



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION
HELD AT 40 BERNARD STREET, LONDON
ON TUESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2004**

Present:	Denis Robson	(DR)	Chairman
	Tom J Bradley	(TB)	Treasurer
	Philip G Mason	(PM)	Vice Chairman
	Sally Bugden	(SB)	
	John Carter	(JC)	
	Chris Dixon	(CD)	
	David Harris	(DH)	
	Jeff K Morris	(JM)	
	Alan Nelson	(AN)	
	John D Neville	(JN)	
	Terry Collier	(TC)	General Manager
	Clare Farthing	(CF)	Minute Taker

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 2 SEPTEMBER 2004

2.1 Accuracy

Item 2.2.5: the last 3 words 'would be expected' should be deleted.

Item 5: JN advised that he, Alaine Hamilton, Terry Collier and Anna Gudge had a productive meeting.

Item 2.1: TB requested that the word 'he' be inserted between 'and' and 'had'.

The minutes were **approved** as an accurate record of the meeting, subject to the above changes.

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 Constitutional Reform (2.2.1)

TC

TC advised that the papers handed out arrived this morning and would welcome any comments by the end of this week. The Chairman advised that we would need to hold an EGM with a 'special notice period' on 12 January. DH and JN were less than satisfied with the quality of the advice we have received from Hammonds and asked that this be brought to their attention, with a view to compensation.

2.2.2 National Bridge Centre (2.2.4)

TC

Whilst concern was expressed in respect to this proposal, it was agreed that we should combine a site visit with the next Board meeting. This matter would be deferred to the next Board meeting on 25 January 2004.

2.2.3 Bridgemate Terminals (2.2.5.)

BOARD

JC reported that trials had been held at South Bucks and Wimbledon Clubs. He had attended the South Bucks trial and reported that whilst the outcome was favourable, a few snags had been highlighted. He urged members of the Board to take advantage of these on-going trials and would be pleased to accompany anyone that was interested.

2.2.4 Youth Development (6) – Meeting 13 October 2004

TB/TC

TB advised that two meetings had been held. The first dealt with our International squads/teams. He outlined the work of our new Squad Managers and the progress that had been made. The Board extended their thanks to Mel Starkings and Paul Bowyer and confirmed their permanent appointments. The Board designated Messrs Starking and Bowyer as youth representatives to the Selection Committee for the current year, in accordance with the bye-laws.

It was reported that a good number of Under 25 young women have applied to be participants in Squad activities with a view to entering the Under 25 Women's category of next year's European Championship. The Board welcomed this and it was agreed that, should this event take place, then we should send a team.

TB outlined the concerns of Andrew Kambites in respect to the method of dealing with disciplinary/conduct issues within our squads and teams. It was noted that our Squad Manager's had the authority, if they saw fit, to suspend a team member. Andrew Kambites felt that this authority should be extended, allowing Squad Managers to exclude any suspended player from taking their place in a selected team. The Board felt that the current process via the Selection Committee is sufficient.

The second meeting was focused around 'The Way Ahead' document and was not as successful and was difficult to chair. However, the North East pilot scheme will proceed as outlined with the valuable assistance of both Ken Pattison and Cedric Cockcroft.

The matter of MiniBridge scoring was debated in detail. Unfortunately, agreement on a single standard scoring approach could not be reached. Therefore, in future we will recommend the EBU approach, but draw attention to variations.

2.2.5 Diary & Handbook (8)

TC

It was noted that a large number of suggestions have been made, by members, with a view to improving the content of next year's publication. To accommodate many of these suggestions it was agreed that we would not include the club listing in next year's diary, thereby allowing us to keep to a 150 page format. The club listing will be published in full on the website, subject to data protection consent being granted.

3. FINANCIAL MATTERS

3.1 *Treasurer's Report*

The report was noted.

3.2 *Accounts for five Months ended 31 August 2004*

TB/TC

Matters relating to the performance of the Bridge Shop and the decline in membership will be reviewed next week with TC and reported at the next meeting. It was noted that we are unlikely to reach our target of halting the decline in membership this year. The positive position with Competitions was welcomed. The accounts were noted.

3.3 *Budget Process and Timetable*

This document was noted.

3.4 *Personal Expenses, Allowances, Fees and Charges Review*

TC

TB confirmed that this is an annual review and recommended acceptance of Max Bavin's proposals. Car mileage allowance would increase by 1p/mile, meal allowances would be unchanged. Tournament Director's remuneration would be increased. These changes would increase the annual cost of Tournament Director's by 2.36%.

John Pain recommended 2.25% for Tournament Director Training Tutor Fees.

These were both approved.

