

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION, HELD AT THE SWAN HOTEL, BEDFORD
ON WEDNESDAY 20th MARCH 2002**

Present:	D R Harris	Chairman
	D A Robson	Vice-Chairman
	J D Neville	Hon. Treasurer
	T J Bradley	
	J M Carter	
	J G Faulkner	
	Ms A M C Hamilton	
	D G Martin	
	P G Mason	
	M G Oliver	
	Terry Collier	General Manager
	Karen Etchells	Administration Manager

1 Apologies

There were no apologies.

2 Minutes of the Meeting of 24th January 2002

2.1 Accuracy

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

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 Insurance Valuation - G Faulkner asked whether the insurance valuation had been done. The General Manager reported that the cost would be in the order of £450 and questioned if this needed to be undertaken this year. Following discussion, it was **agreed** not to proceed with a valuation at this time.

2.2.2 Health and Safety for Young People - G Faulkner asked whether there had been any progress made. The General Manager reported that he had attended a meeting with the new Child Protection in Sport Unit (joint NSPCC and Sport England body). The Unit was working with the EBU to put together a policy document that covered all aspects of working with young people under the age of 18. A code of conduct for the European Junior Championships would be drafted and it is planned that Christine Duckworth will act as a Welfare Officer, by that time she will have undertaken basic training. It was **noted** that a system of checking police records was about to be implemented nationally and that the EBU will participate in this scheme.

2.2.3 *European Junior Championships 2002*

T Bradley reported that the EBL had released publicity of the event and that the EBU could now issue the first bulletin. It was **noted** that there was a shortage of hotel accommodation and this was now proving difficult to arrange. Computer sponsorship was not yet secured.

The obtaining of sponsorship was a problem and after further debate it was **agreed** that specific effort should be put into driving forward sponsorship. This might be achieved by contacting local bridge players with commercial connections, using the press contacts in the area (including Brian Cook and Ken Rowe) and the forthcoming Torquay Congress to publicise the event.

2.2.4 *Commonwealth Games Bridge Championships*

D Robson reported that sponsorship of £20K had been received for the opening and closing ceremonies and a number of other expenses. 29 entries had been received, 21 overseas, of which Manchester BC would accommodate 16. The response for the consolation event was good and a full report on this event was required.

Following further discussion it was **agreed** that the list of special invitees needed to be drawn up very soon, that all invitations would be sent from Aylesbury and that D Robson would be co-ordinating this.

Ms Hamilton reported that the cover for the June edition of *English Bridge* would be devoted to the Commonwealth Games Bridge Championships.

G Faulkner asked for confirmation that corkage would not be charged. T Collier confirmed this though he had not got this in writing. He also reported that contrary to the minutes the alcohol for the banquet would now be obtained locally.

The Treasurer asked that the budget be revisited and a revised version circulated.

2.2.5 *Data Protection Act*

Ms Hamilton commented that the draft document circulated appeared to be a letter or statement of intent rather than a formal agreement. D Martin had three points to make: (a) volunteers would be carrying out the work involved and requests made of them should not be onerous, (b) some Counties cannot comply with the Agreement so it should not be sent out, and (c) there was a question about the legal situation of the relationship between Counties and the EBU.

Following lengthy debate, it was **agreed** that the draft document would be redrafted as a statement of intent. The General Manager would formulate this to cover the specific requirements of each County.

2.2.6 *International On Line Bridge Club*

D Martin reported that the final agreement would be available next week.

It was confirmed that a lawyer had been employed to draft the agreement and the original intention was for Nick Justice to share the cost of this. It may be necessary for Mr Justice to appoint his own solicitor to act on his behalf, nevertheless. The Board felt that Mr Justice should be asked to contribute part of the cost of drafting the agreement.

3 Council Discussion Topic - Membership

Following lengthy discussion it was **agreed** that the General Manager should provide a short paper to include questions relating to why we may require a wider membership, how clubs can assist in achieving this and what additional services we should provide.

