



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION
HELD AT THE EBU OFFICES, BROADFIELDS, BICESTER ROAD, AYLESBURY
ON THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2003**

Present:	DA Robson	Chairman
	PG Mason	Vice Chairman
	RC Amey	
	Ms AMC Hamilton	
	DR Harris	(Part only)
	DG Martin	
	JK Morris	
	JD Neville	
	MG Oliver	
	Terry Collier	General Manager
	Karen Etchells	Administration Manager

The meeting began with a few moments of silence in recognition of the death of Sheila Bradley, the wife of our Treasurer.

1 Apologies

TJ Bradley

2 Minutes of the Meeting of 14 March 2003

2.1 Accuracy

With the exception of the amendment below, the Minutes were **approved** as an accurate record of the meeting.

2.1.1 Any Other Business (item 13.2) – Mr Martin pointed out that the matter was raised by Mr Harris on behalf of Ms Hamilton who had become aware that a disciplinary decision was known in advance of the appellant at his club and to some staff members at Aylesbury. It was **agreed** to reword the first sentence of the minute as follows:

Mr Harris on behalf of Ms Hamilton raised the concern that at a recent disciplinary appeal hearing the appellant had complained that other members appeared to know of his sentence before he did.

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 Appointment of Legal Services (item 2.2.3) – Five firms of solicitors had tendered for the EBU legal services provision. The General Manager highlighted that Hammonds had wide ranging experience and that BP Collins had taken the time to look through the issues presented. Mr Harris was of the opinion that as a governing body we should choose the best in the field and that Hammonds expertise and experience commends them.

Deleted:

It was **agreed** that the Chairman, Mr Harris and the General Manager would meet with Hammonds to clarify what the EBU requirements are.

Mr Martin brought up the matter of outstanding disciplinary cases. It was **agreed** that we should try and handle these matters in house and if we are legally challenged then the matter could be taken up with Hammonds. It was also accepted that legal advice would be expensive and therefore any contact with Hammonds by staff should be approved by the General Manager.

- 2.2.2 *Education Sub-Committee – 13 January 2003 (item 9.3)* – Mr Oliver reported that things have moved on since the previous meeting and that the minute was out of date. It was **agreed** that Mr Oliver, the General Manager and Education Manager would discuss the matter of youth selection further, with the most sensible solution being to invite 2 members of the Youth Working Party to be co-opted onto the Selection Committee for the purpose of selecting youth teams only. This approach is favoured by the Chairman of the Selection Committee.

The General Manager queried the structure of the Youth Working Party and Education Sub-Committee and whether the two committees could be combined. Perhaps looking at one General Education Sub-Committee, including youth.

Mr Morris commented that the Youth Working Party had a good team who organised squad arrangements and provided a forum for the work of Regional Youth Officers.

Further lengthy discussion took place and it was **agreed** that the Mr Oliver and General Manager would explore the issue with the Education Sub-Committee and bring a further recommendation to the next meeting of the Board.

It was **agreed** to bring Item 8 forward to enable Mr Harris to leave the meeting early.

8 EBL and WBF Matters – EBL General Assembly, Menton – 19 June 2003

The Board **proposed** that Mr Harris would stand for election as the EBU representative on the EBL Executive Committee and he was happy to do so. The General Manager would arrange for the nomination to be made in accordance with requirements by the 16 April 2003 and Mr Harris and Ms Hamilton would work together to ensure that a summary of Mr Harris's bridge activities was available.

Mr Harris reported that Olympic participation was becoming unlikely, however, an Olympic Mind Sports Games was being proposed. The Dutch Bridge Federation is opposed to this but they already have government support for bridge. The organisation of these Games could have an enormous impact on bridge in England, including hopefully government funding and recognition.

3 Financial Matters

3.1 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report on the key income and expenditure figures for the 10 months ended 31 January 2003 was **accepted**.

3.2 Five Year Plan

In the absence of the Treasurer, this matter was deferred to the next meeting. It was noted that the Development Review may identify other financial implications and this would be reported at the next meeting.

3.3 **Salary Review (Confidential Item)**

The Administration Manager left the meeting for this item, which is confidentially recorded separately.

3.4 **Audit Fees**

The proposed audit fee of £5,000 plus VAT was **agreed**. It was clarified that the additional work carried out by the Auditor following implementation of MIAMI was an additional charge.

4 **General Manager's Report**

The General Manager's report was **noted**.

Disabled Discrimination Act – It was **agreed** that the General Manager should tender for reasonable adjustments for access to the office building at Aylesbury, in accordance with requirements of the Act.

Minibridge Study – It was confirmed that the press function at the House of Commons on the 8 April 2003 between 2.00 and 4.00pm would go ahead, with the Minister of State for Schools in attendance at some point during the function.

Company Barclaycard – **Approval** was given to increase the expenditure limit for the Tournament Manager's Barclaycard to £10,000 per month.

Mr Harris left the meeting

5 **Development Plan Update**

A separate meeting prior to the start of the Board meeting covered this matter and it was **agreed** that a draft document would be available for the next Board meeting.

6 **Committee Reports**

6.1 **Computer Working Party – 5 March 2003**

Mr Martin provided an overview of the minutes highlighting the following:

CASS – The latest version was currently being piloted at Aylesbury, with a number of bugs and queries being identified. A meeting with C Barrable was arranged for 21 March to agree final requirements.

MIAMI – Phase One was still on target for completion at the end of March. The problems identified previously had all been dealt with and Accounts Department was pleased and satisfied with the revisions made.

6.2 **Editorial Board – 4 February 2003**

Ms Hamilton reported that the current political situation could have an effect on holiday and advertising income. The Interactive Newsletter is likely to go ahead in approximately one month.

6.3 **Education Sub-Committee – 18 March 2003**

The meeting was postponed.

7 BGB Matters

Mr Neville reported that the proposal agreed at the previous meeting as to how the income stream relating to Scotland and Wales might be handled was presented to the BGB meeting. Mr Neville explained at the meeting that the EBU felt strongly that the bulk of income came from EBU members and that it would be appropriate to review the share. Following a full discussion NBO representatives agreed to go back to their Committees and to make representations as to what they think the situation should be from 2004. The minutes of this meeting have not yet been circulated.

Mr Neville pointed out that it costs Scotland and Wales the same amount to send teams to events and their funding has to be found from a smaller bridge playing population. It was questioned how far we should go in accommodating any future proposals. A full discussion resulted in a proposal to propose to Scotland and Wales for acceptance of a formula along the lines of 60:20:20, 70:15:15 and 80:10:10 each for a period of 3 years, thereafter to be agreed on a 3 year arrangement. This proposal was **agreed** by a vote of 6 to 2.

8 EBL and WBF Matters – covered earlier in meeting.

9 Constitutional Changes

There were no constitutional matters.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Overseas Congress – The General Manager circulated the results of the questionnaire sent to people attending the Madeira Congress. The result was overwhelmingly in favour of holding a future event. However, the EBU should negotiate for the bridge facilities and include the cost of this in the cost of bridge entry and leave Overseas Travel and Tourism to negotiate the cost of the accommodation and travel. It was **agreed** that Overseas Travel and Tourism should be given the opportunity to work with us going to Portugal on the dates specified and to look at entry fees for the bridge and accommodation/travel packages separately.

10.2 Sponsorship – Seniors Congress – Following a query from Mr Morris it was confirmed that that the General Manager would discuss this further with Overseas Travel and Tourism.

The Chairman congratulated Karen Etchells on her career move to pastures new and thanked her on behalf of the Board and Council for her support and commitment.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 May 2003 at 12.30pm
at 40 Bernard Street, London