



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, LONDON ON TUESDAY 07 MARCH 2012

<b>Present:</b>	Ian Payn	Chairman
	Brian Crack	Vice-Chairman
	Sally Bugden	EBU Chairman
	Margaret Curtis	
	Paul Hackett	
	Mike Hill	EBU Treasurer
	Philip Mason	
	Alan Nelson	
	Addis Page	
	Andrew Petrie	
	Gordon Rainsford	Asst. Chief Tournament Director
	Peter Jordan	Secretary

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Max Bavin, Barry Capal.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

1. **Accuracy** – ok.

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

3. **Action List**

1. The secretary said that owing to the volume of work at Aylesbury the move to all electronic communication for the KO events would be delayed.

2. Ian Payn reported that the search for a venue for a second midweek congress (North) was in process and hoped that one would be found soon for 2013.

3. Sally Bugden asked for the congress return forms to contain the total number of attendees at the event.

4. **Date of the next meeting** – confirmed as Wednesday June 20 (venue tba).

3. **Update on Various Issues**

1. **Blue Points** – the following points were agreed

1. Open events would need the approval of the county.

2. Clubs not running open events could designate a maximum of 2 closed events for Blue Points. No licence would be needed but the P2P file would need to be sent in with the correct marker.

3. Closed events could run over more than one day.

4. A new section in the MP&L handbook was needed covering all this.

**2. Reciprocity** – Brian Crack reported that with Max Bavin he would be meeting representatives of the SBU and WBU in Manchester on Wed March 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **4. Forward Strategy**

##### **1. KO events**

1. Sally Bugden stated that a working group had been set up at Aylesbury to investigate online competition bridge. She hoped that this group will look at playing existing KO competition matches online as part of its work.

2. Brian Crack pointed out that with the new arrangement regarding 'strong' teams in the Nicko, there were cases of a large number of teams in round three from some of the larger clubs. In order to help avoid excessive travelling the committee agreed to amend the regulations so that from round three teams from the same club could be drawn against each other.

**2. Calendar Sub-committee Working Group** – Ian Payn said that the work done by Addis needed more consideration and that he would be Chairing a meeting of the sub-committee very soon in order to discuss the Calendar Overview, the identification of 'Top Events' and the proposed monthly club teams competition.

**3. Bridgemates** - Following a report from Gordon Rainsford the committee voted unanimously for frequencies to be shown and a large majority voted for continuing to put leads in.

#### **5. Dashboard.**

Addis Page presented his latest work on the dashboard and showed how the interactive on-line version converted all the stats into a performance related chart.

Sally Bugden thanked Addis on behalf of the Board for all the work that he had put in not only on the dashboard but also with reference to his work on the Masters Pairs and Portland Pairs.

#### **6. Proposed Changes to Events**

**1. Summer Seniors Congress.** It was agreed to use barometer scoring for the pairs final; this would also have the beneficial effect of making the timings of the two pairs events compatible on the Saturday evening. This would take effect for the 2012 event.

**2. Brighton Summer Meeting.** It was agreed to hold the following additional green pointed events at the meeting this August (2012).

1. First weekend; one day swiss teams events on both Saturday and Sunday. These would start at noon and finish at 7pm and each would be 6 x7 board rounds.

2. Second weekend; a stratified swiss pairs event over two days starting at noon each day and finishing at 7pm on the Saturday and 4.30 on the Sunday; playing a total of 10 x7 board rounds.

It was also agreed that the three single session midweek evening pairs events would be stratified.

3. It was also confirmed that the midweek evenings would start at 7.45 and that the three single session pairs events on a midweek evening would have an early bird start at 7pm.

## 7. Event Review. –

**1. Trial Sims II** – the Secretary reported that all had gone smoothly with 114 clubs taking part. The Committee expressed their thanks to Aylesbury and in particular to Ian Mitchell and Michael Clark for their work on this new project.

**2. Ranked Master Pairs** – there were a number of comments from players, mainly in the lower sections, that they disliked the scoring system. The Committee felt that the cross-imp method that was employed was appropriate to this special event and should therefore be retained.

**3. Masters Pairs-** the changing of this event to one day and multiple venues was deemed successful and would be retained. It was thought that having a heat at Daventry was not successful and an alternative venue would be sought.

**4. Silver Plate** – The Secretary reported that Aylesbury was now running the Silver Plate, the draw for the first round was out and Max Bavin was redrafting the regulations and they would be posted on the web site very soon.

**General:** A number of other points came from the return forms or were raised by members. As a result of these Max Bavin was to be asked to make sure that hosts were appropriate and EBU staff are fully informed of parking arrangements as some hotels seem very vague about the situation.

## 8. Issues raised by members – Simultaneous Pairs

Brian Colvin, currently secretary at St. Austell Bridge Club wrote referring “to a possible practice whereby the field is split into two groups, a strong group, all playing in the same orientation and a weak group playing in the opposite orientation. This produces a distortion in the ranking in the overall Sims for the event”. A number of examples from recent results were sent to give weight to the argument.

Although the Committee was opposed to any kind of manipulation that may go on it was felt that all it could do was to ask Aylesbury to reinforce the message to clubs that random seating produces the most meaningful results.

## 9. Any Other Business

**1. Timers** – The Committee agreed that Gordon Rainsford should purchase four monitors that would serve as timers and could also be used for displaying announcements.

**2. National Grading Scheme** – Sally Bugden praised the new NGS and on behalf of the Board said a big thank you to all the team that had worked on this project which would be the envy of most NBOs throughout the world.

**3. Disabilities & Allergies** – A number of cases have recently been reported where bridge players with a disability or particular allergy had been put at a disadvantage when visiting a venue that they felt was unsuitable to them. Ian Payn said that he would ask Max Bavin to insert a clause in the regulations for KO events that would prevent a player being disadvantaged.

**4. Corn Cairdis** – Philip Mason reported that Yorkshire would host the event in 2013 and that it would be at Bradford on April 27/28.

As there was no other business the meeting closed at 4.30pm.

Peter Jordan 10.03.12. Approved TC Chairman Ian Payn 20.06.12