



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

Present:	Philip G Mason	(PM)	Vice Chairman (Chairman of this meeting)
	Tom J Bradley	(TB)	Treasurer
	John Carter	(JC)	
	David Harris	(DH)	
	Jeff K Morris	(JM)	
	John D Neville	(JN)	
	Terry Collier	(TC)	General Manager
	Clare Farthing	(CF)	Secretary

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Robson, Ms Hamilton and Mr Stocken.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 5 JULY 2004

2.1 Accuracy

14.3: The Treasurer advised that the affiliated club had not, as yet, requested a loan and he had been authorised to offer a maximum of £20,000, subject to appropriate conditions and safeguards.

The minutes were approved.

2.2 Matters Arising

4.3 is noted and we should bear in mind as a re-seller.

2.2.1 EBU Trust (2.2.1)

DH/TC

The application documentation is now complete and we are awaiting a bank account.

2.2.2 Ryder Cup Event (2.2.2)

PM

Paul Hackett has advised us that an American team would like to attend in 2006 and that they have sponsorship to cover airfares.

It was agreed that we should produce an outline proposal of the proposed event, prior to progressing matters with the EBL. This outline should include financial matters and make it clear that financial responsibility would lie with

the organisers, not the EBU. The match is likely to be played in Ireland, and the close co-operation of their NBO would be needed. The Vice-Chairman agreed to discuss this matter with the Chairman.

2.2.3 *Constitutional Reform (5.)*

TC

Articles and ByeLaws are now complete and the Draft Disciplinary Procedures have been circulated. It is our intention to have the completed Articles, ByeLaws and Disciplinary Procedures available to be circulated with the AGM agenda during week commencing 20 September 2004. It was agreed that we would ask for a representative from Hammonds to attend the AGM. The Treasurer was disappointed that the costs associated with the use of the Sport's Dispute Resolution Panel had not yet been clarified and asked for this information as a matter of urgency.

2.2.4 *National Bridge Centre (6.)*

TC

It was noted that the owners of the Kettering Leisure Village (Phoenix Leisure) have advised us that they now need to move ahead with their refurbishment of the space that could form the basis of the English Bridge Centre. In this regard, they are about to form a new company to undertake the refurbishment (£100,000 has been allocated) and the continued operation of this space as a meeting seminar and training centre. They are still very keen for us to make use of this space as the National Bridge Centre and appreciate our use will be predominately at weekends. To progress matters they have asked that we confirm our interest in this project. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that TC would provide information to the next Board meeting to include costings for us to establish a Centre for our requirements as discussed.

2.2.5 *Bridgemate Terminals (4.3)*

JC

The question of whether we should become involved in the sales and marketing in items such as the Bridgemate were reconsidered and it was agreed that we would resolve this matter when more information was known. There was discussion on the pilot trial of Bridgemate at the Bridge Clubs at Wimbledon and South Bucks; the idea being that the Board and Aylesbury staff experience/witness the capabilities of the technology.

3. FINANCIAL MATTERS

TC

The Bridge Shop is of concern as sales and profit are below budget. It was noted that the General Manager will be investigating this matter in some detail, with a view to reporting back to the next Board. With the exception of this item it was noted that all other matters were in line with budget.

3.1 Treasurer's Report

The report was noted.

3.1.1 Bank Mandate

The Board agreed that CF should be added to the Bank Mandate.

3.2 Management Accounts for Four Months ended 30 July 2004

The accounts were noted.

4. DEVELOPMENT PLAN – UPDATE

TC

As we approach the 1st anniversary of the launch of our Development Plan, the General Manager presented a report outlining progress to date. He drew attention to the fact that the year had been one of consultation and planning for the future. It was also noted that if we are to meet the aims of the plan, it is essential that we be progressive in our ideas and in this regard he presented the following two projects for the Board's views:

1. **Bridge Box** – a gift to be marketed on the Internet that will contain a Book, diary, and packs of cards and membership of the EBU.
2. **MiniBridge** – a self teach animated programme that will be marketed into schools. In addition, the programme will form the base of a MiniBridge boxed game that is planned to be produced and marketed by a third party.

It was agreed that both projects were of great interest and should be progressed.

