



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HELD IN THE FOUNTAIN ROOM, THE IMPERIAL HOTEL,
RUSSELL SQUARE, LONDON, ON THURSDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2009.**

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

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the Board back for another term and welcoming new board member Jeremy Dhondy for his first term.

She thanked Stephen Barnfield, Richard Fleet and David Harris for the work they have undertaken on the Board's behalf advising on policy with regards to Selection matters.

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were noted for Jeff Morris.

2 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 17TH SEPTEMBER 2009**

2.1 Accuracy

8.4 Last two sentences were removed and replaced with "The disciplinary panel must ensure that the suspended member's primary club is notified."

14 Reworded to "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."

Subject to these changes the minutes were signed as a true record of this meeting.

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 1st European University Championship

Jeremy Dhondy asked for clarification on the procedure for a university team to apply to the championships to ensure the problem is resolved for the future. Malcolm Oliver stated when we contacted the organizer directly we were allowed to send a team.

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 Water Rates for Bridge Clubs

Letter has been sent to Hillary Ben, summary for the EBU website & Club Focus was sent on the 1st October.

2.3.3 Full Tilt Poker Advertisement

The General Manager reported that this was progressing.

2.3.4 Menagerie Bridge Club

The Chairman has sent a letter to the club and had received a response from John Briggs, Chairman of Oxfordshire, but in a personal capacity. The Board has not changed its view and the Chairman stated she would respond accordingly.

2.3.5 Mind Sports Council

The Mind Sports Council has been informed of the Board decision by Jeff Morris.

3 BOARD

3.1 Responsibilities

Sally Bugden*	Chairman Editorial Board, Chairman Business Planning Team, Communications, Sponsorship and Fundraising, Education, EBL and WBF representative, All Party Parliamentary Group and attendant research.
John Carter	Chairman NGS plus research into county needs and regionalisation.
Jeremy Dhondy*	Chairman Laws and Ethics Committee, Editorial Board, TD Development Group.
Michael Hill*	Treasurer, Business Planning Team
Graham Jepson*	Chairman Club Committee
Jeff Morris	Government representation and national awards promotion and co-ordination
Alan Nelson	County needs and regionalisation
Malcolm Oliver*	Youth Internationals, Bridge Shop, Business Planning Team, BGB representation.
Andrew Petrie*	Chairman Tournament Committee, Chairman Charity Working Group, overall responsibilities for organisational reform. Member Business Planning Team.
Martin Pool*	Chairman TD Development Group. Constitutional matters including county and club issues. Member Charity Working Group
*Denotes Board members with budgetary responsibilities	

3.2 Dates and Venues for meeting 2009/10

Wednesday 13th January 2010 - Colson Room, CCPR

Wednesday 24th March 2010 - Colson Room, CCPR

Tuesday & Wednesday 8 & 9th June at Stubbs Farm

Tuesday 28th September 2010 - Colson Room, CCPR

Wednesday 28th October 2010 - Colson Room, CCPR

The Board gratefully accepted Peter Stocken's invitation to host the June meeting at Stubbs again this year.

4 FINANCIAL MATTERS

4.1 Treasurer's Report

The Board had already seen the August figures and the September reports were not yet available. However, the Treasurer reported that the Bridge Shop sales had increased in September and October.

4.2 Budget Process and Timetable

The Treasurer explained to the Board that the more detailed timetable had been designed to give clearer deadlines for all those involved in the budgeting process. The budget process and timetable were approved. All managers, Board members and Committee members who are involved in the budgeting process should be given copies of the timetable.

5 UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP

There has been hardly any change to the figures since reported at the AGM. The Chairman will be writing to the clubs by the end of the week updating them on the implementation of universal membership via Pay to Play, and the new EBU Club Landscape.

The December issue of *English Bridge* will explain how the direct membership subscription will operate.

Jeremy Dhondy asked if it was possible to ensure that a member does not change their county of primary affiliation in any particular competition year because of the necessity for a member to represent only one county in certain competitions. The General Manager confirmed that this was possible to do.

