



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION LIMITED
HELD AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, LONDON
ON WEDNESDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2001**

Present: DR Harris	Chairman
DA Robson	Vice Chairman
JD Neville	Treasurer
JTR Williams	Hon. Secretary and Vice-President
TJ Bradley	Board Member and Sussex delegate
JG Faulkner	Board Member and Norfolk delegate
Ms AMC Hamilton	Board Member
DG Martin	Board Member and London delegate
PG Mason	Board Member
MG Oliver	Board Member
G Endicott	Vice-President
WJ Pencharz	Vice-President and Hon. Solicitor
PA Stocken	Vice-President
T Collier	General Manager
M Bavin	Tournament Manager
Ms KJ Etchells	Administration Manager and Minutes Secretary
AD Parks	Auditor

Shareholders:

Beds – DJ Gilling; Berks & Bucks – AJ Page; Essex – Mrs M Curtis; Hereford – TE Dutton; IOM – Mrs EF Slatcher; Lancs – JB Brelsford; Leics – RH Northage; Lincs – RE Hughes; London – MRD Hill; Northants – Miss L Manning; Suffolk – MR Carey; Surrey – Mrs LP Lockhart; Sussex – P Kent; Warwicks – RA Bowles; Wilts – Ms J Gray; Worcs – Ms JR Newton.

Proxies for shareholders:

Avon – P Green; Devon – Mrs M Lamb; Dorset – WT Udall; Manchester – J Bloch; Mersey & Ches – J Herbert; Middlesex – R White; Notts – E Nunn; Oxon – Mrs AJ Claridge; Somerset – J Dilworth; Staffs & Shrops – P Hackett.

Apologies for Absence:

Avon – B Shephard; Derby – AC Chandler; Devon – Mrs E Morris; Dorset – Mrs JL Walch; London – RJ Fleet; Manchester – Mrs C Bloch; Mersey & Ches – Mrs D Coltman; Middlesex – KAR Drane; Norfolk – Mrs C Buchanan; North East – AA Deane; Notts – Mrs J Burgess; Oxon – Mrs P Rhodes-Fisher; Somerset – NJ Maggs; Staffs & Shrops – Mrs P Poxon.

Opening the meeting, the Chairman paid tribute to Peter Littlewood who died recently for his many contributions for the game of bridge

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Terry Collier, the new General Manager.

1 Minutes of the AGM of 4th October 2000

Subject to the following points, the minutes were approved as an accurate record.

1.1 Accuracy

Chairman's report for the year ended 31st March 2000 (item 2). Paragraph 3 – minute 4 should read minute 3.

Election of Directors for the year 2000/2001 (item 7) – Paragraph 1 – second line, ten oppositions should read ten positions.

1.2 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

2 Chairman's report for the year ended 31st March 2001

The Chairman summarised his report highlighting:

- The commencement of employment of the new General Manager, Terry Collier.
- Victory of the England Ladies in Tenerife. The World Championships in Bali had been cancelled following the terrorist attacks in America. A new venue was now confirmed as the HQ of French Bridge Federation in Paris.
- Progress of the Online Bridge Club was encouraging and people were coming together to play face to face as well as on line.
- The Club Scoring and Administration programmes remained a continuing priority and would be available to clubs free of charge. Trials were under way at present.

The Chairman concluded by thanking the Board and Council for their support throughout the year.

3 Treasurer's report for the year 2000/2001

The Treasurer reported that full financial support would be provided for the Ladies Team in Paris. The financial implications of the cancellation of Bali were not yet available. Much of the hard work in starting to update the 5-year plan was under way.

The Treasurer confirmed that the EBU had overall a successful year and highlighted the following.

- Expenditure for recruitment and temporary staff included the costs involved in appointing the General Manager.
- Salary costs had increased for a number of reasons, inflation, the Online Bridge operation and increased numbers of staff.

Mr Page commented that the Treasurer had mentioned winners and losers and wanted to know how this was presented to Council within the document provided. The Treasurer explained that changes in strategy were included in the 5-year plan,

and that this was the main method of recording EBU base line figures. The AGM was not the meeting to go into detail regarding the finances of the EBU.

