

Awaiting approval



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS, 12 BLOOMSBURY SQUARE, LONDON
ON TUESDAY 19 MAY 2015**

Present:

Ian Payn	Chairman
Gillian Fawcett	Vice-Chairman
Jeremy Dhondy	EBU Chairman
Paul Hackett	
Terry Hewett	
Philip Mason	
Addis Page	
Andrew Petrie	Treasurer
Gordon Rainsford	Chief Tournament Director
Eddie Williams	
Peter Jordan	Secretary

1. Apologies for Absence: Barry Capal.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

2.1 Accuracy: agreed

2.2 Matters Arising:

2.2.1 Andrew Petrie enquired as to the success of the Blue Point Holidays. Gordon Rainsford replied that they were under review still as attendances had again been disappointing.

2.2.2 Andrew also asked about the situation regarding income from Bridge Club Live; Gordon said that it was currently around £200 per month but after the end of the introductory period, which ends in September, it would increase to around £250.

2.2.3 Gordon Rainsford was asked what changes had been made to the Simultaneous Pairs prize structure and he reported that there had been some modifications along the lines suggested by Mike Craig at the last meeting, these would result in a more proportional reward to the clubs with the larger numbers attending their sessions.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported a satisfactory year for competition finances although the underlying trend of entries reducing remained.

4. Event Review

4.1 Northern Year End Congress. It was reported that the event would start one day earlier than normal for this year only due to an error by the hotel with their booking system. It was also stated that Bridge Overseas now had someone appointed that would deal with all our Accommodation Booking Service business so improving communications between Bridge Overseas and the EBU.

4.2 National Teams Congress. The movement of teams into the swiss event during the weekend had caused a few problems so Gordon Rainsford said that he was revising the movement and carry forwards of teams so that it would be better for the situation.

4.3 Easter Festival of Bridge. The starting times with a two hour difference for the Friday has been welcomed by the players and would be retained.

4.4 Schapiro Spring Foursomes. The committee welcomed a letter from Michael Byrne that had praised the running of the event. It was decided to drop the extra 8 board option just at the semi final stage. The committee asked if it would be possible for more BBO coverage for next year.

4.5 EBU Summer Meeting. It was reported that the contract had been signed for the Summer Meeting to move to The Eastbourne Winter Garden for the August 2016 meeting.

4.6 Crockfords Finals. It was felt necessary to move the date of the Crockfords Finals (2016) from September 3-4 to September 24-25 because of the clash with the World Bridge Games in Poland. This new date clashes with the Green Point Weekend so it was decided that the Secretary would write to the counties involved offering them a change to the 3-4 September weekend if they preferred it.

4.7 Ranked Masters Pairs. It was reported that the attendance was up from 126 pairs to 138 and thought that the addition of the NGS rating for eligibility may well have contributed to the increase in numbers.

5. Green Point One Day Events / County Congresses

5.1. London Congress – 2016.

Letters had been received from Paul Mollison (Chairman of the Essex CBA) and Bernard Eddleston (President of the Hertfordshire BA), these asked the committee to reconsider the decision of the Tournament Committee meeting of December 9th 2014 which agreed to the application from London MBA to hold a congress on the weekend of 16/17 July 2016.

The chairman declared an interest and Gillian Fawcett took the chair.

After a comprehensive discussion there was unanimous agreement that the decision of the previous meeting would stand.

The committee felt that as there was no direct clash of dates then they were happy to confirm the date for 2016. It was also decided that the document from 2003 was now outdated and asked Gordon Rainsford to draft a new policy document to cover these matters.

6. Laws & Ethics Report: Jeremy Dhondy reported as follows;

6.1 The L&E had considered changes to its structure and a decision would be made at the AGM in November. There was likelihood that the regulatory and disciplinary functions would be separated.

6.2 At its forthcoming meeting there would be discussion of new methods for which licences had been applied for. There were fewer of these in recent years but the L&E were still aware that agreements that would be disruptive to participants at events should be controlled.

7. Issues raised by members

7.1 Nicko teams: Neil Thomas from the North West raised concern about the constitution of Nicko teams. Whereas the committee had sympathy with the general tenor of his letter the secretary was asked to write to him to say that his case in point was in the view of the committee a bona fide team.

7.2 Convention Cards & other matters: Shireen Mohandes raised the question of convention cards and the not helpful attitudes by players (often strong) for not having them.

Shireen also asked for the following to be considered:-

Having hand records with more information, showing the number of tricks per suit for each side.

The pre-assigning of pairs in championship style events at selected tables at intervals rather than from table one.

The use of the NGS for initial and tied swiss teams assignments.

The 'role' and regulation of Kibitzers.

The committee asked Gordon Rainsford to write to Shireen and thank her for her suggestions and to say that where possible improvements would be made in line with what she had proposed where practical.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Technology: Andrew Petrie asked what improvements were anticipated in this area. Gordon Rainsford said that the EBU were purchasing display screens from Martin Lee and also looking to improve the publishing of scores.

8.2 Licensing Handbook: Gordon Rainsford said that he and Ian Mitchell will collaborate on the update to be ready by August 1st.

8.3 Thanks to committee members: Ian Payn drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that this was definitely Addis Page's last meeting and he then went on to thank all the elected members of the committee for their service as it was very likely that after the next AGM the Tournament Committee would be a much smaller group and a sub committee of the board rather than a standing committee.

Secretary's note: The Chairman subsequently wrote to Addis Page (who joined the committee in November 2001) to thank him for his dedication to the EBU in general and the committee in particular.

9. Date of the next meeting: This will be decided after the decision on the future composition of the committee that is expected at the AGM on Nov 25th.

Peter Jordan 05.06.15