



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE C19 WORKING GROUP
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EBU LIMITED
via Zoom 5th May 2020**

Present:

Gillian Fawcett (Vice Chairman) (GF)
Gordon Rainsford (Chief Executive) (GR)
Rob Lawy (RL)
Ron Millet (RM)

Bev Purvis (BP)
Patrick Shields (PS)
Kiat Huang (KH)
Sam Kelly (Minutes) (SK)

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Minutes and Approval from last meeting

GF thanked everyone for joining.

It was agreed that minutes from these informal meetings should be published, as long as it is made clear that these meetings are not full board meetings. GF stated she would add an introduction to the minutes of these meetings to make it clear. It was also suggested the minutes from these meetings have their own section on the website to separate them from full board minutes.

GR gave an update on the online activity. Last week was the first week that online games had not expanded the numbers of people playing. We now have over 60 virtual clubs set up, and this is expanding. Clubs are now setting up their own games via their new virtual clubs. Overall, if club games are included, online bridge games are still expanding and going well. A target of 120 virtual clubs was suggested, as this would be approximately 20% of the total clubs. We should promote and encourage this.

The main issue facing clubs currently is submitting their results and UMS. This is currently being looked at, to try and make it easier for clubs to submit results and also to explain to clubs that that should continue to submit results for UMS and masterpoints.

There was discussion around the state of the EBU financial position, as well as the financial position of clubs. GR confirmed that the EBU was receiving a small percentage of previous income. Some clubs are playing more games per week than previously, some are playing less. It was noted that to break even financially under the virtual club scheme, clubs need to have nine tables per session if they are charging the minimum \$3, and smaller clubs will not have the numbers. They are to be encouraged to join together with other smaller clubs in the area to create a virtual club.

There was discussion around the activity happening across different counties. Suffolk, Oxford and Kent have had big successes setting up online games. It was noted that structure at county level is key and that we should encourage counties to set up their own virtual clubs with trained TD's; cascading this will also help smaller clubs within those counties.

Club Liaison Officer is currently working hard setting up the virtual clubs and along with a number of other EBU TD's they are rolling out training for club BBO TD's.

It was suggested that we present a picture of the benefits and value of EBU membership as a whole package, including the need for UMS payments. It was also suggested that we let clubs know the current financial position of the EBU.

Overall clubs and members are appreciative of the progress made with online bridge from the EBU so far.

There was a discussion about the funds from online games that are specifically allocated for clubs, and how this is to be spent. In the first instance, the funds will be used to cover affiliation fees. Following this it was suggested that the money be funnelled into virtual clubs. There were concerns raised about this with smaller clubs merging, how the money would be split as it would need to be done fairly. There were also suggestions made about providing refunds or subsidising TD training.

There was a discussion around the possibility of producing videos or webinars to supplement the one to one TD training. It was decided that GR will talk to EBED about running a webinar on TD training, with invites going to clubs and counties.

KH gave a technology update. He talked about his work with other bridge playing software developers, looking at creating an internet bridge server. This project is in the very early stages but it may be beneficial for the EBU and other NBO's to get involved in the funding of the server/open source software. It was decided that no decisions could be made in this informal meeting and that the issue should be discussed at a full board meeting.

Any Other Business

RL gave a brief update from his meeting with the Teaching and Learning Group. There discussions from the meeting revolved around the type of teaching to promote and how to convert books for online learning. There was discussion around the EBED online strategy. GF stated she would follow up with EBED the EBU recommendations for more online content to be available. KH noted that he was also looking into ways for teachers to share content online.

There was discussion around the production of the promotional video for learning bridge online. KH, GF, BP will all be involved in recording sessions to be edited into a short video.

Next Meeting: TBC