



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HELD AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, LONDON, ON THURSDAY
23rd October 2008.**

Present:	Sally Bugden	(Chairman)
	Andrew Petrie	(Vice-Chairman)
	Michael Hill	(Hon. Treasurer)
	John Carter	
	Graham Jepson	
	Jeff Morris	
	Alan Nelson	
	Malcolm Oliver	
	Martin Pool	
	Peter Stocken	
	Barry Capal	(General Manager)
	Karen Durrell	(Minute taker)

Opening the meeting the Chairman welcomed the members of the Board back for another term.

The Board formally noted their congratulations to our international teams for their excellent efforts at the 1st World Mind Sports Games in Beijing.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 18th September 2008

2.1.1 Accuracy

Item 12, page 6. Yorkshire Primary Schools was amended to Sheffield Primary Schools.

Subject to the above amendment the minutes were signed as a true record.

2.1.2 Matters Arising

Item 12 Youth Education Trust

Barry Capal met with Jeff Morris, David Adelman, Kevin Comrie and Mike Amos in Manchester regarding Mini Bridge in schools scheme. The funding from the Milton Damerel Trust had been deposited in the Youth Education Trust which will be used to fund the scheme. There is one probable group in Middlewich, Cheshire and other groups in the pipeline. Barry Capal will report back to Milton Damerel Trust every six months.

David Adelman is to request permission of the teacher in his video to use for a promotional film. This would be used as a testimonial, and a link will be created to the EBU website via YouTube.

Matt Betts to also write an article for a future issue of *English Bridge* to promote the scheme.

Item 5 – Selection

Chairman proposed Max Bavin to attend future Selection Meetings, the Board approved. No voting right required.

The Board confirmed that there would be no funding available for the Seniors Captain position.

Peter Stocken and Max Bavin to revise report, when completed, the Chairman will write a covering letter to send along with the report which will be sent to the new Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will be asked to do their own detailed budget, they will not have more than £47,500 for the year 2009/10 and £80,000 for 2010/11. This amount excludes Under 25 activities, management charges and salaries.

The success at the World Mind Sports Games lead to a discussion about raising the profile of the international players, the Chairman stated that she would be meeting with Steve Eginton and Marilyn Malinowska to discuss this subject on 4 November 2008.

It is hoped that a presentation of all the teams will be held at the London Year End Congress.

A debate ensued on the merits of having a Chef de Mission to organise the eating, accommodation and travel arrangements for all the teams that attend an event, and reducing the team personnel to an NPC/coach. This idea will be put forward in the letter the Chairman will be sending to the Selection Committee.

2.2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 2nd October 2008

Minutes were signed as an accurate record.

3 BOARD MATTERS

3.1 Responsibilities

Those with the responsibility for standing committees are responsible for the budget process for that committee.

All Board Members are requested to attend the Shareholder Meeting and if a Board member is also a Shareholder to stand down as Shareholder to avoid possible conflict.

Sally Bugden	Chairman EBU, Chairman EB Editorial Board, Chairman BUMP, Chairman Business Planning Team, Education, representative EBL and WBF
John Carter	Chairman NRS Working Group and Member BUMP
Michael Hill	Treasurer, Member BUMP and Member Business Planning Team
Graham Jepson	Youth Matters and Chairman Club Committee
Jeff Morris	Youth Matters, Government representation
Alan Nelson	Chairman Regionalisation Working Group
Malcolm Oliver	Sponsorship and fundraising, the Bridge Shop, Member Business Planning Team, Scams identification and avoidance and English representative for BGB
Andrew Petrie	Vice Chairman, Chairman Tournament Committee, Member Business Planning Team, Member BUMP and Overall responsibility organisational development
Martin Pool	Laws and Ethics, Constitutional Matters including Bye Law changes for P2P and Assistance for Counties
Peter Stocken	Tournament Directors Development Panel, Selection and Bye Laws

3.2 Election documentation and circulation

Guidance and protocol for future elections need to be created, Vice Chairman to liaise with David Harris. A photograph to be provided for next year's Pen Portraits.

