



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
HELD IN THE FOUNTAIN ROOM, THE IMPERIAL HOTEL,  
RUSSELL SQUARE, LONDON, ON THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009.**

**Present:**

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

The Chairman opened the meeting by congratulating the Seniors Team for becoming World Champions and winning the D’Orsi Seniors Bowl.

The Chairman noted the deaths of Peter Czerniewski, England International and Roy Absalom, Vice President of the EBU, and informed the Board that they had been represented at both funerals.

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 19TH AUGUST 2009**

**2.1 Accuracy**

The minutes were signed as a true record of this meeting.

## **2.2 Matters Arising**

### *2.3.1 Water Rates for Bridge Clubs*

Jeff Morris reported that the Water Rates Bill should be widened to include bridge clubs and the CCPR is working on this. He requested that the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Development of Bridge is aware of this Bill, which is at committee stage. Jeff Morris to draft a letter for the Chairman to send to Ben Bradshaw, Secretary of State for Media Culture and Sport, to continue looking for a solution that will cover the whole of the community sector. Jeff Morris to draft a summary for the EBU website and Club Focus so our members can be kept updated.

## **2.3 Review of action list**

All the items on the action list have been reviewed and are reported in these minutes.

### *2.3.2 Corn Cairdis*

Peter Stocken has discussed the future of the Corn Cairdis with the CBAI officials. They have agreed to accept the cancellation of the Corn Cairdis in its current form. CBAI hoped in 2010 to finance it themselves and they would invite us to play, the officer's team would pay for themselves. It was hoped in the future that counties may be encouraged to sponsor and run the Corn Cairdis when it is held in England.

### *2.3.3 Full Tilt Poker Advertisement*

The General Manager reported that this advertisement would appear on to the EBU website and in *English Bridge* and would generate \$16 for the EBU for every member that entered the Full Tilt Poker site. The EBU's Honorary Counsel has reported that there is no legal reason in the Gaming Act to stop the EBU advertising Full Tilt. The Board voted to trial the advert for a year - 8 were in favour with 2 abstentions.

## **3 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **3.1 Directors Report & Accounts**

The Board had seen and adopted the accounts at a previous meeting. They have been sent to the Shareholders.

### **3.2 Treasurer's Report for AGM**

The Board had already seen this paper and it had been sent to the Shareholders on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

### **3.3 Proposed Membership Subscription for 2010/2011**

The Treasurer reported that the figures had already been seen by the Board and that this paper had also gone to the Shareholders on the 16<sup>th</sup> September.

### **3.4 Treasurer's Report for 4 months ending 31 July 2009**

The Treasurer reported that results were as envisaged, except that Bridge Shop sales are down, which may well be due to the economic climate. However, sales had increased in August. Licensing income needs to be closely observed and the Licensing Fee to be on the next Board meeting's agenda.

#### **4 AGM DOCUMENTATION**

The Chairman noted that her covering letter, the EBU landscape paper and the Resolution for the Bye-Laws had already been viewed by the Board before it was sent to the Shareholders on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

There will be a vote for the Board positions as Suzanne Gill and Jeremy Dhondy have been nominated. There will also be a vote for the Selection Committee's two places, one position due to the resignation of Steve Eginton. Nominees are Peter Baxter, Heather Bakhshi, Sally Brock and David Muller.

#### **5 CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT (FOR AGM)**

The Chairman will email her report to the Board before the AGM.

#### **6 NEW VOTING SCALE FOR SHAREHOLDERS**

John Carter briefed the Board on the paper. The Chairman requested that the new voting scale should be reviewed by the Charity Working Group and that they use this paper as a starting point. The Board agreed and John was thanked for his informative paper.

The Board will have a special meeting in November/December to discuss registration as a charity and the attendant corporate governance changes required. The Board then hope to convene a County Chairman's meeting in February 2010 when this will be a discussion topic, followed by discussion at Shareholder's meeting in March 2010.

#### **7 REQUEST FROM MENAGERIE BRIDGE CLUB**

The Board reviewed the request of the Menagerie Bridge Club. The Board unanimously agreed that if the club conforms to the minimum requirement which is playing Pay to Play duplicate sessions 26 times per year this will confer affiliation to the EBU. The Chairman to inform John Williams of the Board's decision.

#### **8 BUSINESS PLANNING TEAM**

##### **8.1 Five Year Plans**

The Board will circulate a provisional 5 year plan to the Shareholders at the end of 2009 with the understanding that the detail may change based on budgeting for 2010/11. The final 5 year plan being presented in June 2010. The basis of the presentation using the following headings for each activity:

- Income, costs, overhead allocation, surplus/loss

Comprehensive accounting headings for education will be as follows:

- Student training (sub heading adults and youth)
- Teacher training

- TD training
- EBUTA
- Overheads

## **8.2 Selection Committee**

In line with strategic discussion that took place at the Board's July meeting, the Selection Committee budget will include Junior Internationals from 2010/11. This has been moved from the Youth Committee budget. It was agreed to separate (within the Selection Committee budget) the senior and youth budgets for the first couple of years.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman to organise a meeting with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Selection Committee to inform them of these changes and to discuss the full international budget including future funding.

There was a debate on youth bridge and funding and the Board agreed that we must develop more young members and provide a programme of bridge for all young players not just the elite.

## **8.3 Bridge Shop**

The Bridge Shop is to retain and sell its existing stock of books. The online shop has been delayed due to technical issues with the EBU's IT management company.

## **8.4 Suspended Players**

The technical developments aligned with Universal Membership will enable the EBU to stop any suspended players from being awarded Master Points at club level. The Disciplinary Panel must ensure that the suspended member's primary club is to be notified.

## **8.5 On-line Teaching Programme**

Launch of this is slightly behind due to other working commitments of John Pain, who is adapting this for the Acol system.

