



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION
HELD AT THE SWAN HOTEL, BEDFORD
ON WEDNESDAY 31 OCTOBER 2002**

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Present: | DA Robson | Chairman |
| | PG Mason | Vice Chairman |
| | TJ Bradley | Hon. Treasurer |
| | RC Amey | |
| | Ms AMC Hamilton | |
| | DR Harris | |
| | DG Martin | |
| | JK Morris | |
| | JD Neville | |
| | MG Oliver | |
| | Terry Collier | General Manager |
| | Karen Etchells | Administration Manager |

The meeting commenced at 12.50pm following the late arrival of four Board members due to traffic difficulties.

1 Apologies

There were no apologies but a welcome was extended to Roger Amey and Jeff Morris as new members of the board.

2 Minutes of the Meeting of 4 September 2002

2.1 Accuracy

The Minutes were **approved** as an accurate record of the meeting, except for the amendments below:

On the last page, the date of the next meeting should read "...will be held on Thursday 31 October 2002..."

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 *Statutory Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2002 (item 2.2.1)* - The General Manager reported that the Auditor was awaiting the outcome of the Computer Audit report and would provide a written response to the Board regarding the controls and systems in operation, when the situation regarding the future of MIAMI was known.

2.2.2 *Master Point Review (item 2.2.4)* - Mr Neville commented that he had undertaken to produce a report in conjunction with the Tournament Manager to go to the next Council meeting. Mr Neville thought that further work was required prior to taking the matter to Council. It was therefore **agreed** that this matter would be postponed until the Computer Administration and Scoring System (CASS) and electronically recorded Master Points was introduced.

2.2.3 *Computer Working Party – 23 July 2002 (item 6.1)*

Project MIAMI – The Chairman reported that the computer audit report had been received from Oasis 400 and had to date been circulated to the Computer Working Party. It raised the question as to whether MIAMI was a suitable system to continue to build on. The General Manager commented that the organisation still relied on one person to run the system.

Mr Martin commented that a detailed specification was required documenting all the business activities of the EBU. Once this was done a full comparison with MIAMI could be carried out, as well as a comparison of what is available off the shelf. The approximate cost of this exercise was estimated at £10,000.

It was the Board's view that this matter needed to be sorted out once and for all. The Computer Working Party was given authorisation to proceed with finding a solution to the matter and was empowered to spend up to £10,000 as detailed above with the Treasurer having power to veto.

Club Administration and Scoring System (CASS) – The General Manager reported that a meeting was arranged next week with C Barrable to identify a timescale for a number of outstanding issues relating to the latest version of the pilot scheme. The rollout was now scheduled for November/December.

3 Financial Matters

3.1 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report on the key income and expenditure figures for the 6 months ended 30 September 2002 was **accepted**.

Bank Mandate and Signing Authorities

With the exception of Brian Smith being a signatory on Panel B, Board **approval** was given to the changes proposed to the Bank Mandate.

3.2 Budget Process and Timetable 2002.2003

The proposed timetable was noted and **agreed**. The draft budget would be presented to Board on 14 January 2003.

3.3 Personal Expenses and Allowances, Fees and Charges Review

It was proposed that travel expenses and allowances should be considered at a later date, once the outstanding Inland Revenue review of these was complete. A meeting was arranged on 6 November with the Inland Revenue and it was hoped that the matter would be resolved in the near future.

The General Manager also reported that there were current issues relating to licence fees for holiday operators. Therefore, increases to licence fees were not recommended at this stage and it was **agreed** that the matter would be reported back to a future Board meeting.

It was confirmed that the recommended increases contained in the paper were in line with inflation and were therefore **agreed**.

4 General Manager's Report

4.1 *English Bridge*

The General Manager reported that Blue 2 were acting as the EBU's agent on the December issue of *English Bridge* and prior to finalising an agreement between Blue 2 and ourselves two issues needed to be addressed.

