



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION
HELD AT KETTERING PARK HOTEL, KETTERING
ON TUESDAY 12TH JULY 2005**

Present:	Denis Robson	Chairman
	Philip Mason	Vice Chairman
	John D Neville	Treasurer
	Sally Bugden	
	John Carter	
	David Harris	(Arrived 1:05pm departed 3:45pm)
	Jeff K Morris	
	Alan Nelson	
	Terry Collier	General Manager
	Clare Smith	Minute Taker

1. A minutes silence was held in memory of Tom Bradley.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies from Chris Dixon and late arrival from David Harris.

The Chairman welcomed Tony Parks the Auditor and it was agreed that the Draft Accounts would be dealt with as first item on the agenda.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 11TH MAY 2005

3.1 Accuracy

No matters were raised and the Minutes were approved.

3.2 Matters Arising

3.2.1 Master Points Discussion Paper

The Vice Chairman outlined the findings of the working group and drew attention to item 9 of the Minutes of the Tournament Committee of 8th June 2005, which covered this matter.

The question of whether we should continue to award pens in preference to a new style certificate was discussed. It was resolved that we should adopt the certificate approach and to explore a way in

which the presentation of these can be made in the most effective way for members and clubs.

3.2.2. Lancashire Membership scheme

David Harris apologised for being unable to progress this matter but agreed to investigate this matter prior to the next meeting.

3.2.3. Senior Camrose

The Board is keen to progress this matter and to provide a positive response to the offer of sponsorship. Therefore it was agreed Max Bavin be asked to provide a cost estimate for completion (based on Lady Milne format) if staged in conjunction with another event, and that Mr Neville would then take the matter further with BGB.

4. FINANCIAL MATTERS

4.1 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented his report up to 31st March 2005 and this was noted.

Membership Subscriptions

The proposed subscriptions for 2006/2007 were approved and would be presented at the next Shareholders meeting 20th July 2005.

Master Points

It was agreed to increase the cost of certificate from 36p to 38p from 1st April 2006. The Treasurer is minded to recommend a further 2p increase from 1st April 2007.

Licence Fees

It was agreed no increase in charges to be made for the time being but that a major review of this activity would be undertaken and recommendations made during the coming year.

Bank Mandate

It was agreed that a new mandate is required and that John Neville and Clare Smith would replace Tom Bradley and Clare Farthing.

4.2 Draft Annual Accounts for Year End 31st March 2005

Mr Parks, Auditor, presented the draft Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2005, and answered various questions from Board members. It was noted that the Auditor was submitting an unqualified report and that the installation of the Enterprise system had placed

considerable pressure on all staff since its introduction in September 2004, but the system was working well. Mr Parks also requested that a monthly Bank reconciliation be maintained in the future.

Subject to minor amendments agreed, the financial statements will be tabled at the July Shareholders meeting, with a view to adoption at the AGM in October.

5. MARKETING GROUP – EBU WEBSITE

Whilst considerable improvements have taken place in respect to our website it is acknowledged that more work is needed as outlined in the presented paper. The General Manager advised that he had received a letter from Anna Gudge outlining some of the cost associated with this work and is seeking clarification on some points. He also advised that work is currently being undertaken at Aylesbury that could reduce this figure considerably and provide a vastly improved service to our individual members and specialists. This involves making full use of the single data base that has been established by Enterprise allowing automatic identification of members (via password system) allowing access to a wide range of services including event booking, purchases from the Bridge Shop and access to specialist rooms for Teachers, TD etc. These new developments are currently being worked on and should be in test mode in the very near future.

6. DEVELOPMENT PLAN – Progress Report

Despite the fact that this report identified problems in achieving some of the aims of the Development Plan, particularly in respect to the doubling of our membership by the year 2008, the report was well received. In view of the importance of this matter and the forthcoming discussion to be held at the Shareholder's Meeting on 20th July, it was agreed that this hold this over for future deliberation.

A copy of the new *Bridge for All* Work Book was admired and support was given to the new operational arrangements.

A report relating to a proposed Mission Statement was tabled by John Carter on behalf of four members of the Board and it was agreed to hold this over to a future meeting. In this regard it was agreed that a special meeting of the Board should be held to discuss strategy in general and the outstanding items from this meeting.

An updated staffing organizational chart was requested, to be available for the next meeting.

7. USE OF KETTERING CONFERENCE CENTRE

The Chairman advised that he had visited the centre prior to our meeting and could report that work was underway in respect to the refurbishment of the areas that could form the proposed National

Bridge Centre. It was also reported that a very detailed Outline Planning Application had been submitted for the whole site and that there are four hotel proposals currently being explored.

Reference was made to item 6.3 of the Tournament Committee's minutes of 8th June 2005. It was noted that they shared the Board's view that every effort should be made to ensure the success of the events planned for Kettering but disagreed with the need to provide special arrangements. The Board agreed with this and have instructed the General Manager to proceed with this matter.

8. ROLES OF COMMITTEES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The papers presented to the last meeting were briefly discussed and it was clear that concern existed. It was therefore agreed to hold this matter over until a time when Chris Dixon can contribute to the debate.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 *Tournament Committee – 8th June 2005*

The minutes were accepted.

9.2 *Selection Committee – 6th June 2005*

The papers presented in the last meeting were briefly discussed as the minutes were not yet available.

9.3 *Laws & Ethics Committee - 22nd June 2005*

The minutes were accepted.

9.4 *Sponsorship Meeting - 11th May 2005*

Held over to the next meeting.

10. BGB MATTERS

Nothing to report.

11. EBL AND WBF MATTERS

David Harris reported on the problems that the EBL had experienced in staging the European Open Championships in Tenerife and their poor financial situation. Concern was also expressed by Alan Nelson who had played in the event and represented us at the NBO meeting.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jeff Morris asked to be a representative at the next CPR meeting and this was agreed.

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

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th September 2005
40 Bernard Street, London

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