



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HELD AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, LONDON, ON THURSDAY
11th MAY 2009.**

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

The Chairman opened the meeting by congratulating the EBU team for winning the Camrose. She also congratulated the England team for winning the Corn Cairdis.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were noted for Alan Nelson.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 5th MARCH 2009

2.1 Accuracy

The minutes were signed as a true record.

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 One Day Joint Ventures

The Board agreed to send out an additional paper with the Surrey proposal stating the Board's position on ODJV.

2.3 Review of action list

All the items on the action list had been completed and were reported in these minutes. Index numbers to be added for ease of reference.

3 FINANCIAL MATTERS

3.1 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the final accounts for 2008/09 were not yet available but the provisional figures indicated that the year-end deficit would be nearer £10,000 rather than £20,000 in the budget and the formal re-forecast.

3.2 Forecast 2008-09 and Revised Budget 2009/10

The final budget papers for the 2009/10 Budget were included for the Board's information.

3.3 Draft papers for Shareholders

The Board were satisfied with the papers the Treasurer proposed to present to the Shareholders.

4 BUSINESS PLANNING TEAM

4.1 BUMP

The Play to Play documents were finalised at the last meeting and have gone out to the Clubs, Counties and Shareholders. The Chairman thanked the BUMP Committee. She stated that it was an incredible feat for a group of volunteers to show such dedication and hard work and within eight months to have created the practical structure and guidance for universal membership via Pay to Play. She also congratulated Andrew Petrie on his outstanding work compiling the guidance notes.

4.1.1 Direct EBU Membership Fee For 2010-2011

The direct membership fee was confirmed to be £23.00.

Karen Durrell to record the club affiliation responses and compare against the original consultation survey. A report to be available at the July Board meeting.

The Club Committee members will be asked to approach those clubs in their various regions who had not responded to the club affiliation agreement. This to start at the beginning of July.

4.2 Bye Law Change update

After discussing the Bye Laws in detail and subject to minor changes the updated Bye Laws were agreed by the Board. Martin Pool is to make the changes, the revised Bye Laws to go to next Shareholders Meeting in June.

4.3 Education Strategy

The Chairman congratulated Rob Lawy for having undertaken an excellent task in researching and writing the education strategy paper. The Board recognised and thanked Rob Lawy for the outstanding job he has done with the education review and subsequent paper.

The Board welcomed Suzanne Gill to the meeting, Suzanne had been asked and agreed to help the Board implement the Education Strategy. She is a retired educationist, the Club Committee representative for the Eastern region and an experienced bridge teacher. The Chairman will be working closely with her to create a 5 year plan for education to be discussed at the July Board meeting.

Suzanne Gill emphasised her support of Rob Lawy's paper which states that the EBU must make Education the main constant of the EBU that this needs to be considered right down at grass roots level i.e. the clubs. It also states that counties should consider appointing an education officer to assist the clubs in their area. The framework for assisting clubs and counties should be provided by the EBU. Suzanne said that Best Behaviour at Bridge needs to be linked in with education at club level.

The Chairman stated that there was a great deal of education support for clubs in the universal membership package which had been emailed to clubs in April, but said that the development of education across all areas needs to be considered.

The possibility of an Education Committee should be considered, to be made up of County Regional Reps, Club Reps, EBU Chairman and John Pain.

Suzanne also supported Rob Lawy's view that the EBU website should be updated, education pages to be reviewed, made 'bigger and brighter' along with membership pages.

The Chairman stated that currently Aylesbury are working on the IT implementation of Pay to Play but that she had addressed this issue in the Five Year Plan for Communications and had scheduled and budgeted it to take place in 2010-2011.

The current year's budget contained funding for training six teacher trainers who will be in place to undertake the free training of club teachers from 2010 onwards.

4.4 Agenda for July Meeting

- 1 Five Year Plans
- 2 Conversion to Charity and Corporate Governance
2011 to be the launch year for the charity conversion
A working group for the charity conversion to be created in August 2009: Chairman Andrew Petrie, Martin Pool, Barry Capal, Patrick Collins with two other members representing the counties. The EBU Chairman and Treasurer will advise and attend meetings when necessary.

- 3 Strategy - Constitution and Bye Laws, Voting structures
- 4 Other documentation to be reviewed:
 - MP Handbook
 - White Book
 - Orange Book
 - Tangerine Book
- 5 Review and approve Accounts

4.5 Benefits to members (HMCA)

The General Manager asked the Board to reconsider the HMCA scheme, which was bought to the Board a few years ago. The scheme seemed to be a good benefit to our members with no risk to the EBU. The Board agreed, Barry Capal to negotiate directly with the HMCA.

The General Manager brought to the Board's attention another possible benefit for our members. Osborne's have made an arrangement with RAC for Breakdown Service, it could be a much as 40% less than current price. The Board agreed for Barry Capal to proceed with this as well.

5 NEW COMPETITIONS IN THE AGE OF PAY TO PLAY AND STAFFING NEEDS

Andrew Petrie reported that with the advent of Universal membership through Pay to Play the EBU membership would increase significantly. These new members will consist mainly of club players who have no wish or aspiration to play in big EBU national events. With that in mind a number of ideas for new competitions aimed at these members are currently being investigated.

We will need to look at resources and, staffing for these activities when their feasibility has been determined

6 CONSTITUTIONS

The Board approved Hertfordshire, Wiltshire Worcestershire and Somerset constitutions. The Board is currently helping 11 counties with their constitution.

