



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EBU LIMITED  
AT STUBBS COMMON FARM, STUBBS WALDEN, DONCASTER  
ON TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2011**

<b>Present:</b>	Sally Bugden	(Chairman)
	Andrew Petrie	(Vice-Chairman)
	Michael Hill	(Treasurer & Note Taker)
	Jeremy Dhondy	
	Heather Dhondy	
	Graham Jepson	
	Malcolm Oliver	
	Ian Payn	
	Barry Capal	(General Manager)

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

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None. The Chairman welcomed Ian Payn to his first Board meeting.

**2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2011**

HD was thanked for producing the minutes.

**2.1 Accuracy**

Three minor corrections were made and the minutes were then accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**2.2 Matters arising**

None.

**2.3 Review of action list**

All items had been completed. Mary Groom had advised that we should progress matter with the Charities Commission via a detailed letter, not a meeting.

**3. BGB UPDATE**

All correspondence had been copied to all present, so the update would be confined to issues outside that.

**3.1 Simultaneous Pairs**

This was discussed at the annual BGB meeting in April, The EBU will run its own simultaneous pairs and work is in hand at Aylesbury.

### **3.2 Gold Cup/Silver Plate**

Running the Gold Cup on behalf of BGB is to be put out to tender (and the EBU can tender). BGB wished to reduce the insurance cover on the cup itself to only 10% of its value of ~£45k. The Board felt this was not appropriate and agreed the EBU would fund the additional insurance (cost ~£300) as a goodwill gesture. The Silver Plate will be an EBU event from this year and BGB will pay the EBU £8.25 per team from the Gold Cup entry fee. It will come down to seven teams (from the EBU and WBU) at which point the SBU will supply an eighth (from the Scottish Plate).

### **3.3 Home Internationals**

These will be run by a committee which will, for simplicity's sake, be called BGB.

### **3.4 Website**

This is now web mastered by JD using BridgeWebs and is improving steadily. However, its historical records are incomplete and the missing information is being sought.

A discussion on the EBU organising and classifying its own records ensued and this project to be investigated in due course.

The Chairman thanked JD for all his efforts and AP for his contribution to the April BGB meeting.

## **4. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **4.1 Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer's report on the 2010-11 year had been circulated before the meeting and the draft annual report and accounts were tabled at the meeting. The deficit for the year was £47.2k, much lower than expected. The improvement came from a number of small variations, the largest of which was subscription income, player sessions for the year having topped 1.81 million.

It was noted that the number of juniors reported had declined from over 200 to 100. It was established that this was because the definition of juniors had changed from "under 25" to "under 22". The Board felt that a footnote explaining that was needed and, subject to that being done, the report and accounts were approved.

## **5. SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS**

A paper had been circulated in advance setting out the proposed process for 2012 onwards. The EBU will be running all simultaneous events in England that had previously been run by ECATs. A proposal has been put to SBU and WBU to hold a British Sims, run by the EBU, in the weeks currently allocated to the BGB Sims but on all 5 days. We have not yet received a formal response. There would be no increase in the number of days of any other simultaneous pairs in 2012-13 whilst the operation of them from Aylesbury settled. It was agreed that in the EBU Sims which currently charges £3.00, a single entry fee would be maintained and, for 2012-13, this would be £2.90, a reduction of 8% in real terms. (The normal adjustment for inflation would have taken it to £3.15).

## **PLEASE SEE ATTACHED NOTE**

AP suggested that we highlight in any promotional material, that the purpose of these events is fundraising.

## **6. SUCCESSION PLANNING**

A paper on organisational development had been circulated in advance and this was approved. It was noted that the individual roles and responsibilities would be updated as necessary. It was also noted that there was a wide variation in counties' perceptions of the roles and responsibilities of shareholders. The

best methods of communication between the Board and the counties will be explored at the County Chairmen's meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

## **7. PROPOSAL TO PROCEED WITH CHARITY REGISTRATION**

There was unanimous approval to proceed, with a target of 2013, but it was recognised that it was still "in principle", because we might yet find an insurmountable problem as our discussions with the Charity Commission progress.

## **8. MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING**

### **8.1 Article Changes**

The chairman summarised the reason why we had embarked on the process of changing the articles to reflect member in good standing status – i.e. the potential of a standing committee member committing an offence in an area managed by that committee. The EBU's honorary counsel would attend the next Board meeting to discuss this matter.

## **9. HONOURS FINAL PAPER**

AP had circulated the proposals. It was proposed that honorary life membership should become a "silver award", that those so honoured would receive a silver medal and that there could not be more than three such awards in any one year. Some changes were made to the limits on the number of awards per year in other categories. With the addition of a clear statement that the awards were available only to EBU members, the paper was approved. GJ agreed to take responsibility for managing the award process from now on.