3.3 Dates and Venues for meeting 2008/09

Thursday 15 th January 2009	Imperial Hotel, London, commencing at 12.30pm
Thursday 5 th March 2009	Imperial Hotel, London, commencing at 12.30pm
Wednesday 27 th May 2009	Imperial Hotel, London, commencing at 12.30pm
Tuesday/Wednesday 7 th /8 th July 2009	Chairman's choice of venue TBC
Thursday 17 th September 2009	Imperial Hotel, London, commencing at 12.30pm
Thursday 22 nd October 2009	Imperial Hotel, London, commencing at 12.30pm

4 FINANCIAL MATTERS

4.1 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer said that he had nothing major to report everything is going to plan. September accounts were not ready yet, will be available in November. Review of the management charges is on going.

4.2 Budget Process and Timetable

The Treasurer's proposals for the budget process and timetable were approved. As a matter of courtesy and information the budget would be presented in advance of the March meeting.

The Treasurer reminded the Board member's that they are responsible for their committee/area.

4.3 Master Points

The Treasurer proposed the increase of Master Points by 5% (40p), this was approved. MP books will be raised on the 1st December 08, whilst Direct Credited MP will go up on the 1st January 2009. Treasurer will draft a statement to inform Counties and Clubs. Aylesbury does not hold a high stock of MP books and there is no intention of having any more printed. Aylesbury will assist clubs with the administration of paper MP in other forms and direct crediting.

4.4 The Economic Downturn

We will keep a close look at what will happen in the current economic climate and at what we are doing. We will be vigilant on our expenditure and income streams. The Chairman stated that we were in a stronger position than many small businesses as we have no loans and own our premises.

Bridge is a very cheap leisure activity and we should look at a programme of promoting this fact to new players. Chairman to liaise with Matt and Krys.

5 BUSINESS PLANNING TEAM

The BPT will meet usually a week before each board meeting, and make recommendations to the Board on the implementation of the strategy.

5.1 Business Planning Process

A Five Year Plan is to be done; the last one was done in 2004. P2P will be built in to the five year plan. One of the aims of the five year plan will be to restore the reserves. Conversion to a charity would significantly change the five year plan. There could be several individual changes but the effect of these could easily be summarised in an appendix to the plan.

5.2 Corporate governance and charity registration

The Vice Chairman produced a timetable for the conversion to a charity. The Board agreed with the first part of the timetable but the rest would have to be adjusted with P2P schedule in mind. Vice Chairman agreed to revise the timetable. The General Manger had attended a seminar on charity registration. Many issues had been highlighted and he advised that the BPT will need to arrange a meeting with Mary Groom to discuss in detail.

5.3 Tournament Player Consultation

We are going to consult with our players using an on online survey, the Chairman and Vice Chairman will prepare the survey. We need to ask what our current and future players need and desire. The survey will be done online via the EBU website. Any suggestion/questions please send to the Vice Chairman. This is timetabled for the beginning of 2009.

5.4 Simplification of regulations

Simplification of the Orange Book is moving forward. It was proposed that research needs to be done on how other countries regulate. Vice Chairman suggested a member of the EBU to be approached, the Board agreed. It was also suggested that David Harris and Max Bavin may be in a position to offer assistance. It was noted that Law and Ethics committee already consider other countries regulations.

5.5 Regionalisation

At the last Chairman's Congress it was agreed to discuss the review of regionalisation of the counties. What do the counties want from regionalisation? Alan Nelson agreed to draft an email to the counties, Chairman to approve.

5.6 Role and Responsibilities of our volunteers

Induction and briefing material need to be produced for our volunteers. The Vice Chairman will provide the framework.

5.7 Sponsorship and fund raising

Malcolm Oliver stated that various sponsorship initiatives are currently being investigated.

5.8 Club Committee

Graham Jepson has nothing to report at this time, except all the volunteer were extremely keen and that the next meeting will be in January 2009.