- (a) What size of magazine the EBU would wish to proceed with following the loss of the 8 page Mr Bridge contract, and
- (b) What financial assistance the EBU was willing to provide to Blue 2.

A straw poll was carried out regarding the preferred size of the magazine, the majority being in favour of a minimum of 48 pages and this was **agreed**. It was also **agreed** to provide a limited subsidy of £10,000 over three issues to Blue 2, the Board would then review the situation again.

4.2 Major Congress Status

Board approval was requested for Major Congress Status to be given to the Torquay Bridge Club in respect of their Autumn Congress. The Vice-Chairman **agreed** to deal with this matter and if need be refer it to the Tournament Committee.

4.3 Online Bridge Club

The General Manager reported that the amalgamation of the EBU and IOBC Clubs has not gone as smoothly as envisaged, with small yet consistent problems occurring from the playing communities. It is also proving difficult for us to market the services of the International Club to other NBO's due to the fact that many question our commercial role in this Company. To resolve these matters the General Manager has met with IOBC to discuss the possibility of the EBU Club becoming a separate self-sufficient Club within the framework of the IOBC operation.

It was **agreed** that further discussions be held with IOBC to resolve this matter and to secure an on line service for the benefit of EBU members. These meetings to be attended by both the General Manager and Mr Martin. It was also **agreed** that a decision in regard to the future could be taken in consultation with the Chairman and Treasurer.

4.4 Legal and Financial Needs Ltd

The General Manager had previously reported to the Board in regard to this company and the legal, insurance and financial services that can be offered to EBU members. Following our previous discussion he was asked to see how a more positive 'value added' service could be offered directly to our members. Discussion has taken place and an offer has been made that if the EBU were to support the marketing of this Company's services, they would offer membership of their 24 hour legal service to all members of the EBU, this being in lieu of any commission that could be directed to the EBU.

To progress matters it was **agreed** that a further meeting should be held with this company to be attended by the Chairman and Mr Neville.

5 Development Consultation (Update)

The General Manager reported that the budget for carrying out the consultation exercise was approximately £2,500 plus travel costs of approximately £1,000. There was no provision for lunches in this figure and the General Manager was asked to see if lunches could be provided at the venue.

It was noted that Board members would be in attendance at the Roadshows with the exception of Cheltenham and Plymouth.

6 Board Responsibilities

The Chairman presented his paper on proposed Board responsibilities. One correction was made – removing Tournament Committee responsibility from Mr Bradley.

Ms Hamilton asked for clarification on the proof reading of minutes following the departure from the Board of Mr Faulkner. The Chairman advised that he was happy to proof read Board minutes himself and that Ms Hamilton and Mr Faulkner would be asked to continue proof-reading Council minutes.

7 AGM of EBU Ltd and EBU Council – 2 October 2002

7.1 AGM of EBU Ltd

Discussion took place regarding the speed of handling Directors' elections at the AGM and whether a different way of recording votes should be sought. The General Manager was asked to produce a paper during the year in an attempt to find a solution to this problem. It was acknowledged that changes to the Bye Laws might be required to implement such changes.

Chairman's Report for the year ended 31 March 2002 – the past-Chairman (Mr Harris) advised the Board, and it was **noted**, that a complaint had been received regarding the lack of importance placed on European successes.

A discussion took place regarding the selection of the team representing England for the Champions Cup in Poland. Mr Mason reported that the team selected was the winners of the Crockfords. It was his view that the team selected should have a reasonable expectation of doing well in this prestigious competition and we should therefore enter the winners of the trials or a play off in the trials. The Board **agreed** with this and the Selection Committee would make the final decision.

7.2 EBU Council

Minutes of Selection Committee – 3 July 2002 – Discussion took place regarding junior selection decisions being taken by the Youth Working Party and being ratified by the Selection Committee. It was **agreed** that a paper would need to be presented to the next Council meeting but prior to this Mr Oliver would discuss the matter further with the new Chairman of the Selection Committee.

