



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION LIMITED
HELD AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, LONDON
ON WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER 2002**

Present:	D R Harris J D Neville T Collier T J Bradley J M Carter J G Faulkner Ms A M C Hamilton D G Martin P G Mason M G Oliver M Bavin N Doe Karen Etchells Tony Parks (first part only)	Chairman Hon. Treasurer Secretary and General Manager Board Member and Sussex Delegate Board Member and Hants & IoW Delegate Board Member and Norfolk Delegate Board Member Board Member and London Delegate Board Member, Yorkshire Shareholder and Delegate Board Member Tournament Manager Committee Secretary Minute Secretary and Administration Manager Auditor
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County	Shareholders: Present	Apologies	Proxy	County	Shareholders: Present	Apologies	Proxy
Avon		B Shephard	LN Bennet*	Lincolnshire	RE Hughes		
Bedfordshire	DJ Gilling			London		MRD Hill	DG Martin
Berks & Bucks	JE Allen			Manchester		Miss N Marks	JK Morris
Cambs & Hunts				Mersey & Ches		Mrs DD Coltman	JR Herbert
Channel Islands		Mrs J Dorey	T Collier	Middlesex	KAR Drane		
Cornwall				Norfolk		Mrs C Buchanan	JG Faulkner
Cumbria		GW Bell	PD Hackett	North East		AA Deane	I Spoons
Derbyshire		RA Mcewan	J Tomlinson	Northants			
Devon		Mrs E Morris	JG Faulkner	Notts		Mrs J Burgess	E Nunn
Dorset	WT Udall			Oxford		Mrs P Rhodes-Fisher	Mrs AJ Claridge
Essex		Mrs M Curtis	P Mason	Somerset		Miss E Pooley	D Porter*
Gloucestershire		PJ Denning	EA Hill	Staffs & Shrops		Mrs P Poxon	PD Hackett
Hants & IoW	Dr SJ Strachan			Suffolk	MR Carey		
Herefordshire	G Harrington			Surrey	Mrs LP Lockhart		
Hertfordshire		Mrs F Warner	M Minting	Sussex	PC Kent		
Isle of Man		Mrs EF Slatcher	JR Herbert	Warwicks	RA Bowles		
Kent	BR Crack			Westmorland			
Lancashire	JB Brelsford			Wiltshire		Mrs J Gray	T Collier
Leicestershire	RH Northage			Worcester		Mrs JR Newton	T Collier
* Did not attend the meeting				Yorkshire	PG Mason		

1 Apologies for Absence – see above for County information.

Vice Chairman: DA Robson (delayed by rail breakdown), Vice Presidents: G Endicott and WJ Pencharz

2 Minutes of the AGM of 3 October 2001

2.1 Accuracy

The Minutes were **approved** as an accurate record of the meeting.

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 *English Bridge Union as a single entity (item 11)* – The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from the Hon. Solicitor indicating that there were difficulties in changing arrangements to become a single entity. A considered reaction to the Hon. Solicitor's letter was required and this would be put forward at the next Board meeting. The Chairman clarified therefore that no changes to the Memorandum and Articles or Bye Laws had been made or were ready to be made.

43 Chairman's Report for the year ended 31 March 2002

The Chairman summarised his report highlighting:

- q This was a tough year – everyone spending a lot of time organising and running the European Junior and Commonwealth Nations Championships. This was a strain on the organisation in management and personnel terms and hard going financially. However, the profile of game was raised. The European Junior Championship was an important significant part of the European youth programme and international scene. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The view held and expressed by the Presidents of the EBL and WBF was that we had done a very good job and they were happy that England had been selected to host the event. The Commonwealth Nations Championship brought together a different group of people. This was a friendly and well run event with full credit to Manchester representatives for making sure that it was so successful.
- q Progress has been made with recognition of bridge as a sport and the Chairman was encouraged that the current Minister for Sport was enthusiastic about getting changes to legislation in due course.
- q On the home front England were successful in home internationals, but did less well in the wider field. P Mason, Chairman of the Tournament Committee would be standing down this year. He has effected a number of changes over the years, including the regular use of duplimated boards in all major competitions. The Chairman thanked P Mason for the onerous task of looking after the Tournament Committee for five years.
- q Progress had been made at Aylesbury with computer programmes and website development with still much to do. Departure of key staff had affected progress in some areas. Emphasis over the next year would be looking to improve and take things forward.

The Chairman confirmed that he would not be seeking re-election as Chairman and instead would be seeking election to the European Bridge League Executive. This would help to ensure that the EBU's views were taken into account and that we would be more able to respond and have influence.

The Chairman concluded by saying that his three years as Chairman had been taxing although enjoyable. If he had a legacy to carry forward, it would be that bridge should be a friendly game played in a friendly spirit. Most people play because they want an enjoyable time and a competitive atmosphere and he hoped that this would be carried forward.

64 Treasurer's report for the year 2001/2002

The Treasurer reported that the year was a successful one. The result of £53,000 net surplus was ahead of original budget, which was helping to pre-fund this year's two championships. The current year however will result in a loss but the Treasurer believes that the medium to longer term finances continue to be in good shape.

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75 Directors' report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2002

The Chairman introduced Tony Parks, the EBU Auditor, who was present to answer questions regarding the annual accounts.

Mr Herbert asked for clarification of the bad debts figure on page 12. This related to accruals and carry forward figures relating to long-standing debts, mainly advertising for *English Bridge*. It was not appropriate to chase these debts after so long.

Mr Minting queried the rent figure under Rents, Rates and Services on page 12. The Auditor confirmed that there is no rent payable and that this was just the presentational style of the accounts package.

The accounts were formally **adopted** by the meeting.

86 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 2003 and this was **approved**.

117 Appointment of Company Secretary

11.1 T Collier had been put forward as Company Secretary and this was **approved**.

118 Election of the Directors for the year 2002/2003

There were eleven candidates for the ten positions available it was therefore necessary to hold an election. The results of this were as follows:

Elected (in order of the number of votes received):

JD Neville	73	DR Harris	62
PG Mason	69	RC Amey	61
TJ Bradley	67	JK Morris	57
DA Robson	67	MG Oliver	56
Ms AMC Hamilton	63	DG Martin	52

Not elected:

DM Pool	50
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119 Election of Chairman for the year 2002/2003

Two nominations had been received, an election was held and the results were:

DA Robson	45	JD Neville	29
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DA Robson was duly appointed Chairman.

1110 Election of Vice-Chairman for the year 2002/2003

PG Mason 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.

11 **Announcement of the Dimmie Fleming Awards**

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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:

Frank (Pym) Berry	(Derbyshire)
Peter Walker	(Gloucestershire)
Ron Buddery	(Sussex)
John Turner	(Worcestershire)

Awards were presented to Mr Berry and Mr Walker. Awards would be presented in due course to Mr Buddery and Mr Turner.

1112 Any Other Business

The Chairman took this opportunity to present G Faulkner with a unique Lifetime Achievement Award. He had retired from the Board, but would remain an active member of Council. Gerard had done so very much over the years, he has been Chairman of the Union on two occasions, chair of all the sub-committees at some time and captained many teams. In addition to this award he was also given honorary life membership of the Union. Gerard responded by saying that it had been extremely hard work over many years and had always been great fun.

P Mason queried whether there was a speedier way of counting votes, possibly looking at postal votes or voting process taking place before the meeting with the announcement of results at the meeting. It was accepted that because officer elections were dependent upon director elections, it may be beneficial to consider carrying out the election for directors prior to the meeting. The Board would need to look at this further.

The next Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 1 October 2003
at 12.15pm
at the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, London