4 Organisational Review Group

J Carter tabled a discussion document and reported that little had happened since previous discussions. Bearing in mind the strengthened management and administration at Aylesbury it was **agreed** that ORG should now be dissolved for the time being. The Board wished to extend their thanks to the dedicated work of all members of the group.

5 Financial Matters

5.1 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that much work had gone into the preparation of the Budget and 5 Year Plan. The figures indicate that there should be a modest surplus at the end of the financial year.

5.2 Budget 2002/2003 and Five Year Plan

and

5.3

The Treasurer reported that the Budget and Five Year Plan would be submitted to the April Council as presented, plus any amendments requested at this meeting.

D Martin queried the figures relating to the income from Wales and Scotland for the Simultaneous Pairs, in view of the fact that the 4-year agreement will soon come to an end. Some discussion took place about how to proceed at the end of the agreement and it was **agreed** that the EBU should write to Wales and Scotland advising them that the matter will be discussed at the Board meeting in the Autumn and inviting their comments.

G Faulkner commented that at the last meeting of the Selection Committee it had not been aware of the format of the new European event next year. Apparently it would be an exact copy of the Rosenblum/McConnell. The Selection Committee wished to support the event although it lacked the status of a full European championship or Olympiad. It was **agreed** to take part in the event as budgeted.

Further discussion took place regarding the income and expenditure figures for the Trials. G Faulkner suggested that the imbalance between the cost and income should be looked into further and that the Selection Committee should be asked to suggest an estimate with a fair means of cost of supporting the Trials. The Chairman said it was important to ensure that those under some financial strain were not precluded from entering, particularly the juniors. It was **agreed** that the fee for this year should be £400 with a 50% reduction for people under-25 years at a qualifying date.

The Chairman questioned whether the Dutch and Swedish Challenge should continue on the same basis.

The Treasurer said that more thought should be given to the way Master Points were currently issued, particularly in conjunction with the Club Administration and Scoring System being introduced. T Bradley requested that a paper be prepared on proposals for changes.

G Faulkner referred to the possibility of a change in the format of the Camrose Trophy. If this occurred Max Bavin estimates that there would be a saving of in excess of £7,000 on the budget

5.4 Salary Review 2002/2003 (Confidential Item)

A report was received from the General Manager the content of which was **approved** and is kept on confidential file.

At this point because the meeting was running late, the Chairman took items of urgency only.

5.5 Inland Revenue Payroll Review Report

Deferred to next meeting.

5.6 Audit Fees 2002/2003

It was noted that the Auditor was looking for an increase of £300 on last year's audit fee bringing it to a total of £5,000. This was not acceptable and the General Manager was instructed to make an offer of £4,850.

6 General Manager's Report

Urgent matters were noted..

7 Committee Reports

Noted.

8 EBL & WBF Matters

Deferred to next meeting

9 Bridge Great Britain

Deferred to next meeting.

10 Future Format of the Camrose

The submitted paper was discussed and it was **agreed** that this matter required further consideration. G Faulkner was requested to report back to BGB asking that their decision be postponed for a year to enable a full consultation process to be undertaken.

11 Constitutional Changes

11.1 Herefordshire County CBA

It was **agreed** after a brief discussion that the Chairman and G Faulkner would discuss this matter.

12 Bye-laws Review

Deferred to next meeting.


13 Any Other Business

13.1 Disabled Access - P Mason raised the question of disabled access to bridge clubs and it was **agreed** that the General Manager would prepare a paper on this matter for the next meeting.

13.2 EBU Insurance Policies - The General Manager raised the question of the EBU's insurance and advised that to market test these services two quotations had been requested, as yet only one had been submitted and the other, from our existing broker, was awaited. It was **agreed** that the Treasurer and General Manager would jointly assess these quotations and proceed with the preferred supplier.

Items not covered on the Agenda would be carried over to the next meeting or dealt with in consultation with Board members should this prove necessary.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 8 May 2002 at 12.30pm
at the English Bridge Union Offices, Bicester Road, Aylesbury


8/5/02.