It was **noted** that proposed dates for Council meetings in 2003 were 8 January, 16 April and 1 October. However, it would be suggested to Council in January that the middle meeting be changed from 16 April to 4 June.

8 Dates and Venues for Future Meetings

The following dates and venues for Board meetings were **agreed**:

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday | 14 January 2003 | Kettering Park Hotel, Kettering |
| Wednesday | 19 March 2003 | Sir R McAlpine, 40 Bernard Street, London |
| Wednesday | 14 May 2003 | Aylesbury |
| Wednesday | 2 July 2003 | Kettering Park Hotel, Kettering |
| Tuesday | 2 September 2003 | To be arranged |
| Thursday | 6 November 2003 | Sir R McAlpine, 40 Bernard Street, London |

9 Bye Laws Review

Mr Harris reported that the Honorary Solicitor had taken two years to write and advise that there was a problem regarding single entity status, and that this was not a satisfactory response. It was the Board's opinion that the Honorary Solicitor should be replaced and it was **agreed** that the Chairman would contact the Honorary Solicitor.

A question was raised as to whether Mr Harris would consider the role. Mr Harris wished to consult the Bar Council to obtain views on any conflict of interest prior to proceeding further.

It was also suggested that we should consider dispensing with the position of Honorary Solicitor and to buy in services as and when required. It was acknowledged that there would be financial implications regarding obtaining independent advice which the General Manager would look into and report back.

Once the necessary legal advice is in place we will pursue the matter of single entity through to an early conclusion.

The Chairman and Mr Morris left the meeting and the Vice-Chairman took the chair.

10 Committee Reports

10.1 Editorial Board – 8 October 2002 (attached)

Ms Hamilton had nothing specific to report from the meeting.

The Board's attention was drawn to the latest Bridge Plus and Mr Bridge magazines and the articles written about membership of the EBU. It was apparent that the proprietors were once again proposing to re-launch their campaign against the EBU. It was reported that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and General Manager was meeting with the proprietor on 5 November and would raise this matter.

10.2 Education Sub-Committee – 12 September 2002 (attached)

There was nothing further to report.

11 EBL and WBF Matters

11.1 Report back from the NBO Officers Seminar

Mr Harris reported that he and the General Manager had attended this seminar and whilst the content was very informative he was concerned that the EBL were generally unaware of the level of advancement in some of the services we provide. He felt that this matter should be rectified at an early opportunity.

The important advances in securing Olympic recognition was reported at this seminar and in this regard all NBO's were encouraged to establish relationships with their Olympic Associations. Yet again there appears to be a misunderstanding on the part of the EBL to the task that we have in obtaining both sport and Olympic recognition. Again this is something that needs to be clarified with both the EBL and WBF.

11.2 1st European Open Bridge Championship, Menton, France – 14-18 June 2003

Mr Harris reported that the EBL has continuing problems reconciling their budget. They will be significantly relying on income from the above Championship and expect participation by European NBO's. The EBL will pay a 10% commission to those NBO's who fulfil set criteria for marketing and promoting the Championship, eg publish 3 advertisements and website coverage. This would mean a quarter page advertisement in December, February and April *English Bridge*. The General Manager confirmed that space has been booked for this purpose.

12 Bridge Great Britain Meeting – 29 September 2002

Home Camrose Matches – Obtaining tenders from counties seemed to have failed and it was agreed that the procedure to tender should be reinstated. Tournament Committee to report back after taking this up further.

Future Agreement with BGB – the new BGB Board Representative, Mr Neville, would pursue this matter and report back at the next meeting.