Mr Endicott asked for an explanation of the £25,000 added to the cost of freehold property. The Treasurer confirmed that this was for alterations to the meeting room and stores area at Aylesbury.

Mr White wanted to know what the worth of the EBU buildings was and when they were they last valued? The Auditor advised that the buildings were in the accounts at cost, they were valued 3 years ago and there was no policy to re-value. The Treasurer reported that the property would be re-valued as part of the insurance arrangements.

Mr Brelsford commented that Council had agreed to invest a substantial amount in *Bridge for All*, and 235 members appeared to be the result of this. The cost of developing *Bridge for All* was stated in the previous year's accounts. The result of this investment was that the EBU now had a product which was the envy of bridge organisations across the world.

Mr Hill asked for details regarding the high debtors' figure. The Treasurer reported that there was nothing untoward and that the figure included two large trade debts which had been paid. The Treasurer was satisfied that the EBU was not overexposed.

4 Directors' report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2001

The Chairman introduced Tony Parks, the EBU Auditor, who was present to answer any further questions regarding the annual accounts. There were none and the accounts were formally **adopted** by the meeting.

5 Re-appointment of Auditors

The Chairman advised that the Board had recommended AD Parks & Co for re-appointment for the financial year ending on 31 March 2002 and this was **approved**.

6 Appointment of Company Secretary

The Chairman advised that following the resignation of the General Manager earlier in the year the position of Secretary to the Union had been temporarily filled by John Williams. The Chairman wished to thank John on behalf of the meeting for carrying out this responsibility. The Board proposed that Terry Collier should become Company Secretary and this was **approved**.

7 Election of Directors for the year 2001/2002

The Chairman advised that Mr Ingham had withdrawn his candidacy for the Board and, as there were now ten remaining nominations for ten Board positions, there would be no election. The following were duly appointed:

TJ Bradley	DG Martin
Dr JM Carter	PG Mason
JG Faulkner	JD Neville
Ms AMC Hamilton	MG Oliver
DR Harris	DA Robson

Debate took place as to the correct procedure for electing the Treasurer following the proposal to amend the Memorandum and Articles of the Union as agreed at the last AGM, which had not been implemented. The Hon Solicitor pointed out that the procedure at present was that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should be elected at the AGM of EBU Ltd and that the Treasurer be elected at the following Council meeting. If there was a problem with this process then this should be addressed next year. A majority show of hands carried that the shareholders (or proxies) would elect the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and that the election of the Treasurer be dealt with at the Council meeting.

8 Election of Chairman for the year 2001/2002

DR Harris was the only person nominated in advance for the position of Chairman and as no further nominations were forthcoming from the meeting he was duly appointed.

9 Election of Vice-Chairman for the year 2001/2002

DA Robson was the only person nominated in advance for the position of Vice-Chairman and as no further nominations were forthcoming from the meeting he was duly appointed.

10 Election of Treasurer for the year 2001/2002

Election of Treasurer would be dealt with at the Council meeting.

11 The English Bridge Union as a single entity

The Chairman reported that the proposed changes to the Memorandum and Articles should have been in place at this meeting but the revisions had not been prepared. It was acknowledged that approval of any changes was required by the shareholders with 21 days' notice. It would now be necessary to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting to approve any changes made before the next AGM once the proper changes had been drafted. The Hon Solicitor apologised for the delay in dealing with these matters due to pressure of work and a change of office and stated that he hoped to deal with these fairly soon.

12 Announcement of the Dimmie Fleming Awards

The Chairman announced the recipients of the awards, made to friends of bridge who had given great service to the game through their counties. These were:

Yvonne Dagwell	(Essex)
John Barrett	(Staffs and Shrops)

Mrs Curtis presented Yvonne Dagwell with her award with thanks for the work she had done teaching, setting up clubs, carrying out duties as Secretary, Chairman and President and much more.

Due to holiday commitments John Barrett could not be presented and his award at a later date.

The next AGM will be on Wednesday 2nd October 2002
at the Imperial Hotel, London starting at 12.15pm.