepson has agreed to assist with the North East/Yorkshire meeting to be held at the St Georges Bridge Club and Manchester Bridge Club. The rest of the meetings are to be finalised but will take place right up and in to November. The questionnaire information will then be collated, analysed and reported back for next spring. Counties will be asked to grant their permission to share the results with all counties not just their specific grouping.

8 CONSTITUTIONS

Lancashire, Warwickshire and Oxfordshire were approved. Berks & Berks, Leicestershire and Bedfordshire were approved subject to minor changes to be agreed with Martin Pool.

The Board thanked Gerard Faulkner for the valuable contributions he has made to the county constitution review process.

An updated list of County Constitutions to be provided for next meeting.

9 COUNTY VOTING SCHEDULE

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 APPOINTMENT OF REVIEW PANEL FOR PAY TO PLAY, MASTERPOINT AND LICENSING

The review panel will consist of Sally Bugden, Andrew Petrie, Mike Hill, Brian Crack, Max Bavin and Barry Capal and will meet at the end of September.

11 ECATs CHARITY SIMS

The Pay to Play Guidelines were written in April 2009. Unfortunately one section of the guidelines relating to Exempt Session has some misleading information relating to charity simultaneous pairs.

Since that time the Master Point and Licensing Handbook has been re-written and it is now clear that what we wrote in 2009 can easily be misinterpreted.

The Chairman recommended that all clubs (affiliated and unaffiliated) should be able to take part in all the ECATs Charity Sims this year without having to pay the pay to play fee on the session. However from 1 April 2011 the only charity sims that would be free of Pay to Play would be the Children in Need Sim as detailed in the MP and Licensing Handbook.

The Board accepted the proposal as follows:

For this current year, along with the Children in Need Charity Sims, unaffiliated clubs may enter, and there will be no Pay to Play fee charged in affiliated clubs for, the following charity simultaneous events run by Ecats Bridge: Charity Challenge and Kidney Research.

**Summary Tables – Regulations Regarding Charity Sims Awarding EBU Masterpoints
Interim Arrangements To 31 March 2011**

Event	P2P Applicable	Licence Required by Event Organiser	Open To Non-Affiliated Clubs
Children in Need	N	Y (See Note 1)	Y
Charity Challenge	N	Y	Y
Kidney Research	N	Y	Y

From 1 April 2011

Event	P2P Applicable	Licence Required by Event Organiser	Open To Non-Affiliated Clubs
Children in Need	N	Y (See Note 1)	Y
Charity Challenge	Y	Y	Y (See Note 2)
Kidney Research	Y	Y	Y (See Note 2)

Notes

1. The EBU donates all the Licence fees to Children In Need. Licence fees are payable by the event organiser (e.g. Ecats Bridge) – not by the club heat itself.
2. Subject to an additional charge per person in line with the pay to play fee in force.
3. For heats of any Sim Pairs event held at a non-affiliated club only EBU members will receive Masterpoint awards and only for their overall result not for the club heat.

Currently, county charity sims are covered by the interim arrangements agreed with counties at the Shareholders meeting in March 2010. There will be a further review of all Pay to Play, Master Point and Licensing regulations in September 2010. Any further changes will be reported at the AGM in October and publicised to clubs by November 2010.

12 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR NEW CLUB COMMITTEE

The Board asked Graham Jepson to draft the Terms of Reference for the new club committee. The new committee will carry on the good work of the interim committee and should be proactive in undertaking actions to ensure that clubs and the EBU are more closely knit and work together to develop a more players and value added services at club level.

On behalf of the Board, the Chairman thanked all the members of the Interim Club Committee for the sterling work they have undertaken during the past two years and the contribution they have made to the smooth implementation of Pay to Play at club level.

13 FREE JUNIOR SQUAD ENTRIES TO EBU COMPETITIONS

The Board reviewed the proposed revised policy for Junior Squads free entry in to certain EBU events. The Board agreed that the Premier League will be removed from the EBU events that qualify for free entry.

It was decided that the Board require a more refined definition of what a junior squad member is and that there should be a formal application from the squad members to play at an EBU event via their respective squad manager. All junior players are able to benefit from the junior entry policy to tournaments. Jeremy Dhondy agreed to finalise the policy for junior squad members in conjunction with the Chairman of the Selection Committee and report back at the Board meeting in September.

14 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The implementation of the new systems for Pay to Play has been a success. There have been no significant problems at all with the reporting from Clubs to Aylesbury. Michael Clark and other members of the staff at Aylesbury have been working exceedingly hard, conscientiously and successfully to ensure that the implementation went well.

15 COMMITTEE REPORTS

15.1 Minutes of the Laws and Ethics Committee Meeting 15th April 2010

JD highlighted:

Item 5.5 Complex methods, the recommendations having been approved by Andrew Petrie, Chairman of the TC. Andrew thanked Jeremy and the L and E for the work they had undertaken on this issue.

The issue around access by other countries to documentation compiled and regulated by the L & E if/when the website is closed off has been discussed. The Chairman stated that she was sure there was a way of ensuring that those countries that required access could have it without compromising this service which will be available to members only.

15.2 Minutes of the Editorial Board of English Bridge Meeting of 13th April 2010

The Chairman highlighted that Chris Danby was settling in to his role selling advertising and was planning several issues in advance.

The mailing of EB had been delayed due to the increased number of members to be registered by clubs, and the need to ensure that all members got their new membership cards and welcome letter.

15.3 Minutes of the Selection Committee Meeting of 6th April 2010

The Chairman reported that the Selection Committee wished to run a Sim Pairs as part of their fundraising activities. The Board discussed the fact that this would bring the number of specific EBU Sim Pairs to 4 as follows:

Spring EBU Sims

Autumn EBU Sims

New Club EBU Sims

Selex EBU Sims

Max Bavin had suggested that February would be a good date for the Sim, Max Bavin to investigate and implement.

The Chairman reported that she had requested that all those individuals who are attending the Commonwealth Games representing England in New Delhi later this year, write to Heather, as Chairman of the Selection Committee informing her that they are happy to attend the games in the light of the current and continuing advice from the Foreign Office re potential terrorist threats in that country.

16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jeff Morris was requested to compile a proposal document stating the objectives and policy on application for public recognition through the honours system for individuals in the world of duplicate bridge.

Martin Pool reported on the meeting of the Tournament Directors Development Panel on 13th March 2010 drawing attention to the weekend seminar that is being held in October 2010 which will cover:

The new White Book

Dealing with Players – BB@B, Appearance, Presentation etc...

Scoring and publishing results on the website

Personal development Log

Mentoring.

Martin Pool also reported that the mentoring programme has already been instigated and is proving to be successful.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10.30am 12th August 2010 Hilton Metropole, Brighton.