

## Minutes from the Third Meeting of the EBU National Club Committee

**Baker Tilly Offices, 2 Bloomsbury Street, London on Tuesday 20 November 2012, 1pm**

### Present:

Matt Betts (MB) (EBU Press & Communications Officer)  
Sally Bugden (SB) (EBU Chairman)  
Barry Capal (BC) (EBU General Manager)  
Val Gibson (VG) (NCC Chairman)  
Chris Harris (CDH) (Midlands Regional CC Chairman)  
Dave Latchem (DL) (South West Regional CC Chairman)  
Colin O'Hara (COH) (Eastern Regional CC Chairman)  
Andrew Urbanski (EBU Club Liaison Officer)  
Trevor Ward (TW) (Northern Regional CC Chairman)

### Agenda Item

### Action

1 Welcome and apologies for absence  
VG welcomed everybody to the meeting. Apologies were received from Barbara Herold.

2 Minutes of previous meeting  
The minutes of the previous meeting on 01 May 2012 were agreed as correct.

3 Matters arising  
Blue Points – The position for clubs has been clarified with regards to holding Blue Point events and there will be a short article in the next Club Management Focus highlighting this.  
AU to check with Gordon Rainsford/ Brian Crack re BP award scales – **Done: these will be published in forthcoming revision of Master Points Handbook**

**AU**

4 General Manager's Report  
It was agreed that BC would intersperse the meeting with reports at relevant junctures. However, BC made the meeting aware that 220 club teachers and 850 club directors had been trained over the last 2 years, a fantastic achievement. Player numbers had increased by 8% in the second year of P2P and were 3-5% up this year.

5 RCC Reports  
The recent minutes of each of the five Regional Club Committee meetings were discussed giving members the opportunity to share views and discuss issues with the GM, Board Chairman and the NCC Chairman. All actions were picked up elsewhere on the agenda.

6 CLO Report  
AU reported that he had been given a warm welcome at all clubs he had visited and that clubs had been pleased to see someone from the EBU visit them to give them a chance to air their views. AU had spent the previous week touring clubs in Essex and had appreciated the assistance given by the County Rep, Dennis Valtisaris, who had been a superb host. Many more visits are planned to various regions of the country. The

importance of this activity was confirmed.

## 7 Charitable Status Update

The Board had done extensive work on developing an organisational model for the EBU that would be acceptable to the Charity Commission and would enable the funding of the EBU's international activities. The work had concluded that the overheads involved in this model meant that a different approach was required. The Board were now adopting an approach which involves the following;

Establish a new charitable company limited by guarantee with two objectives;

- i) The promotion of amateur sport
- ii) The advancement of education.

The aim would be to progressively build this new company over time. It would be a company limited by guarantee and a wholly owned subsidiary of the EBU.

£2000 had been spent on this since 2009, not £40,000 as one EBU member had stated to AU at a recent club visit.

## 8 Laws & Ethics Matters

### 1. Mediation Service

The Laws and Ethics Committee have trialled mediation to resolve tricky disputes. If both parties agree in advance to the outcome being binding the Laws and Ethics Committee will appoint a mediation group.

### 2. Orange Book Revisions

The Laws and Ethics Committee were in the process of updating the Orange Book. One of the objectives was to streamline and simplify information for club players. Members were encouraged to email [john@ebu.co.uk](mailto:john@ebu.co.uk) with comments about rules and regs e.g. alerting of penalty doubles by early January 2013.

3. Model Constitution – it was stressed that clubs should ensure they have a club constitution which is based on the model constitution on the EBU website as it provides protection to the club and increases the ability to raise funds from the Lottery and register as a charity. The constitution, together with any disciplinary annex, should be easily available. The club web site would be a good place for this. AU to check that the Model Constitution contains the Schedule of Disciplinary Procedures and why there are 2 separate documents on the website. **Done – 2<sup>nd</sup> document link removed as Model Constitution contains DPs.**

AU

The point was emphasised that the EBU are always willing to be consulted on issues concerned with the Laws of Duplicate Bridge.

## 9 Data Protection and Membership Detail

VG asked the group to remind clubs of the importance of keeping membership records up to date. We have a Data Protection responsibility to keep records right. In addition without records being corrected magazines and other communications, could be sent to the wrong address or, to someone who had died.

- 10 NGS From 01 April 2013, the volatility of the NGS will be reduced by increasing the number of boards used from 1000 to 2000 and by decreasing the weighting of Green pointed and other EBU events. Work on including teams results is still in progress; multiple teams would be fairly straightforward to include but team events where polarity of pairs may change was still a problem to be overcome.
- 11 Sim Pairs There was a wide ranging discussion about Sim Pairs, their frequency and cost. If clubs did intend to prioritise their participation they should be aware that money raised from the EBU Sims would be invested in EBU's projects and clubs would therefore benefit.
- 12 Clubs playing < 26 sessions p.a. It was proposed by SB that clubs playing less than 26 sessions per annum be allowed to affiliate at a cost of double the annual club affiliation fee. The group welcomed this proposal as it will bring to the EBU some clubs who are very keen to join.
- 13 Website re-design Work has started on the re-design of the EBU website and the 1<sup>st</sup> release is anticipated in March or April 2013.
- 14 Supervised sessions/  
Magazine  
Points } SB stated that there were 2 types of supervised sessions: those which formed part of a structured training programme where master points were awarded as an incentive to encourage students to become fully-fledged members of a club, and supervised play sessions attended by individuals who are not part of an education programme and have been attending the sessions for several years and who will not progress to full duplicate sessions within clubs. We have been asked by a few affiliated clubs to try to engage with this latter group of players. It was thought that the best way to engage with them is to provide them with the magazine. In order for these players to get the magazine, they must pay the pay to play subscription. However they do not get master points or an NGS rating from these sessions as they will ask for advice on the play and therefore any score would be skewed. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to offer, on a voluntary basis, the facility to P2P and earn magazine points to these players.
- 15 EBU electronic comms with clubs SB emphasised that we should make every effort to capture members' email addresses so that we can contact them whenever we wish. **ALL**
- 16 AOB The EBU's Treasurer will be invited to the next meeting.
- 17 Date of next Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May, same venue

meeting