



MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN COUNTIES WORKING PARTY MEETING

Held

9th September 2015

Present : David Adelman – MCMA, Lesley Millet (LM), Deirdre Fell – Linconshire, Val Gibson (VG) - North East , Julian Merrill (JM) - Merseyside & Cheshire , Richard Alcock - Merseyside & Cheshire , Jeff Morris – Manchester, Ron Millet - EBU

Chair: Lesley Millet

Lesley welcomed everyone to the meeting. The sad passing of Ben Beaver was noted and regretted by all.

Apologies - Paul Roberts, Trevor Ward & Liz Muir

Minutes of the previous meeting 3rd June 2015 were already agreed by email

A Regional Support Officer (RSO) was considered and the concept was welcomed.

Key implications were likely to be -

- Initially there might be a funding issue.
- The members aspect could be a win/win situation as it would provide members and revenue both for Clubs and the EBU.
- In the interim there was a financing issue which many Clubs faced.
- The RSO might assist the problem of running things in the regions as Aylesbury was at a distance.

LM reported on recent meetings - County Chairmen's Meeting and the National Working Group.

The issue of whether the Northern Group should demonstrate their methods and techniques was raised.

The Northern Regional Improvers Pairs was discussed. This was successful but an issue with Lincs was noted. Members want to trial this project in several areas. As a start a note on this event should be circulated.

We would need to set the date for next year in plenty of time...

Agreed: The final provisionally 15 May 2015.

To raise at the National meeting - should this event go National?

Agreed: A small group to liaise with Phil Godfrey, with reps from each County that was involved. Prepare a pack on running the heats and the final, eg: food provided. This can become a training ground for future Congress organisers.

Simon Barb was welcomed to the meeting and made a Presentation on behalf of EBED.

EBED has a turnover of £150K consisting of: EBU £50K, Bridge for All £50K - plus income from selling books. Updating them will cost several £000s. They run 2 Sim Pairs and also own South Bucks Bridge Club which is profitable.

OPERATIONS

Bridge Teaching - A weekend of instructions with materials supplied. The charge would be £106. One free place every 2 years to affiliated Clubs is still allowed. This is a starter course only – it produces 100 new teachers pa. Next class is already full with 20 participants.

Val Barnes asked “Is the EBED acronym informative enough” and perhaps this should be addressed and referred to as it is: "The National Charity for the Promotion and Development of Bridge."

EBUTA

SB was asked: “Has the funding for teachers ended?” - There are still courses being run and free places but not expanded He would like more teachers to be involved with EBUTA more closely - 1000 Members is the target over the next few years.

“Is there communication with the teaching officers in the Counties” - Maybe that is needed.

John Taylor has been appointed to run EBUTA.

EBUTA is reviewing how education is used to bring in members. SB feels he knows how to create new members.

There was to be a new one day course "Market your Course"

Publicity

A 6 monthly newsletter and 1.5 pages in English Bridge.

Space to be taken in the magazines - Ruffian and Accolade – by EBUTA.

A Publicity Leaflet on EBUTA aimed at non-affiliated clubs was discussed.

The success of EBED depends on a separate identity and developing it.

Only 400 under 26s are on the database.

EBU is answerable to its members. EBED works differently on behalf of those who benefit from its services.

EBED are working on 3 projects:

Accelerated Learning
Bridge and Health

Schools Bridge

- At present there is a patchwork of individual efforts that lacks cohesion.
- Approach is "personal award" viz Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- Leading to working together with a combination of personal achievement and team skills.
- Use the D of E as a persuader for Educational Development.
- But there is no complete strategy. SB would like the Counties to take this onboard, trying to work with the County Assns. Problems of getting Counties involved.
- There is a conflict between the requirements of different sponsors - mini bridge and standard bridge in schools and secondary schools.

A Junior Award Scheme in line with the Duke of Edinburgh Award - Bronze, Silver, Gold, is being trialled in known schools playing Bridge. Problem is they are nearly all private schools.

Young Bridge Challenge - a one day teams event involving 30 schools hoped for.

How do we attract people - reliant on motivated individuals to get into Schools? So it is piecemeal. If someone gets entry into a school to teach mini bridge EBED will supply the teachers to move in.

The big challenge in getting into senior schools is finding Teachers who play Bridge - hope to get courses financed to teach bridge to Teachers who then go on to teach it.

RETURN TO AGENDA

Repechage sessions of Bridge, where people can drop in, and out for sessions running from late afternoon through to late evening, was renamed **Flexibridge**. This was discussed and interest shown.

Nikko travelling arrangements were discussed – but not the remit of the NCWG

Next meeting 2nd December 2015 at 11am.