



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT BAKER TILLY OFFICES, 2 BLOOMSBURY STREET, LONDON ON
THURSDAY NOV 17TH 2011**

Present:	Andrew Petrie	Retiring Chairman
	Brian Crack	Retiring 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	
	Ian Payn	
	Gordon Rainsford	Asst. Chief Tournament Director
	Peter Jordan	Secretary

1. Apologies for Absence: Addis Page

2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

1. Chairman: Ian Payn was proposed by Brian Crack, seconded by Andrew Petrie and elected unopposed.

2. Vice-Chairman: Brian Crack was proposed by Andrew Petrie, seconded by Ian Payn and elected unopposed.

Sally Bugden took this opportunity to thank Andrew Petrie for all his work during his term as Chairman which had been far beyond the call of duty.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1. Accuracy – ok.

2. Matters Arising – any matters arising were dealt with later.

3. Action List

1 (5) All electronic KO events. The secretary reported that discussions had taken place with the IT dept at Aylesbury and it was hoped to be fully electronic for the Hubert Phillips Bowl 2012.

Other live items on the Action List were on the agenda.

4. Date of the next meetings – dates for 2012 were agreed as -

Wednesday March 07; Wednesday June 20 (provisional) and Thursday November 08.

4. Update on Various Issues

1. Blue Points – It was agreed that the sessions of a blue point event must take place all on the same day. Brian Crack said that he was writing an article on blue points for the December English Bridge and then this could form the basis for an information page on the web site. Barry Capal confirmed that the software would be in place for the implementation of blue points from January 2013.

2. Reciprocity of Master Points – Sally Bugden reported that meetings were being arranged with Scotland and Wales but neither had taken place yet.

3. Changes to the Master Point scheme– It was explained at length for the benefit of the incoming chairman that a paper had been presented highlighting some anomalies in the scheme and proposing some solutions. Under the proposed changes Premier Masters will stop at 5 stars (30,000 points including 10 Greens). A new rank of Premier Tournament Master would be created requiring 40,000 points including 10 Greens. Stars would be awarded in this category for each additional 10,000 points (exactly as with Tournament Masters). The paper was accepted and implementation scheduled for January 2013.

5. Forward Strategy

1. KO events – because of the problems caused by the need for excessive travel in certain parts of the country, it was agreed to look at the possibility of offering teams the opportunity to play a match on-line. Andrew Petrie and Paul Hackett agreed to report on this.

2. Additional Mid-week Congress (North) – Max Bavin reported that enquiries were underway to locate a venue in the Northern part of the country. Philip Mason requested that it should not be in Yorkshire as they had a very full calendar already having taken on the Great Northern Swiss Pairs and now the Northern Easter Festival for 2012.

3. Calendar Sub-committee Working Group – the report, which was compiled by Addis Page and Paul Hackett with help and guidance from Max Bavin, was then discussed at length together with a paper from Andrew Petrie entitled 'Draft Recommendations on way forward on the paper Annual Programme Review v2'

The following were resolved –

a). Changes would be made to the format of the Spring Bank Holiday Congress in Bournemouth and the Seniors Congress (November) to enable delegates to play in a one day swiss pairs. This would take effect in the next competition year.

b). Max Bavin to meet with Bridge Overseas with a view to them helping us with venue location and also accommodation deals for selected events.

c). Not to introduce any additional one day events into the programme for the time being. The degree of success with the new Portland Pairs venues would be instrumental in guiding the way forward.

d). The proposal to identify a group of 'Top' events was discussed and Max Bavin and Gordon Rainsford were asked to make a recommendation for the March meeting.

e). Aylesbury was asked to customize a section of the Congress review form to reflect the needs at different events.

f). Paul Hackett outlined his proposal for a new 'Monthly Club Pairs' and the Chairman asked members to send him their views on the subject.

6. Application for Green Point Events 2013.

The secretary reported that most applications were repeats of the previous year. However there were applications from Essex, Sussex and Suffolk/Norfolk that did not fall into this category. These were discussed and approved and are as follows-

March 9/10 Suffolk/Norfolk GP Weekend.

June 23 (Sunday) Sussex GP Swiss Pairs.

July 21 (Sunday) Sussex GP Swiss Teams.

Sep 28 (Saturday) Essex (Herts) GP Swiss Pairs.