4. MASTER POINTS DISCUSSION PAPER

PM

PM advised he had received numerous comments which had been very varied in their reaction. Generally the Board supported the proposals with the exception of the proposed depreciation of Master Points. After a lengthy discussion it was resolved that the discussion paper should be circulated to Council for inclusion on the next agenda. The views of the Board should also be given, that being the recommendation to remove the depreciation proposal.

5. MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

TB/TC

The Chairman advised that as part of our membership development activities we should work with interested county associations. In particular, we should undertake a "pilot scheme" that might result in increased membership. He outlined a proposal that has been made by Middlesex and it was agreed that this should be progressed, with Council being kept involved.

It was also noted that our new IT system allows us to operate a "Joint" Membership Category, for those members who live at the same address. This might allow us to offer a modest reduction in membership fees, for those who only require one copy of *English Bridge*. It was agreed that TB and TC would discuss this and subject to it gaining Officer approval, this would be placed before the January meeting of Council.

Also tabled was a 'welcome pack' and 'membership application form', which was approved, subject to clarification in respect to a stated claim about the increasing average age of our membership.

A recommended programme of membership renewal for 2005/6 was approved.

6. PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE SCHEME

TC

An incentive scheme proposal from Goldshore Ltd was presented. CD felt that we should promote our own products and services rather than offering external promotional campaigns and services that could devalue our marketable brand. It was felt that our members were not seeking discounts, but something they cannot get elsewhere. SB suggested they set up a marketing group to explore this concept and it was agreed that SB, CD and TC would meet in this regard.

The Board recommended this incentive scheme proposal be put on hold, pending the new marketing group's findings.

7. MINIBRIDGE DEVELOPMENT

DH

TC gave a progress report in respect to the production of a self teach MiniBridge CD. To fund this he has established a possible partnership with Richard Edwards Ltd who are keen to produce a family game for the retail market. We are currently awaiting the outcome of a grant application, by Richard Edwards, to the London Development Agency. If successful, funds would be available to produce prototypes and to take the product to the marketplace for Christmas 2005.

TC asked DH if he could clarify if any copyright existed in respect to MiniBridge with other NBOs.

8. PROPOSED BRIDGE & GOLF SCHEME

TC

The proposal to form a Bridge & Golf Society in conjunction with Goodform Ltd was approved.

9. BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

DR – Chairman, External Relations, Aylesbury HQ and Development Committee

PM – Vice-Chairman, Tournament Committee, Licensing, Master Points and County & Club liaison

TB – Treasurer, Strategic Financial Plan, Chairman – Youth Development, Membership Administration and Bridge Shop

SB – Chair of Editorial Board, Marketing Working Group

CD – Remunerations Committee, Selection Committee and Marketing Working Group

JC - Remunerations Committee, Technical Developments and Youth Development

DH – EBL/WBF matters and Legal Advice

JM – Youth Development, Sponsorship, Secretary General of the Mind Sports Council and secondary role on the Marketing Working Group

AN – Tournament Committee, Sponsorship and Remunerations Committee

JN – BGB matters

10. AGM OF EBU LIMITED AND EBU COUNCIL

There was nothing to note.

11. DATES AND VENUES FOR NEXT YEAR'S MEETING

Tuesday 25 Jan 2005 – Kettering Park Hotel, Kettering

Wednesday 16 March 2005 – Sir Robert McAlpines, London

Tuesday 10 May 2005 – EBU Office, Aylesbury

Tuesday 12 July 2005 – Kettering Park Hotel, Kettering

Tuesday 27 September 2005 – Sir Robert McAlpines, London

Tuesday 8 November 2005 – Sir Robert McAlpines, London

12. BGB MATTERS

The group has not met since April and next week's meeting is possibly being cancelled, due to no items needing to be discussed.

The Board confirmed Mr Neville as EBU's BGB delegate for 2005.

13. EBL AND WBF MATTERS

CD

DH reported on our team's performance in Istanbul and whilst the Open Team had performed extremely well in their group, they were now out of the competition. Our Women's team was still in contention.

The matter of our participation in Barcelona as the 'manufactured' All England Club had not been uniformly well received. The Chairman, therefore, asked CD to raise the issue with the Selection Committee.

Invitations to the EBL Seminar, in February 2005 have now been received and it is hoped that we will participate in full. The Chairman confirmed that we would be represented by the appropriate people.

14. APPOINTMENT OF YOUTH VOTING REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

It was agreed that Mel Starkings and Paul Bowyer be appointed.

15. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Nothing to report.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

TC advised that the office would be closed from midday on Friday 24 December 2004 and would re-open on Tuesday 4 January 2005.

TC advised that TV coverage from Istanbul would be on SKY later this month. He was still awaiting a full programme, which will be posted on our website, but believes that 4/6 programmes will be televised.

***These minutes will be formally approved at the
next Board meeting***

on Tuesday 25 January 2005 at Kettering Park Hotel

(All meetings commence at 12.30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated)