



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION
HELD AT 40 BERNARD STREET, LONDON
ON TUESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2005**

Present:	Denis Robson	Chairman
	Philip Mason	Vice-Chairman
	John Neville	Treasurer
	Terry Collier	General Manager
	Sally Bugden	
	John Carter	
	Graham Jepson	(Departed 16:25 due to a prior engagement)
	Jeff Morris	
	Alan Nelson	
	Martin Pool	
	Clare Smith	Minute Taker

The Chairman welcomed the two new Board members Graham Jepson and Martin Pool.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from David Harris.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING 27TH SEPTEMBER 2005

2.1 Accuracy

Jeff Morris requested it be noted his late arrival at the last meeting was due to the fact that he was representing the EBU at a meeting of the CCPR.

Item **9.2**: John Neville expressed concern the minutes may give the impression a Tea & Coffee charge of £3.50 per day at the Tollemache event in Kettering was voluntary, when in fact it is a compulsory charge.

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

2.2 Matters Arising

Lancashire Membership Scheme

Concern still exists that non EBU members are able to enter County Tournaments and leagues, therefore the General Manager was asked to seek written clarification from the County Secretary.

3. FINANCIAL MATTERS

3.1 Treasurer's Report

It was noted the half yearly figures were close to expectation with good savings being made in regard to Overheads. It is the intention of the Treasurer to meet with the General Manager to discuss this matter in more detail; this will be reported at the next Board meeting.

The Treasurers report was **approved**.

3.2 Personal Expenses, Allowances, Fees & Charges

A report on this matter will be produced for the next meeting of the Board.

3.3 Budget Prices & Timetable

The timetable was noted and agreed.

4. AGM OF EBU LIMITED

The dates for next years Shareholders meetings are as follow:

15th February 2006 Imperial Hotel – Russell Square
7th June 2006 Kettering Leisure Centre

The AGM will be held on 4th October 2006 at the Imperial Hotel London rather than the original suggested date of 18th October 2006.

It was noted some Shareholders were seeking more information in respect to the Board's business and therefore we would attempt to provide more detail in the minutes, whilst maintaining a modern business approach.

EBU Website

The General Manager advised the Web Portal had now been installed and a "member room" would come on line as previously reported. He also advised we would shortly be bringing this room to the attention of all members who have given us e-mail addresses and all other members will be notified by post of arrangements when membership renewal forms are sent out in February 2006.

It was suggested for an EBU link page to be placed on Club and County Websites in order to improve our communications and profile. Martin Pool stated that Sussex CBA was working with a company who provide Club Websites and felt that this service could be extended to the product they are developing. It was agreed for Martin Pool and John Carter to meet with staff at Aylesbury to progress this.

Bridgemates

The General Manger advised 90 Bridgemates have been ordered for delivery in February 2006. Ten of the units and the server will be made and forwarded to Chris Dixon, as soon as available to enable him to test the scoring system he is producing for us.

Concern was expressed by Martin Pool that we are producing a new scoring system rather than acquiring an existing one. It was explained we had been in discussion with two system providers but, it appeared the offer from Chris Dixon met our requirements more accurately.

On behalf of Sussex Martin Pool declared an interest in Bridgemates.

5. STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT

At the Chairman's request, Alan Nelson initiated the discussion, which was to have led to the consideration of the papers from the General Manager and from John Carter, who had documented the findings and recommendations of the Strategy Sub Committee.

In summary he stated that, whilst there had been good progress in a number of development initiatives, the 2003 Development Plan had not been successfully achieved, nor had the loss of member confidence been stemmed.

One of the main reasons was that the Mission Statement and consequent strategy had been too ambitious and excessively focussed on the recruitment of new members, rather than improvements for existing members.

He reported a revised Mission Statement:

"For the benefit of its members to achieve and maintain excellence in the provision of its core activities, the administration, regulation and development of duplicate Bridge and to seek to increase membership through extension of EBU services to relevant new market sectors in England".

He emphasised that only by improvements in our core activities and services could we hope to encourage bridge players to remain with, or join the EBU. Accordingly, resource allocation, both physical and financial should be directed at least 80% to the management, improvement and development of core activities.

The Board discussed the implications of such a changed strategy on the General Manager's recommendations for a revised operational management structure and also on the work of the Membership Development Committee.

It concluded that, as their findings were similar, the Strategy Sub-Committee and Membership Development Committee should be merged and charged with recommending a revised strategy under the Chairmanship of Philip Mason.

Significant changes to the EBU management would be deferred pending this.

The Board agreed firm decisions are to be made in future meetings.

6. BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES & GM'S ROLE

- DR** - Chairman, External Relations, Aylesbury HQ, Development and Committee
- PM** - Vice Chairman, Tournament Committee, Licensing and County & Club liaison
- JN** - Treasurer, Strategic Financial Plan, Administration, Bridge Shop and BGB Matters
- SB** - Chair of Editorial Board
- JC** - Remunerations Committee, Technical Developments
- DH** - EBL & WBF and Legal Matters
- GJ** - EBUTA, Youth Development
- JM** - Youth Development, Sponsorship, Secretary General of the Mind Sports Council
- AN** - Chair of Tournament Committee, Sponsorship and Remunerations Committee
- MP** - Law & Ethics Committee.

It was agreed the Chairman would attempt to attend Selection Committee meetings to maintain an effect link with the Board. If he is unable to attend Philip Mason and/or John Neville will deputise. It was agreed that should other members of the Board wish to attend then this should be at their own expense.

The roles of Directors and Managers were discussed and information from the Institute of Directors was referred to. It was agreed that this matter will be revisited at a later date.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1. L&E Committee – 21st September 2005

Martin Pool advised the Board publication of the Orange Book is almost complete and it was agreed to attempt to publish in May/June 2006 in time for the Brighton Congress.

Minutes **approved**.

8. **BGB MATTERS**

Discussions are still underway in respect to the sponsorship offer from Bernard Teltscher for the introduction of a Seniors Camrose event.

It was agreed that John Neville should be the EBU's delegate to BGB for 2006, with Philip Mason as alternate.

9. **EBL and WBF MATTERS**

In the absence of David Harris there was nothing to report.

10. **DATES & VENUES FOR NEXT YEARS BOARD MEETINGS**

Tuesday	24 January 2006	Kettering Leisure Village
Tuesday	14th March 2006	Kettering Leisure Village
Tuesday	9th May 2006	Aylesbury
Wednesday	12th July 2006	Kettering Leisure Village
Tuesday	19th September 2006	Kettering Leisure Village
Tuesday	14th November 2006	Kettering Leisure Village

11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

11.1 It was noted the office will close at noon 23rd December 2005 and re-open on 3rd January 2006.

11.2 Jeff Morris advised the Board, with the Board's agreement, a joint campaign with the British Chess Federation could be undertaken in respect to gaining sport recognition. An initial meeting with Evan Harris MP was very positive and other MP's may well give their support. The Board agreed this should be pursued.

It was also reported that Chess have recently produced a booklet in conjunction with the Department of Education giving information about the game and how to set up after school clubs. It was agreed that we should attempt to design a similar booklet.

He also brought to the attention of the Board we may not be able to deal directly with the Criminal Record Bureau in the future and that the CCPR was offering a service to its members. The General Manager was fully aware of this situation and would be reporting on resource implication once we have been notified of a need to change.

11.3 General Manager advised the following procedure will be followed in respect to next year's Renewal Notices:

- Renewal letters will be sent out with the February issue of English Bridge
- An article will remind members in the April issue
- An article advising members that they will not receive membership benefit if they have not joined by 31st July will be in the June issue

- Final reminder letters will be sent by the end of August.

In agreeing this procedure for 2006 it was felt that the Board should consider a more condensed reminder process with an earlier cut off date for membership rights in the future. This would however require changes to our Bye Laws which currently permit membership right up to the 1st August

This procedure was **approved**.

- 11.4** The Board appointed the current Junior Team Managers to represent them at Selection Meetings and agreed that in future their representatives would automatically pass to persons holding these two positions.

(THESE MINUTES WILL BE APPROVED AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING)

**The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th January 2006 at
Kettering Leisure Village**

(All meetings commence at 12:30 unless otherwise indicated)