The Chairman informed the Board that we plan to keep in touch with clubs which have disaffiliated, updating them with what is happening with the EBU.

University bridge clubs must ensure that they play at least once a week during term time to qualify to affiliate under the new universal membership system. Their annual club affiliation fee will be £5.

6 FIVE-YEAR PLAN

The Treasurer presented the latest draft of the five year Plan. It showed a loss in 2010/11, mainly due to the final costs of implementing universal membership, but a net surplus over the five years.

There was no longer a Youth Committee budget. Responsibility for junior internationals had been transferred to the Selection Committee (although the junior international budget would remain visibly separate from the adult international budget), while the remainder of it now formed part of the Education budget.

The Chairman was asked about the education budget lines for student training and teacher training. Since the meeting, the Chairman has clarified with Aylesbury the items that should be included in both these lines as follows:

Teacher Training

Income – from those individuals who will pay us to train them as Partner Teachers
Expenditure - associated with training partner and club teachers

Student Training

Income - from all the materials sold to our students via their teachers whether these are Partner or Club.

Expenditure – the production costs of the teaching materials.

The NBO budget includes the predicted income for BGB Sim Pairs along with the membership fees for the WBF and EBL. We are still in communication with the WBF and EBL regarding our future fee and what is classed as a chargeable member.

The Board agreed that Board comments on and approval of the final version of the 5 Year plan for sending to the Shareholders will be done via email.

The Five Year Plan will be sent to the Shareholders in January 2010 and will include a Cash Flow Analysis. Shareholders will be asked to submit in advance, preferably by e-mail, any questions on it for answering at the subsequent shareholders meeting.

The Five Year Plan will be reviewed on a biennial or triennial basis. It was stressed long term plans are an outline of the future and are not cast in stone.

7 CHARITY REGISTRATION UPDATE

The meeting with Mary Groom in September, raised many questions and it was clear that there would be a great deal of work for us to do, communicating what the EBU is and how it operates. We will perhaps meet with the Charity Commission prior to submitting an application to make sure we are on the right track. The Charity Commission is busy so delays are possible. Please note that the Special Board meeting to address charity registration will be delayed indefinitely.

8 UPDATE ON MASTER POINTS HANDBOOK

8.1 New Handbook

A sub-committee of the Tournament Committee was created to review and update the Master Point Handbook. The Board discussed and reviewed the main changes made to the handbook. Subject to minor changes the Board agreed the proposed revisions.

8.2 Supporting documents

The Vice Chairman asked the Board to review the allowable events for April 2010, the Board agreed subject to reconsideration of Simultaneous Pairs events.

8.3 Licence Fees from April 2010

Events run by an affiliated Club/County – Charges per table per session

Beginner/Improver Events £0.60p

Swiss Events £1.75

Charity Swiss Events £1.75

Non-Swiss Events £1.75

County Green-Pointed Events £7.50

The Multi-Venue (Simultaneous) Events will now be charged per table per session, rather than per venue, the Vice Chairman to revise documentation.

EBU to provide Ecats with a list of affiliated clubs, any non affiliated clubs will need to be charged an additional fee for participating in the BGB Sim Pairs to be paid to the EBU prior to the event taking place.

Licensing of events run by commercial organisations (e.g. Bridge Holidays) is deferred to the Business Planning Team which will report back to the Board at its next meeting.

This was agreed by the Board.

9 APPOINTMENT OF DISCIPLINARY PANEL FOR 2009/10

The current panel consists of Julie Kennedy, Joy Mayall, Kathleen Nelson, Alan Oddie, Jackie Pye, Ian Raynes, Don Smedley, Jeff Smith, Keith Stanley and John Williams. Don Smedley would like to stand down. And, subject to a suitable replacement for Mr. Smedley, the Board approved the panel.

10 COUNTY CHAIRMEN'S MEETING

The County Chairmen's meeting is to be held on the 16th February 2010 at the Imperial Hotel in the Tudor room, a light lunch to be included. A letter is to be sent to the County Chairmen inviting them or their representative to attend the meeting, one person per county to attend. The agenda is to be finalised and will be sent out in due course. Board members are required to attend.

