

VAT Tribunal Summary – February 2014



The EBU appealed against a decision of HMRC not to grant us relief from VAT on competition entry fees. We were represented by our Honorary Counsel David Ewart, to whom we owe many thanks for his efforts.

We have learnt that our appeal was unsuccessful. The tribunal report can be [read here](#)

We are considering whether to go to the next stage with our legal efforts and are taking advice on this. We are aware that in some other EU countries there is VAT relief and also that some countries and worldwide governing bodies, for example the [International Olympic Committee](#), regard bridge as a sport. Sadly this is not currently the case in England.

If bridge were to be recognised as a sport this would result in VAT relief. In addition there are some funding bodies which support sports, and being recognised as such would open up opportunities for recognition by these bodies, and thus additional funding opportunities.

We feel our case for fair and equal treatment alongside other activities deemed to be 'sports' is strong.

There was significant media interest in the outcome, with numerous newspaper articles and Chairman Jeremy Dhondy, and General Manager Barry Capal, explaining the case in television and radio interviews. You can hear, read or watch a selection of these [here](#).