



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNTY WORKING GROUP

AT West Midlands Bridge Club

ON Monday 27 October 2014 @ 11.30am

Representatives:

Region	Name	Region	Name	Region	Name
Eastern (SUF)	Peter Bushby	EBU General Mgr	Barry Capal	EBU Board	Darren Evetts
Northern (YOR)	Lesley Millet	EBU Board	Ron Millet	Midlands (OXF)	Robert Procter
Northern (MER)	Paul Roberts	Midlands (GLO)	Alan Wearmouth	Eastern (ESX)	John Williams
EBU Board/EBED Chairman	Jerry Cope				

Apologies:

Region	Name	Region	Name
EBU Board	Jeremy Dhondy	Western (HIW)	Andy Hughes
EBU Board	Malcolm Oliver		

Chairman: *Darren Evetts*

- a) Minutes of Last Meeting – Already Agreed by email – Matters Arising
 - i) Discussion Paper - Unaffiliated Clubs – Lesley & Ron Millet – This item was deferred pending the Topic Group discussion.
 - ii) Post meeting note - Dick Andrews (Dev) has decided to stand down from the National County Working Group.
- b) Feedback from the Board.
 - i) Terms of Reference – The proposed amendments were approved by the Board at their meeting on 17 September 2014.
 - ii) New Club Affiliation – It was confirmed that County Secretaries are informed when new Clubs affiliate.
- c) Brighton Discussion Group Feedback – Peter Bushby
 - i) John, Lesley and Peter were present. There was a useful exchange of ideas and discussion, including: Yorkshire's Education Portal (maintained by the creator of Pianola), but issues include controlling the content and who is able to advertise on such a site; the costs of running a County and the idea of sponsorship - Yorkshire has successful sponsorship projects; Google operate a free flagging option for charitable organisations, which puts them at the top of the search list.

- d) Regional Group Updates on any specific points
- i) Eastern Counties - Peter Bushby & John Williams
 - a) A concern about attendance at the most recent Eastern Meeting was expressed. A question about who deals with the behaviour of Tournament Directors was raised. There is a Tournament Director's code of conduct in the White Book Section 7. Any concerns should be discussed with Gordon Rainsford (EBU Chief TD).
 - b) Best Practice for County Associations – How Counties measure themselves against their objectives. This paper is being written by John Williams.
 - ii) Metropolitan Counties – No Representative
 - a) The representative from the Metropolitan Region has decided to stand down. There is no other representative from the Metropolitan Region at present. There are, however, positive lines of communication with some Counties in the Metropolitan Region.
 - iii) Midland Counties - Robert Procter & Alan Wearmouth
 - a) The group have identified a common issue which they are progressing with.
 - iv) Northern Counties - Lesley Millet & Paul Roberts
 - a) The group discussed EBED (English Bridge Education and Development) – Jerry Cope (EBED Chairman) is attending today's meeting.
 - b) Unaffiliated Clubs – key message – uncertainty about a clear sales pitch exists. The benefits of affiliation need to be clearly established.
 - c) Communicating with Affiliated Clubs – The size of the Club can often determine the level of communication that exists. Members of the County Executive Committee are more likely to attend the larger Clubs. Some Counties hold Club representative meetings, others invite Clubs to send representatives to their Executive Committee meetings.
 - d) Youth development – Tends to be localised, where someone knows someone.
 - v) Western Counties - Dick Andrews & Andy Hughes
 - a) No Representative present.
 - vi) Provincial Counties
 - a) All meeting minutes are circulated to the Counties so that there is an opportunity for them to feed in to the discussion. Nothing has been received to date.
- e) Discussion Groups – Peter Bushby
- i) Peter gave an outline of the format.
 - Topic A (Lesley Millet) - Improving the relationship between the EBU/Counties and unaffiliated Clubs
 - Topic B (Alan Wearmouth) - Developing a Value Proposition and a Progression Strategy for Players at all levels that revitalises our membership.

- Topic C (John Williams) - Structuring, staffing and motivating the volunteer workforce that we depend on at National and County level.
- ii) Feedback and Action Points (From Topic Hosts)
 - a) Topic hosts will develop their topics and circulate for further discussion. It was agreed that each Topic Host should have two other people from among our group, or from the Regional Groups, to work on developing the topics for circulation and discussion.
 - b) Notes from each discussion group will remain with the Topic Host for the moment, but will be circulated separately in due course.
 - iii) Darren thanked Peter, Lesley, Alan and John for their work in preparing for today's discussion and for the work yet to come!
- f) EBED – Jerry Cope
- i) Jerry is attending today's meeting to update us on EBED.
 - ii) Simon Barb (EBU Education and Development Manager), or a Trustee from EBED, are available to attend Regional meetings, if required.
 - iii) Communication from EBED has been limited thus far due to the fact that the Trustees want to be certain and clear about the way forward. However, County Chairmen and Members will receive a communication from EBED during November.
 - iv) The Trustees have agreed to focus on three practical areas that funding may be readily available for:
 - a) Bridge in Primary Schools
 - b) Accelerated Learning Courses
 - c) Robust academic research into why bridge is good for people.
 - v) The group felt that focusing on three attainable priorities was appropriate.
 - vi) Is MiniBridge still being offered to Teachers in schools so that they can deliver MiniBridge? There is a small amount of funding available. Please send applications to Simon Barb.
 - a) The support of MiniBridge projects and immediate resulting player numbers was a concern. For example, does MiniBridge make people more likely to play when they reach their 50s?
 - vii) It was clarified that EBED can act in the learning process, but the EBU would pick up from there. Bridge Play could be EBED.
 - viii) There is one and three quarters staff members dealing with existing activities:
 - a) TD Training
 - b) Teacher Training and providing teaching materials
 - c) EBUTA
 - d) Junior Teach Ins (JTI)

This leaves very little time for development.
 - ix) The Charity must be all inclusive and cannot just focus on EBU Members.
 - x) Communication with Teachers is important for EBED
 - xi) Trustees are focused on funding and project management. Appropriate personnel will be responsible for implementation.

xii) Volunteers are needed for future development, JTI etc.

g) AoB

Darren thanked everyone for attending.

h) Date of Next Meeting – Darren will circulate for dates at the end of February.