13 Any Other Business

Mr Martin reported that there was an outstanding Laws and Ethics Committee matter requiring legal advice. It was **agreed** that an appropriate set of questions should be prepared for an independent legal advisor and these would be considered by the Chairman and Mr Harris prior to seeking appropriate legal advice.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 January 2003 at 12.30pm
at the Kettering Park Hotel, Kettering





**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF *ENGLISH BRIDGE*
HELD AT AYLESBURY OFFICES ON 8th OCTOBER 2002**

Present:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Alaine Hamilton (AH) | (Chair) |
| Brian Cook (BC) | (Editor) |
| Terry Collier (TC) | (General Manager) |
| Jeremy Dhondy | |

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from David Burn.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 14th August 2002

These were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

Mr Bridge

TC confirmed that they are not planning to advertise with us beyond their present contract, ending with the December 2002 issue of *English Bridge*.

4. Working Relationship with Blue 2

TC said he was still negotiating with Blue 2 and intends to present a draft agreement to the EBU Board on 31st October 2002. Under the agreed working relationship we retain total control of the magazine, this being achieved on a day to day basis by Brian Cook as Editor with the full support of the General Manager. The Editorial Board will continue to oversee and direct matters of policy, advertising content and overall design concept, and will receive reports from Blue 2 at each meeting. At a meeting in the near future Blue 2 will outline their plans for the future, including print production and the creation of greater advertising opportunities.

5. Advertising Report

TC advised that we attracted a total advertising income of £20,199.72 plus £76.59 from inserts from the October issue. It was noted that this was the last issue where advertising would be dealt with from Aylesbury.

6. Review of October 2002 Issue

Agreed that overall this was an excellent issue in terms of both content and presentation. There was some criticism of the cover, where it seemed that an opportunity had been missed to include some youthful faces amongst those selected.

7. Proposed Content – December Issue

The proposed content for the December issue was accepted. It was agreed that greater use of the EBU's website might be made for full publication of items tabled at Council such as the Chairman's and Treasurer's annual reports. Readers would be alerted to this.

8. Any other business

There was none.

Next Meeting: 4th December 2002 at Aylesbury, starting at 1 pm



MINUTES OF THE EBU EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE HELD IN AYLESBURY ON THURSDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2002 AT 12.30

Present: Sandra Landy (Chairman)
Su Burn (Chairman, Youth Working Party)
Chris Duckworth (Education Services Manager)
John Pain (Manager, *Bridge for All*)
Alison Nicolson

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Tom Bradley, in whose absence Sandra Landy took the chair, and from Terry Collier, EBU General Manager, Brian Smith and David Waxman. Alison Nicolson, a *Bridge for All* teacher and County Youth Officer, was welcomed to the meeting as a potential future member of the sub-committee.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting of 16th April 2002 were accepted as an accurate record.

2.1 Online Teaching

John Pain reported that the pilot online lesson had now taken place. Over 100 students had expressed interest but on the day there were 40 students with 10 teachers, one per table. Lesson material had been emailed to participants prior to the session, which therefore took the form essentially of supervised play. On this occasion the lesson was free and the teachers provided their services voluntarily. Whilst the lesson was much enjoyed by the participants, the format was not financially viable if the teachers were to be paid the going rate for their time. It was also recognised that further facilities would be required from the system to make best use of this approach, in particular a replay or play back facility to enable hands to be reviewed.

The use of online or distance learning was agreed to have potential, particularly for servicing young professionals and others with limited time available for learning, who might for example log on at a lunchtime. It might be possible to set up a system with the teacher not actually present, but available to answer questions by email. Alternatively, it was suggested that the piloted approach might cost in financially if one teacher could handle two tables, perhaps if a split screen facility were available. It was agreed that other online teaching schemes would be investigated, not necessarily restricting the research to bridge teaching, and a schedule of requirements from the OLBC should be drawn up.

John also raised the idea that Bill Gates should be approached with the suggestion that MiniBridge be bundled into the Windows system along with other games. It was agreed that email contact with Fred Gitelman would be a good way to pursue this.

2.2 Education Support systems

It was noted that there had still been no progress with the provision of systems to enable *Bridge for All* and EBUTA to be integrated and to support the education function in any way. It was agreed that a specification of requirements would be drawn up to ensure that, when progress was eventually made on this front, the systems would actually meet the need.