# **9 MIND SPORTS COUNCIL**

Jeff Morris summarised a paper he had provided for the Board. The Mind Sports (Bridge, Chess, Go and Draughts) are still excluded from government funding, from the Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) scheme, not recognised by British Universities and Colleges Sports Association (BUSA) and unable to access Lottery money due to the existing definitions of Sport going back to the 1937 Act. The Mind Sports Council was set up in 2003 but there was no formal structure and it felt it was unwise to approach Government Departments without being formally constituted, so the ECF suggested last year that the Mind Sports Council become a company limited by guarantee. The current activities of the Mind Sports Council are to pursue official recognition and also to exchange information and to identify any areas where mind sports associations in the UK could usefully work together. This cooperation has led directly to a Mind Sports Day at the National Railway Museum in York and pooling of material relating to the educational benefits of mind sports. The other organisations

involved have all nominated directors for the suggested company limited by guarantee and are ready to proceed.

After lengthy discussion, the Board agreed that they would be happy to be part of a lobbying organisation but were not interested in taking the responsibilities of directorship of a company limited by guarantee. They could not see the benefits of the organisation taking on a new corporate structure. Jeff Morris to report back to the other members of the Mind Sports Council.

## **10 GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

The IT Implementation for Pay to Play is progressing well. By the end of September work will be complete on the *Alpha* version of the website interface. This may still be cosmetically sparse, but functionally complete. Alpha testing by the EBU and a small number of interested parties will be done in early October. The rest of October and November will be Beta testing by a group of volunteer clubs using real-life data in real-life situations. Release for public consumption will occur at the end of December. After which we will see large-scale testing of all aspects of the system by both individual members and clubs. Clubs will start to submit their membership data to us and will be able to play around with the system until they're satisfied with its operation.

At present Michael is spending 50/60% of his time on the IT implementation.

There will be expenditure after the AGM for the production of membership cards, which are to be mailed out in the April issue of *English Bridge*.

## **11 CHARITY DONATION FROM CLUB CHARITY LICENSED EVENTS INCOME 2008-2009**

The Board agreed unanimously that the Macmillan Nurses should receive the donation, which is £1062.94.

## **12 REPORTS ON MEETINGS**

### **12.1 Youth Committee**

#### *12.1.1 Junior Teach In*

Malcolm Oliver reported that the Junior Teach In attendance was reasonable considering it fell on the August Bank Holiday. There were 70 children and 17 adults. This event currently runs at a loss, but the Board recognises the need to subsidise this area of the EBU's activities. However, part of the Board's plans to encourage more ordinary young players in to bridge, may increase numbers and thus it is hoped that the loss will be reduced in years to come. The Board congratulated the Education Department and the volunteers on a well-run event.

### **12.2 1<sup>st</sup> European University Championship**

Jeff Morris enquired whether we had persuaded BUCS to enter a team in this event, which is being held in Croatia 4<sup>th</sup> -10 October. Malcolm Oliver confirmed that we apparently don't qualify and will write a letter to the organiser EUSA (European University Sports Association) explaining why we will not be attending.

*(Apparently we have appealed this directly with Croatia and we are allowed to send a team which Dawn is currently organising accommodation for.*

### **12.3 Junior Squad free entries**

A written policy for free entries to be created by Malcolm Oliver and reviewed at next Board meeting. Area's to be clarified are: who is entitled to free entries, what the free entries are supposed to help achieve for the players, should there be a capped budget.

### **12.4 Selection Committee**

*12.3.1 Minutes of 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2009*

The Treasurer queried whether there was budget for the Mesin Bridge Festival and the reason for accepting the invitation. The Chairman explained that at every meeting she attends of the Selection Committee, the members always discuss whether money is available in their budget for any events they consider and whether it is a valuable investment in the players they are considering sending.

Graham Jepson queried whether the Seniors Trials had to be held in a London venue as he suspected that costs could be reduced if it was held elsewhere, thus making the entry fee more attractive for more teams to enter.

## **13 BGB MATTERS**

The current arrangement for the surplus from the simultaneous pairs events is 60% for England and 20% each for Wales and Scotland; this is to be reviewed in 2011.

Malcolm Oliver reported that he had only received feedback from Scotland about our request for only EBU affiliated clubs to take part in BGB Simultaneous Pairs. Malcolm to chase.

## **14 EBL AND WBF MATTERS**

The Board congratulated Mr Gianarrigo Rona on his election to WBF president. Next year will be an important year for the EBL as a vote for their new President is required.

## **15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **HEREFORDSHIRE**

The Board approved the Herefordshire constitution, subject to minor changes to be finalised by Martin Pool.

Peter Stocken informed the Board that Gordon Rainsford, David Stevenson and Neil Morley have become National Tournament Directors and Martin Lee had been promoted to a Senior Congress Tournament Director.

Graham Jepson had a query from Yorkshire regarding the eligibility for the Dimmie Fleming Award. The intent of the Dimmie Fleming award is to publicly recognise those people who do not hold an official (i.e. EBU) office, but have worked hard for bridge, usually at County and/or Club level. These individuals can be nominated and receive the award even if they still hold office at county level. However, existing Board Directors, Vice Presidents, EBU employees and Panel Tournament Directors are excluded from nomination. Once retired from these posts, they become eligible for the award.

The Chairman explained that Ron Millet was working on the Board's behalf to investigate undertaking robust research on how playing duplicate bridge can protect against dementia. On behalf of the Board she wanted to thank Ron for his commitment and hard work on this project.

Finally the Chairman thanked the Board for all their hard work and support during this, her first year as Chairman. Peter Stocken on behalf of the other Board members thanked Sally for her hard work in this year of change.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009, 12.30pm Fountain Room, Imperial Hotel**