



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT BAKER TILLY MANAGEMENT, RUSSELL SQUARE, LONDON ON
THURSDAY JULY 07TH 2011**

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
	Alan Nelson	
	Addis Page	
	Gordon Rainsford	
	Peter Jordan	Secretary

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Phillip Mason

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

1. **Accuracy** – ok.

2. **Matters Arising** – any matters arising were dealt with under the next item.

3. **Action List**

1 (1) Bridgemate etiquette – Gordon was asked to reinforce to TDs the importance of the announcements regarding the use of Bridgemates. The question of entering the lead was discussed and the committee preferred leads not to be required. However it was accepted that GR or the TD in charge should have the final decision at each event.

2 (5,6) Max reported that the new venues for the Portland Pairs and the regionalised Masters Pairs both for March 2012 would be confirmed by the end of July.

3 (7) Calendar sub committee – both Addis and Paul outlined some of their ideas and said that they would have a report for the November meeting.

4 (8) It was agreed that the 2012 Midweek Congress is to be a trial event with reduced prizes and therefore a reduction in entry fee.

5 (13) Andrew Petrie presented a policy document to be used when allowing a county or group of counties to run a national event on behalf of the EBU. With a couple of small changes this was agreed and will be posted on the web-site.

4. **Date of the next meeting** - was changed to November 17th.

3. Update on Various Issues

1. Simultaneous Pairs – It was confirmed that from April 1st 2012 the EBU would take over the running in house of the EBU, Bridge England and the club stratified Sim Pairs.

The EBU would also run a new Sim event on all five days of the weeks currently assigned to the BGB Sim Pairs and the SBU & WBU had been invited to join in this new event. If they chose to do so the event would likely be called the British Simultaneous Pairs. All Simultaneous pairs managed by the EBU will be allowed to be played morning, afternoon or evening as the club wishes, but with suitable advice to clubs regarding security. It is hoped that the costs may be reduced to those clubs that take advantage of the on-line services, therefore reducing printing and postage costs.

Barry announced that the EBU propose to run a 'test' Sims in early December that will be free to participants.

2. Blue Points – the introduction of the new Blue points had been accepted by the Board; it was agreed that Andrew and Brian should write to the counties with a proposed start date of January 1st 2013.

A discussion followed regarding the benefit of making all Masterpoints (Local, Green, Blue) the same currency and removing the need to factor by 100 and/or use decimals. Although clearly beneficial if we were starting anew, the Committee felt it would be too difficult to communicate and possibly create greater misunderstanding.

3. Silver Plate – it was confirmed that the EBU would take over the running of the Silver Plate from January 2012.

4. Governance & Succession planning – all people standing for election to the Tournament Committee in the future would be required to complete an application form.

5. Role of Event Owners - It was agreed to categorize events as A or B with the A events requiring a more pro active approach from the 'owner' whereas for B events, it was to more of a watching brief.

The Great Northern Swiss Pairs and the Northern Easter Festival, both being currently run by Yorkshire, were added to the list and assigned to Phillip Mason.

4. Budgets- It was agreed that the committee would receive Event budgets and budget forecasts on a regular basis. The poor financial performance of the Autumn Congress was noted and it was hoped that the change to the new venue at Stratford-upon-Avon would make a significant improvement.

The Secretary was asked to make sure that this event had maximum promotion.

5. Future of the Balanced Scorecard – There was general acceptance that the principle behind the balanced scorecard was sound but improvements could be made along the lines suggested by Addis Page.

Addis had researched and produced a prototype 'EBU Event dashboard', it was agreed that he be requested to produce a version of this to cover the events to the November meeting and was thanked for all his work on this project.

6. Reciprocal arrangements on MPs.

Brian Crack had carried out some analysis that suggested that comparable events held by the EBU, SBU and WBU resulted in very different Green Point and Gold Point awards. Brian was asked to extend his analysis and produce a briefing paper for the Board.

7. Forward Strategy – Andrew presented ‘a personal view of the future’ which ranged widely from the major changes of recent years and the advancements that had already been achieved to the many other improvements in progress. The following items were agreed upon –

1. Paul was to present his plans for a club midweek competition
2. Aylesbury would work towards an electronically based system for all KO events as soon as was possible.
3. Consideration would be given to the involvement of the EBU in an online KO competition.
4. A venue would be sought to do a second Midweek Congress.

8. Event Review – all events since the last meeting were reviewed with the aid of the congress return forms and the reports from the Hosts. There was extensive discussion regarding the new Midweek Congress at Cheltenham. It was felt that most of the problems came firstly from the event being twice the size that was originally envisaged and secondly being in a ‘new’ hotel which obviously had teething problems – it was their first large bridge congress. It was thought that discussion with the hotel (which had already taken place), together with better publicity regarding the lay out of the hotel, would lead to a much improved event next year.

There had been comments about the problems caused by small entries in ‘B’ flight swiss teams events both at the Easter Festival and also earlier at the Year End Congress. The committee agreed with Max Bavin that the stratification of future swiss teams events would replace the need for a ‘B’ flight and therefore solve this particular problem.

The committee agreed with a proposal that screens should be used on the final day at the Spring Foursomes.

9. Members’ Issues –

1. Irene Robinson said that the attendance at the Bristol heat of the Portland Pairs was poor and attributed this to a combination of cost and lack of publicity. The secretary said clubs in the area would be contacted to help with the promotion of the 2012 heat.
2. Michael Byrne raised some issues regarding the Schapiro Spring Foursomes. The numbers of boards available would be looked at for next year. The slowness of the posting of scores was mainly due to a cut back in staff so it was agreed that captains should agree results and then the winning captain would post that score. The seeding was always a thorny issue; it was agreed that basing it upon the gold point system would remain and that as much information as could be forwarded about ‘foreign’ players would be welcomed for the help that it would give.
3. Gerry Stanford raised some general points about ODGP events and the Committee took this opportunity to approve a policy drafted by Andrew about the process of establishing dates for the said events. This policy will be posted on the web site.

The Secretary then presented two late requests from counties for 2012. Sussex requested to hold a one off event on Sunday July 22nd. Dorset also requested this date for what they

hoped to be an annual event. There were no objections to either proposal so both requests were granted.

4. A member complained about one of the venues for the Garden Cities Regional Finals with special reference to the catering. Max Bavin said that he would take this up with the venue.

5. Roger Bryant raised a number of points and with regard to the Schapiro Spring Foursomes Max said that he would look at the starting times in consultation with the sponsor.

6. Dan Crofts wrote at length with detailed reasons for the return to an all KO format certainly for the Crockford's Plate and possibly for the main event as well. The committee had sympathy with Mr Croft's well reasoned case but as the format had proved popular with the majority of players and this had been the first dissenting voice it was decided that no change would be made to the event format.

7. Katy Kear and Ken Southwell both wrote about their experiences and problems at the Cheltenham Midweek Congress. The issues that they raised were all debated under the Event review section and all the points that they raised would be addressed.

8. Gill Copeland had written to say that as first time entrants in the Hubert Phillips Bowl her team had felt that the lack of a plate event may deter them from entering next year. The Secretary said that he thought that the inclusion of a plate event would certainly attract more teams; the Committee agreed with the inclusion of a plate for the 2012 event.

10. Any other business

As there was no other business the meeting closed at 5.15pm.

Peter Jordan 17.07.11.