2.3 Funding for youth projects

It was noted that additional funds to support youth activities were expected to be forthcoming from Maple Finance and it was agreed that a "wish list" should be drawn up of ways in which this might be spent.

2.4 Youth Club activity

The Chairman enquired about the progress of discussions with Police Community Clubs, but in the General Manager's absence this was not known. Alison Nicolson also enquired as to whether any attempts had been made to work with the scouts to develop a bridge or MiniBridge scouting badge. Chris Duckworth said this had been investigated in the past, but had come to nothing at the time. It might be worth another attempt, however.

3. YOUTH MATTERS

3.1 Report on the Junior European Championships

Su Burn reported that the performance of the English teams in these championships was a little disappointing, the Junior team having finished sixth out of 22 and the Schools team having come a poor eleventh out of 15. There was still an outside chance that we would be invited to send a team to the next Junior World Championships, however, if other teams were unable to attend. The team captains' reports, which would be copied to members of the ESC, suggested that the results were not primarily due to lack of talent, but rather that the teams had not performed as well as they were capable of doing. The fact that the squads had had only one year in which to prepare had been a significant factor and there were also facets of the squad training that needed to be changed.

The Youth Working Party had discussed at some length the measures that should be taken to develop the new squads, and there would be more emphasis on team building, partnership harmony and mental and physical preparation for important events. Briefing material for the two squad leaders was needed, and it was agreed that efforts would be made to locate and make use of materials used by the Educational Psychologist with the open and women's teams, as well as the junior teams, in the past. An additional person would also be present at squad training weekends when possible to have particular responsibility for these aspects.

3.2 Report on junior squads and team selection

The teams for the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer Trophy this year had been selected immediately following the trials, in each case from the first three pairs in the final stage of the trials, with the fourth-placed pair as reserves. Under-20 and Under-25 squads had also been selected at the same time, from which teams to play in the Channel Trophy would be selected after the first couple of training weekends. It was noted that a team comprising four members of the Under-25 squad was currently lying fourth in the Open Trials – a fine achievement.

The meeting considered a letter addressed to the Chairman of the Union regarding an appeal in respect of one of the triallists who had not been selected into the squads. The sub-committee upheld the Youth Working Party view that the rigours of the squad training programme were unsuited to anyone under the age of sixteen, unless perhaps in the most exceptional of circumstances, and so endorsed their decision to exclude the player concerned. The Chairman agreed to convey this decision in writing to the appellant, but it was also agreed that, as a courtesy, the Chairman of the EBU Selection Committee would be consulted. *(Secretary's note: The Selection Committee Chairman was consulted after the meeting and endorsed the decision made).*

3.3 Report on the Junior Teach-In weekend

The Teach-In had been attended by 86 children and 40 paying adults (along with 15 staff and helpers). This represented a small increase in the number of children on the previous year, and a proportionately much larger increase in the number of adults. Whilst space was available to accommodate them, it was agreed to be advantageous to have a high proportion of adults, since supervision of the youngsters was easier. Additional care and safety measures had also been introduced this year, which had proved useful and effective.

The weekend had generally been felt to be one of the best ever, both as a social event and in terms of the encouraging amount of talent emerging amongst the junior players of all experience levels. It was planned to circulate all Regional Youth Officers with details of all attendees in their regions, in the hope that new partnerships could be fostered and nurtured.

Whilst a rise in numbers was encouraging, still more would be better, and there was discussion of how this could be achieved. It was agreed that a new series of articles in *English Bridge* on how to introduce your child/grandchild to bridge could be tried, it being some time since similar articles had been published.

3.4 Development of the Junior Care & Safety Policy

Su Burn reported that the YWP had set up a subcommittee comprising herself, Chris Duckworth and Megan Starkings to progress the development of an EBU policy. This group had met in Brighton and initial plans had been made. Sample documents obtained from other sports would be used as the basis of the EBU policy, which it was hoped would be available in draft form by mid-November, when an Implementation Course was scheduled to be attended. Chris Duckworth and John Pain had already attended an initial training course for sports coaches, and the EBU had now registered with the Criminal Records Bureau. This would enable staff and volunteers to be cleared to work with children, although no checks had yet been run due to the current CRB backlog.