5.9 BUMP

At the next meeting on 29th October 2008 the committee will sign off the first draft of the P2P reference notes/regulations. It was agreed that the System Requirement Specification would be an internal Aylesbury document and will be implemented by the Project Team with external assistance provided by BUMP as and when required or requested.

5.10 Education Strategy

Rob Lawy will be reviewing our education strategy on a voluntary basis.

5.11 NRS

The Board agreed the Terms of Reference with minor changes. The first meeting is being held on 28th October 2008.

6 APPOINTMENT OF DISCIPLINARY PANEL FOR 2008/09

The panel would be as follows:

Joy Mayall - Sussex
Kathleen Nelson - Manchester
Alan Oddie - Bedfordshire
Jackie Pye - Lancashire
Don Smedley- Derbyshire
Jeff Smith - Manchester
Keith Stanley - Gloucestershire
John Williams - Oxford
Ian Raynes – Berks & Bucks
Julie Kennedy - Surrey

Gerard Faulkner has agreed to continue as Pro Bono Advisor for the coming year.

7 EBU OFFICE

There was nothing new to report.

8 REPORTS ON MEETING

8.1 AGM of EBU Ltd

The Chairman asked for corrections/comments from the board to be emailed to her by the end of the weekend.

8.2 Editorial Board – 7th October 2008

The advertising figures were good year on year. We may find that generally we benefit from the economic downturn, as advertisers may want to spend less and will go to a smaller more targeted magazine. There was good feedback on last issue, especially Elena Jeronimidis editorial. The pagination has been increased to 64 pages, with 2 extra advertising pages to cover that cost. Our contract with the printer is done via Loud on yearly basis.

8.3 Tournament Committee – 22 October 2008

Andrew Petrie has now taken over as chairman. The Tournament committee has three main strategic objectives from the 5 year plan:

- 1) Electronic Survey to all players.
- 2) Develop new events with the Club Committee for 2010 and the future.
- 3) Introduce a Newsletter to players.

Tournament Committee have concerns with the National Women's Teams, only 13 teams participated in preliminary event. Sarah Teshome has offered assistance in rejuvenating this event. The Tournament committee has asked for an action plan. Concerns were also raised regarding Great Northern Swiss Pairs and Easter Festival.

The Crockfords Plate is to be held at the same time as the main event.

Direct Crediting of Prize Vouchers at EBU events has been agreed.

8.4 Disciplinary Report

The Board received the report from John Williams (Disciplinary Committee Chairman) from a hearing held in September 2008.

9 BGB MATTERS

Malcolm Oliver raised the matter of member criticism of the BGB website, mainly the updating of results and could the EBU help? It was decided that the EBU could not help at this time.

10 EBL AND WBF MATTERS

The Chairman with the Board's approval will be writing to both the WBF and the EBL.

The WBF letter will be sent to Jose Damiani, copied to all countries and EBL, requesting answers to the lack of promoting the 1st World Mind Sports Games in this country, the charging of taxes on the free flights and the transparency of their accounts.

The EBL letter will be sent to Gianarrigo Rona, copied to all countries and the WBF regarding the increase of subscription and the transparency of their accounts.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Peter Stocken informed the Board that the date for Lords versus Commons had been moved to 28th November 2008 rather than 12 December 2008. Mrs Bugden was disappointed that the exact date had only just been made known and was sorry that in her first year as Chairman she would not be able to attend the match.

Jeff Morris reports that the CCPR actively tried to help with getting the press interested in the 1st World Mind Sports Games. The Chairman thanked Jeff and the CCPR for all their help.

The Bingo Lotto Buddy scheme will be starting again in February 2009 and that we received a cheque for £1000 from the Bingo Lotto pilot scheme.

Subject to any minor changes by Gerard Faulkner and Martin Pool (to be confirmed) the Surrey Constitution was approved.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 15 January 2009 at 12.30 pm.
Imperial Hotel, Russell Square.