



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL LONDON ON TUESDAY JULY 6TH 2010

Present:	Andrew Petrie	Chairman
	Brian Crack	Vice-Chairman
	Max Bavin	Chief Tournament Director
	Sally Bugden	EBU Chairman
	Barry Capal	EBU General Manager
	Margaret Curtis	
	Paul Hackett	
	Mike Hill	EBU Treasurer
	Philip Mason	
	Alan Nelson	
	Addis Page	
	Peter Jordan	Secretary

1. Apologies for Absence: none.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1. Accuracy

9. Regulations for Nicko & Garden Cities for 2011/12

It was recommended that in order to represent clubs in these two events, members would have to have played twelve times at the club in question during the previous competition year. At a subsequent Board meeting the Directors asked that any decision about the exact number of sessions required to qualify should be deferred until more data was available from P2P returns; **and after members had been consulted on the matter.**

2. Matters Arising

6. Mid-week Congress

Max Bavin confirmed that the date for the 2011 Mid-week Congress at Cheltenham was May 31st to June 2nd.

3. Update on Various Issues

1. Constitution of Standing Committees

Andrew Petrie reported that there had not been enough support for the proposal to make any change to the constitution of the standing committees.

2. Sim pairs for International funding

The Secretary said that Tuesday 8th February had been agreed for 2011.

3. P2P Implementation

Barry Capal reported that the P2P change over had gone very smoothly and at present there were 601 affiliated clubs and close to 48,000 members. He also reported that the new Master Points look up facility was installed in the members area.

4. Panel for formal review of MP&L and P2P regulations.

The panel is scheduled to meet in September and will comprise Sally Bugden, Andrew Petrie, Brian Crack, Mike Hill and Max Bavin.

5. National Master Points review

a. Consistency of awards in England – Max Bavin will present a review at the next meeting.

b. Reciprocity – it was agreed that a case could be made for factoring and that Max Bavin would make a recommendation following his review.

6. Free Entries for Youth Squad members.

The Committee agreed to implement the policy of the selection committee that gives the Youth coaches responsibility for recommending free places for Youth squad members.

7. Level 4/5

Max Bavin stated that events are noted with the new levels in the 2010/2011 diary.

8. National Pairs refund

A part refund had been received from Barcelo because of the problems with the playing areas. It was agreed to credit the records of all players (100) at the National Pairs Finals with the sum of £10 each; letters would be posted in the individual's members area.

4. Strategic Review – major challenges facing the TC

1. New events – Andrew Petrie saw one of the main challenges was how many of the newer members could be involved in events. It was generally thought that the majority of new competitions would have to be locally based; therefore a strong involvement from the counties would be required as historically the less experienced the player the less distance they would travel to events.

2. Master Points – It was felt that the master point system should for the time being remain as it is; the way forward was thought to be the current system running alongside the new National Grading Scheme.

5. Masterpoint – Reward & Recognition Framework.

Andrew Petrie outlined the new MP reward framework.

1. 4 Landmark promotions – Members achieving these promotions would receive a letter from the chairman, plus a certificate, plus a good quality pen. Samples of the new pens were seen and approved. It was also stated that the four promotions would also qualify for a free entry to the Ranked Masters Pairs (subject to space availability). Promotions to National master would retain the current offer of a 50% discount.

2. All other promotions – these would be published on the EBU web-site and in the Member's Personal Area. They would also be entered in the 4-monthly Master Point draw with prizes of stays at a Barcelo Hotel.

3. All promotion every 4 months – Each club receives a list of their promotions; All promotions are publicised on the EBU website; All individual promotions to be posted on the member's personal area of the website. All promotions to Grand Master to be publicised in English Bridge.

There then followed a short paper from Addis Page on some proposals for some extensions to the current scheme. The main points were that the 'club' award should have two levels so as to encourage the lower ranked players. The committee agreed that the number of awards per club should be increased to two for 2011. Secondly to attempt to publicise promotions at the earliest possible opportunity and this was welcomed in principle; thirdly to produce a downloadable certificate that could be accessed by the clubs.

6. Review of Events.

Max Bavin reported on the events from March to date with the aid of the balanced scorecards, congress return forms and congress host reports. The following events merited further discussion.

1. Ranked Masters Pairs – changes to the format were discussed, one being making the lower ranking events a one day competition and possibly regionalised. Taking into account the coming of the NGS, Addis Page offered to do produce a paper on the future of the event.

2. Northern Easter Festival – this event had again performed badly and the committee decided that it could no longer be run as a national event. The Chairman agreed to write to the northern Counties to invite them to run an event under license so that the players in the North would not lose their Easter event.

As a general point the committee were in favour of running swiss teams events Australian style where it was practical to do so.

7. Issue raised by members

1. National Pairs Finals – a letter had been received from Hayden Dando and this echoed complaints that other players had made. It was agreed that the Hotel was badly at fault by moving the event to unsuitable rooms. As stated earlier in these minutes (3.8) a refund from Barcelo Hotels of the room hire charge was being distributed amongst all 100 players present.

2. Tournament Mobile - following an incident reported by Cecil Leighton on the informing of a venue of a late arrival it was agreed to publicise further the existence of the emergency number as some members appeared to be unaware of its existence.

3. Conditions of Contest – a numbers of points had been raised by Jeremy Dhondy regarding the regulations for EBU knockout events. Max Bavin said that he had replied in detail to Mr Dhondy and that a number of changes would be made to the next set of regulations published.

Norman Innis also raised the question of the starting times of events as laid down in the knockout regulations but it was felt that the current times were as fair as could be. The committee fully accepted that the times may not suit all circumstances and it was hoped that the goodwill of the players would be the main factor in resolving problems if times were unsuitable to one party.

4. Nicko – a suggestion from Malcolm Oliver that earlier rounds should exclude teams with highly ranked players was not supported by the committee as it was not thought appropriate to bring seeding into this event.

5. Force Majeure – both Stephen Gore and Paul Hackett felt that recent experiences in the Knockout Tournaments showed a need for a clause concerning Force Majeure to be included in the regulations. Max Bavin agreed to write such a clause for inclusion in the future.

6. Venue – Roy France wrote to complain about the use of a particular venue but the committee were, on the advice of Max Bavin, satisfied that it was the best available in the area.

7. Weekend Duplicate for Club Bridge Players – a well thought out proposal was received from Philip Watson outlining a format for weekend duplicate events for club bridge players. The committee thought that this was well worth pursuing and Barry Capal undertook to contact a potential organiser of such events and to follow this up with Mr Watson.

8. Bridgemates - following a report from Jeremy Dhondy about comments from players at Tournaments, Max Bavin confirmed that it was EBU policy to show only the score at the table and not historical ones.

9. Guernsey - a request from Bill Gardner to make changes to the timing of the last day of the event was not supported and he was referred to the minute (11.7) of the March meeting which concerned this very matter.

10. A.O.B

1. VAT - **With** regard to the VAT change announced for Jan 1st 2011, Mike Hill proposed that the entry fees as stated in the 2010/2011 diary would remain unchanged until the end of the EBU fiscal year (March 31st). After that the new rate would be reflected in an increase to the published entry fees.

2. Tournament Focus - Andrew Petrie asked Addis Page to write a piece for the Tournament Focus on the matter of subscribing to an information service.

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 4.30pm with a reminder that the date of the next meeting was Wednesday 27th October.

Peter Jordan 01.08.10

Approved 27.10.10