5. SIM PAIRS

JN

Mr Neville advised that he, Alaine Hamilton and Terry Collier had a productive meeting with Anna Gudge, and that whilst it was agreed that the current programme of Sim Pairs is nearing saturation point there were still openings for a small number of specialist events. It was recommended that we should not sanction any new events but we should progress the staging of three themed events, they being:

- The National Christmas Fun Week - December
- The Bridge Lovers Week - February
- National Flaming Slam Week – June

It is proposed that 5 sets of hands and commentaries would be available, electronically, during the above mentioned weeks and that these would be free to all affiliated clubs. Should participating clubs wish to have their scores dealt with on a national basis, then this service would be available directly, at a small cost, by E-Cats.

Master points would be awarded at District level based on the results at each club, but there would be no master points in respect of any national ranking.

It was agreed that this proposal should be progressed and launched as soon as possible.

6. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

TB

Mr Bradley advised that whilst progress had been made with the Youth Squads, there was a need to accelerate other activities. It is intended to hold a meeting of interested parties on 13 October 2004. This was noted and it was agreed that feedback would be given at the next Board meeting.

7. IT PROJECTS

TC

Enterprise

The General Manager was pleased to advise the Board that Enterprise had gone 'live' on 1 September and is now in use throughout the office. Clearly this matter needs to be monitored over the coming weeks, whilst the system beds in and our staff become conversant with its operation. In this regard, a staff meeting has been programmed for 1 October, at which all members of staff will have the opportunity of identifying any problems that they may have encountered.

CASS

We are currently working some 3 months behind schedule, but it is hoped that our final version which was intended for August 2004 will be available in October/November. Once this version has been launched we will be in a position to consider how we might work with other scoring systems, in regard to Masterpoints.

8. DIARY & HANDBOOK REPORT

TC

TC updated the Board on the number of complaints and suggestions, some of which had been aggressive and unpleasant.

It was agreed that whilst we should take account of these suggestions and where appropriate to make improvements for the future, it was generally felt that the diary had been a great success and had been well received by the majority of our members. The General Manager was asked to present his proposals for future diaries to another meeting of the Board.

9. CHAIRMAN & TREASURERS REPORT FOR AGM

TB

The Chairman's draft report was noted and subject to a small number of alterations will be circulated with the AGM's agenda. The Treasurer's Report will follow in due course.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 *Editorial Board – 3 August 2004*

The minutes were approved.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 *Invite from Australian Bridge Federation*

TC

This matter was noted and it was agreed that a representative team should be sent, subject to cost, terms and conditions. A letter to this effect is to be sent.

11.2 *Letter from Margaret Curtis*

PM

This matter was noted and it was agreed that the Chairman would respond

upon his return from holiday. In the meantime, it was suggested that Mr Mason would speak to Margaret Curtis.

11.3 Letter to Ron Boddy

TC

The General Manager has previously advised the Board that he and our Press Agent had been progressing the matter of televised bridge. Unfortunately, their efforts were being somewhat thwarted by people in the bridge community who may have a personal interest excluding the EBU from these developments. Whilst not accusing the WBF of this, he did bring to our attention that the TV production company in question have now entered into an agreement with the WBF to televise four of their events on Sky Television. We understand that the first event will be the Olympiad in Istanbul and that 10 slots have been booked for this coverage.

Whilst this news is long awaited it was agreed that it is a shame that we are not seen to be the final deliverers of the project. The efforts, on our behalf, by Mr Boddy are noted and appreciated.

11.4 Mind Sports

Mr Morris advised that the Bridge programme in this year's Minds Sports Olympiad had been very successful, with an attendance that was some three times greater than previous years.

Mr Morris advised that a meeting of the Mind Sports Council had been held at the Mind Sports Olympiad on 23 August and that all in attendance had reiterated their desire for us to lobby government in respect to gaining recognition for Mind Sports. In this regard, it is proposed to form a Mind Sports Group in Westminster so that those MP's with a specific interest in Mind Sports can come together to lobby.

11.5 RE-ELECTIONS

Mr Mason advised the Board that Alaine Hamilton and Peter Stocken would not be standing for re-election to the Board and expressed his thanks to both of them for all their excellent work on behalf of the EBU.

BOARD MEETINGS

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

Tuesday 2 November 2004, 40 Bernard Street, London