It had been hoped to attend a meeting of the NSPCC Child Protection Lead Officer Support Group for National Governing Bodies. It transpired, however, that this had been set up by Sport England exclusively for those sports bodies that it funds, and as bridge is not a recognised sport, we were not permitted to attend the support group meeting.

TEACHING ISSUES

4.1 Report on the EBUTA Jamboree

Chris Duckworth reported that numbers on the Jamboree had been down again this time. This might have been a reflection on the lack of a big star name on the guest list, or possibly as a consequence of the spread of *Bridge for All*, through use of which teachers generally find they have less demand for additional training. Those who attended had mostly provided positive feedback, but it was nevertheless felt that the programme had been poorly balanced, with too little emphasis on teaching techniques and the sharing of best practice amongst teachers.

A final question and answer session with the General Manager had raised a number of issues, as a result of which a further one-day teacher conference had been mooted. The proposal was for this to be attended by teachers along with their students, providing a play opportunity for the latter whilst the former used a working group format to develop ideas for the future of bridge teaching.

4.2 **Development of novice and social events programme**

John Pain reported on the Really Easy Congress held at Brighton, at which there was an average of 9-10 tables in play at each of the four sessions. Some lessons had been learned from this, but the format had generally worked well and would be tried again, with a similar event hopefully to be introduced into at least one more annual congress. A further weekend congress had also been set up for Derby in February 2003.

The pilot National Trust event had been advertised in the last *English Bridge* and had sold out within two days of publication. Fifty four places were booked for the day at Ham House and over 80 more were on the waiting list, clearly demonstrating a big demand for this type of social event. It was noted that formal evaluation of the day should be conducted, to ensure that future events were run to best effect.

There was discussion of whether the development and organisation of these events was relevant to the Education Sub-Committee, but as a Development Department function it was agreed to be useful to consider the activity. It was suggested that, as events became established, they should be planned and scheduled ahead as soon as possible so that they could be included in the EBU calendars and publications along with other competitions.

Alison Nicolson noted that she was trialling an inter-county *Bridge for All* fixture between Oxfordshire and Warwickshire. If successful, similar local events could be included in the schedules and promoted for other areas.

4.3 **EBUTA/*Bridge for All* integration**

Chris Duckworth reported that she would shortly be producing an issue of *Accolade* which would announce the hand over of EBUTA to John Pain and would be the last under her editorship, though she would expect to continue to contribute as required. John expressed reluctance to take on full responsibility for EBUTA whilst the computer systems were still unsatisfactory, but recognised that this was probably inevitable. As already agreed, he would specify the requirements for the support systems, together with plans for how EBUTA and *Bridge for All* would develop under his leadership.

The current different levels of teacher qualifications was one area where rationalisation would be beneficial. Any new qualifications might incorporate the City & Guilds 7307 Adult Teaching certificate, for which it was hoped that in-house courses could be developed. It was agreed that this subject should be on the agenda for the next meeting.

5. **EBU ROAD SHOWS**

Chris Duckworth outlined the proposals that had been put to the EBU Board meeting the previous week for one-day "road shows" to be taken to eight or so regional sites. Each day was planned to include workshop/seminar sessions on both youth and teaching issues. The Board had agreed to a trial of a one-day seminar in the planned format, but also wanted to try shorter half-day and evening seminars. These would be held later this year and would be used both to explain what was available at present to help local people in the promotion of youth bridge and the teaching of bridge, and also to gain input from local people on what they wanted from EBU headquarters.

The Education Sub Committee was pleased to hear of the plans and looked forward to further progress on this front.

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was arranged for Thursday 21st November 2002, starting at 12.00 noon in Aylesbury.