7. Event review

The new event review method using a dashboard, created and produced by Addis Page, was welcomed by the committee who asked for their thanks to be recorded. Addis was asked to proceed with his development of this facility.

1. Brighton Summer Meeting. The committee discussed the future of this event in the light of the falling attendance on the second (teams) weekend. Gordon Rainsford reported on meetings with colleagues that resulted in an outline plan to try and improve attendances over the whole event. This included new additional two-day events for both weekends and earlier finishes during the week. The emphasis was on making more events easier to participate in for those living in the area, those doing a daily commute from the London area and also those that only wanted one overnight stay. It was also hoped that the changes would attract more of our newer members that have joined since the start of P2P. On agreement of the new ideas these would be implemented for the next event in 2012. Gordon Rainsford and Paul Hackett were asked to firm up on the proposals and report to the Chairman and Sally Bugden as soon as possible so that publicity could get underway.

2. National Women's Teams. It was agreed to ask Warwickshire to run this event for one more year and Max Bavin would liaise with the county over any changes that they may want to make.

3. Great Northern Swiss Pairs. The committee congratulated Yorkshire on their success with this event and confirmed that they should continue for 2012.

4. Seniors Congress. A number of issues have come up at the recent event and Paul Hackett and Andrew Petrie had met with the management onsite. Further discussions are ongoing to prevent a repetition of these problems next year.

8. Members' Issues –

1a) Neville Shorrick had written with some concerns about Brighton. The committee felt that there was nothing that they could add to the replies that had been given by Gordon Rainsford, the Chief TD at the event. Ian Payn said that he would write to Mr Shorrick confirming the views of the committee.

1b). Rosemary Vase, who attended the Next Step Congress wrote with some general concerns about the venue and the committee once again thought that there was nothing that could be added to Gordon Rainsford's reply.

1c). Peter Kindersley wrote about his first attendance at the event. Ian Payn said that he would reply.

2. The Portland pairs start time was confirmed as 12 noon.

3. Comments were received from Clive Owen and Steve Ray regarding the Crockfords draw in relation to matching opponents in the North and North-East. Andrew Petrie said that he would reply.

4. Clive Owen wrote with some concerns over the delay in the production of KO draws. The Secretary said that the default position was that draw would be posted on the web site

by the Wednesday following the Sunday play by date. Sometimes late plays made it difficult to get a realistic draw out in time but it had not been more than one day late in recent times. There had been a number of occasions however when the draw was out earlier.

5. Comments on the 'splitting of Swiss fields towards the end of the event ' from Graham Jepson were noted by the committee.

6. John Bateman of Milton Keynes BC has written via the Bedfordshire Club Committee to complain about the level of charges for teams in the Nicko. Andrew Petrie had replied at the time and the Committee has nothing to add to this.

7. The new MP rank of Premier Tournament Master had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

8. There were comments about the suitability of the Daventry venue for the Tollemache. Max Bavin said that it was only being used this year as Hinckley was unavailable and we hope to revert to Hinckley for the future.

9. Some negative comments were received from Mike Rothwell with regard to the Overseas Congress in Kos. Andrew Petrie had already replied on behalf of the Committee. In the light of the fact that all other comments received about this event were positive it was concluded that the staff at the venue had done all that they could under difficult circumstances.

10. Fiona Littlewood had written with concerns over the playing conditions at the Autumn Congress. Gordon Rainsford had replied at the time and Ian Payn said that he would write to Mrs Littlewood.

9. Any Other Business

1. Members of Standing Committees – the Board, at its meeting of 2nd November 2011, agreed the following clause which will become part of the application form for all standing committee members from 2012 onwards and which is now in force for existing standing committee members:

Successful applicants must ensure that they avoid situations which may cause them to be found guilty of a disciplinary offence as stated in the EBU Appendix A Disciplinary Rules, Bye laws 3.2.v. Such actions may create a conflict of interest in the work carried out on behalf of the Union and, in addition may reflect badly on fellow directors or standing committee members.

2. Timers - Gordon Rainsford said that he would investigate their use for some events.

3. Free Sims Trial- Barry Capal reported that over 90 clubs had signed up for the trial.

As there was no other business the meeting closed at 5.20 pm.

Peter Jordan 25.11.11.