## **10. UPDATE ON SMALL SCALE LOTTERY**

There was brief discussion on possible options but the consensus was that there was limited income available, the costs would be high. It was agreed not to proceed further.

## **11. UPDATE ON STATIONERY FOR AFFILIATED CLUBS**

It had been suggested that club stationery needs could be incorporated into the annual club affiliation subscription, so freeing up time for shop staff for the rest of the year. However, there were practical difficulties and, with stationery use falling from the current 16% of shop business as BridgeMate take over the idea was not considered viable and it was agreed not to proceed.

## **12. COUNTY CHAIRMEN'S MEETING AGENDA**

The proposed agenda was agreed as was the fact that JD would do the sim pairs update.

## **13. COUNTY CONSTITUTIONS**

Martin Pool had indicated that he was satisfied with the proposed constitutions for NEBA and Suffolk CBA and, subject to the removal of the out-of-date reference to "EBU Council" in the former, these were approved. He was not happy with the proposed constitution for Gloucestershire CBA and it was agreed that it be sent back with his comments for amendment.

## **14. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

BC reported that:

- The new office assistant had been appointed and started work.
- Improvements to the members' area of the website were almost complete.
- NGS was progressing but had been delayed by website issues and the timing of the availability of a volunteer, although it was hoped that implementation will happen later this year and publicity would need to be discussed at the August Board meeting.

## **15. FUNDING PROPOSAL FROM ROGER O'SHEA**

There was a lengthy discussion about the proposal and there was unanimous concern on accountability to the shareholders and the membership at large. It was therefore agreed that the Chairman would write to Mr. O'Shea, thank him for his approach, voice the Board's concerns and that the Board would be happy to support any independent fundraising ventures for bridge in England.

## **16. EBL/WBF MATTERS**

It was noted that we still had no formal information or notification about where or when the 2012 Mind Sports Games would be.

## **17. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **17.1 Laws and Ethics Committee**

No questions and nothing further to report

### **17.2 Editorial Board**

The chairman reported that the EBU had received £4k more of advertising than envisaged for the last two issues. Now that one year had been completed the "magazine points" system was now running properly and a saving of ~£3k in postage was expected.

### **17.3 Selection Committee**

The June meeting was barely quorate (only four members present). Given that the issue of who played in which division of the premier league was being discussed this was potentially a problem. It was agreed that such matters could be debated and voted on by e-mail when necessary.

The committee wished to use the player database of national and international results as a basis for selection and wanted it to be in the public domain. However, there was a data protection issue - players had been consulted and three of them had objected. It was agreed that it could be made a condition of playing (or seeking to play) for England.

### **17.4 Tournament Committee**

There had been a strong feeling that the "blue points" proposal should go ahead as originally proposed and not be changed to reflect the concerns expressed by the Board in March. This was approved. It was noted that the option of a three-year trial was impractical as it would be very difficult to withdraw at the end. Blue points would also be available in simultaneous pairs.

Other points noted were:

- The Cheltenham mid-week congress had been very successful, even featuring thirty new members, and was worth repeating and doing elsewhere.
- The draft minutes were not yet on the website.
- There would be discussions at the next meeting about creating an on-line event.

## **18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **18.1 Request from a member**

A member had requested that the Board review selection policy (in terms of professional players being on the Selection Committee). The Chairman decided to allow this piece of AOB to publicise to the membership that the Board had set the committee's Terms of Reference relatively recently, had put in a conflict of interest policy which they knew was adhered to and that the Board supported the Selection Committee's actions. A question from the same member about replacing trials for teams with trials for pairs was referred directly to the Selection Committee for their consideration.

The approach provided the Board with the opportunity to publicise that individual members should consult with county shareholders to raise issues about Board policy in the forum of the Shareholders meetings.

### **18.2 Tournament Committee Chairman**

AP advised the Board that he intended to stand down as chairman of the Tournament Committee at the first Tournament Committee meeting after the next AGM.

### **18.3 Next Meeting**

The next Board meeting was set for Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2011 at 10.00 am in Brighton.

## **ATTACHED NOTE ON SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS**

### ***5. Simultaneous Pairs***

At the Board meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> August, the Chairman reported that Aylesbury were able to run the EBU Simultaneous Pairs on each weekday rather than restrict them to just two days. This would allow any clubs that did not meet on those days to also offer the Sims to their club members. The Board accepted this with the proviso that take up was monitored. It was also reported that any clubs that wished to undertake the Simultaneous Pairs on an online basis only i.e. with online hand records and commentaries, then the price per person would be further discounted.

The General Manager reported that Aylesbury would be running a free simultaneous event for testing purposes for all clubs to take part in towards the end of 2011.