The following change to the Bye Laws was agreed earlier in the meeting:

“Any club which is affiliated to an Association shall be affiliated to the Company, and any club which, for geographical or other reasons, cannot be affiliated to an Association may become affiliated to the Company on payment of an Annual Subscription, the amount of which shall be fixed from time to time by the Members in general meeting.”

To make this requirement clearer to all counties Martin Pool to add the line below to the draft county constitution.

“Any Duplicate Bridge Club may affiliate to the Association and all such Clubs shall be affiliated to the EBU”.

The Company Secretary to inform the counties in writing that their constitutions had been approved.

7 EBU OFFICE

7.1 General Manager’s Report

The move to the remote servers has been completed, reviewing some minor issues.

Paper prize vouchers have been discontinued as agreed. The Easter Congress and Spring Fours were the first events to go live without them. This has raised a few administrative issues, which we are resolving. Jeff Morris queried if the prize winners were notified? Barry Capal confirmed that they were.

Pay to Play IT software is on schedule and should be ready for the clubs to test soon.

John Pain has investigated the new requirements for the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and they are no change to our procedures at present.

8 UPDATE ON NGS

John Carter reported that the basic principals had been agreed. The overview had been read by the Club Committee, a communications plan is to be done and the Q&A will have three parts. John has agreed with the Chairman to do a brief presentation at the June Shareholders meeting, documentation to be made available after the meeting. The consultation with members will be done in the third quarter of this year.

9 REPORTS ON MEETINGS

9.1 Tournament Committee – 10th March 2009

9.1.1 Consultation on new Master Point Scheme

Andrew Petrie reported that the consultation papers had been sent to the Counties, Club Committee, Tournament Committee and some of the top players, feedback has been requested back by the end of July.

9.2 Editorial Board – 7th April 2009

The Chairman reported that the Editorial Board were ensuring that *English Bridge* was produced in the most economical way as possible. She has asked Loud for an adverting plan for 2010; she also stated that we are actively seeking professional advice about advertising on our website.

9.3 Selection Committee – 30th April 2009

The Chairman reported that the Selection Committee had been working incredibly hard to incorporate the recommendations for Selection which the Board provided in October 2008. They are following their declaration of interest code and working within their budget. The Chairman thanked them for all their hard work.

9.3.1 Proposal for home series internationals

The Board supported the Selection Committee proposal to ask the EBU delegate to recommend that the BGB revise their rules regarding the sixth team to participate in the Camrose and Lady Milne Trophies. Currently, the sixth team participating is a second team from the host nation. It is the Selection Committee's belief that awarding the sixth place to the nation that won the trophy in the previous year would strengthen the event. They also suggest that, where the sixth team is a second English team, that that team be self-financing. This would help with EBU finances and Selection Committee budget. The Premier League conditions of contest have been set for the 2010, so these changes would be for 2011 onwards.

9.4 Update on Youth Matters – Minutes of last meeting as reported

The Board thanked Clive Owen for all the hard work he did for the Youth Committee. Malcolm Oliver has taken over as Youth Chairman. Sandra Landy has resigned from the Under 25 Women's Squad; Susan Stockdale has agreed to take on the role.

A meeting will be held for the Youth and Education Trust after the Shareholder's meeting in June, to update the trustees.

9.5 Club Committee – 19th January 2009

Graham Jepson reported that it was a good meeting. The Committee had reviewed the paper on future competitions that had been provided by Andrew Petrie and overall felt that it is a good start, but would like to see stratification not flighting. The review of the paper on Master Points post Pay to Play highlighted the confusion our members have regarding the required mix of Black and Green points. The National Grading System was widely praised. The Tangerine book is on its way. Regional representation will be discussed at the next meeting.

9.6 TD Panel update

The panel have a meeting on 20 May 2009. Robin Barker is to become a National TD.

10 BGB MATTERS

Malcolm Oliver reported that the Gold Cup is likely to lose money as entries are down again this year and fixed costs being what they are. Costs are being reduced where possible, including prize money.

Trophy Insurance - a way forward is being investigated which will need approval by the NBO's, mainly due to the ostensible value of the Gold Cup.

Query regarding Silver Cup as in whether it is covered by winners contents policy? BGB are investigating.

Aylesbury stated that their existing facilities for running Knock out tournaments could be used without modification for the Gold Cup including the use of our results facility. However, there would need to be a charge for this to cover the resource investment.

11 EBL AND WBF MATTERS

The Treasurer informed the Board at the last meeting that over the last four years we had sent membership figures which wrongly included our *Bridge For All* members to the WBF & EBL. He confirmed that both organisations have accepted the lower membership figures for this year.

We had also queried the WBF's 10% surcharge last year, which they said was for countries whose currencies had strengthened against the dollar (and Sterling had not). We have received a credit for this from the WBF against this year's dues.

The Board was reminded that when we ban a player from membership of the EBU we must inform the EBL and then EBL will inform the WBF and that this player cannot play at an EBL or WBF events.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jeff Morris asked that water rates problems for bridge clubs, (drainage charges being levied on area not rateable value) should be highlighted in the Club Focus and that we should not underestimate this problem. CCPR cannot help with this matter and have suggested that we get the clubs to lobby their local MPs. Jeff Morris to write a paper for the Club Committee informing clubs on how to proceed.

Suzanne Gill wondered if we could ask BridgeWebs to facilitate the taking of payments via BridgeWebs. John Carter to speak with Gwynne Hughes.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

1.00pm, 7th July 2009 at Stubbs Common Farm, Yorkshire