11 YOUTH AND EDUCATION

The Board reviewed Malcolm Oliver's discussion paper on Free Entry to EBU Competitions. The Ranked Pairs and the Hubert Phillips are to be removed from the range of events and the Premier League to be included.

The Youth Committee is to be disbanded and the budget to be split between the Education Budget and the Selection Budget. Youth development will go under Student training; the Selection Committee budget will include Junior Internationals.

The Youth Officer has resigned and we will be appointing an Education Officer in April 2011.

An Education Committee will be formed to look after all aspects of Education, undertaking research and consultation amongst counties and education institutions in its first year to ensure that the education strategy is resourced effectively and that we meet the needs of the different cohorts set out in Rob Lawy's plan.

12 SELECTION COMMITTEE

12.1 Five Year Financial Plan

The Chairman and the Vice Chairman met Heather Dhondy and Simon Cochemé. They are pleased to take back the Junior Internationals, The Selection Committee are to take on full budgetary control, and in order to help them, we have created a sub-committee of the Board to provide them with budgetary advice, Sue Maxwell will be available to assist them on fund raising.

The Board thanked Heather and Simon for their willingness to take on these extra responsibilities. Although challenging, there is the opportunity to build on the excellent work that the Selection Committee has achieved in the past year, whilst ensuring that the youth squad managers and their charges are encouraged to develop into responsible and skilful players.

13 GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

The General Manager asked the Board to approve the final policies on Using EBU Facilities and the Working from Home Policy. The Board approved the policies.

This will be emailed to all staff, placed on the staff notice board and placed in the EBU Procedures Manual.

The On-Line Teaching Programme is near completion Andrew Kambites is meeting with John Pain for initial testing before Beta Version is placed on EBU website for trialling.

A day to be arranged for staff to be trained in the “New EBU”, the office will be closed on this day.

14 REPORTS ON MEETINGS

14.1 AGM of the EBU Ltd

The Chairman is writing a letter of response to Keith Palmer. There were no other matters raised.

14.2 Laws & Ethics Committee – 24th September 2009

Jeremy Dhondy had nothing else to add to the minutes. The Tangerine Book has had positive reports back from the Club Committee and should be published on the website by the end of January 2010.

14.3 Charity Working Group – 30th September 2009

This was reported earlier in the minutes.

14.4 Editorial Board – 1st October 2009

An obituary policy has now been created.

We have contingency plan in place should the Royal Mail continue to strike, we will post *English Bridge* on-line on the EBU website and dispatch via Royal Mail when we are able to do so.

The Chairman informed the Board that the Editorial Board now reviews all communications that are published and sent to the members, and will, when resources allow, be involved in the review of the website.

14.5 Club Committee – 6th October 2009

Tangerine Book is still under review, and the Club Committee's views will be reported to the Laws & Ethics Committee by the end of October.

The Committee had made comments to the Tournament Committee about its new competitions, including a new simultaneous pairs event. It had also expressed a desire for stratification for club sessions and tournaments – as undertaken in the USA.

Graham Jepson circulated a paper on regionalisation which will be discussed at next Club Committee meeting.

The current Club Committee will continue to October 2010.

14.6 Tournament Committee

The Vice Chairman reported that the Tournament Committee had a long discussion on the inappropriateness of transfer opening bids at the one level. We have had a number of complaints on this subject and are keen to find a solution.

The general consensus of the Tournament Committee was that transfer opening bids at the one level should be removed, from the level 4 category. The written comments are to be forwarded to the Laws & Ethics Committee for their next meeting. Max Bavin confirmed that the issue of which category level applied to each tournament is a matter of the Tournament Committee under the Conditions of Contest.

Any changes should not occur until the end of the competition year.

15 BGB Matters

Malcolm Oliver reported the SBU are not in favour of limiting which bridge clubs can play in the Sim Pairs and the WBU had not yet commented. 75% of bridge clubs participating in the BGB Sim pairs are English clubs. The EBU Chairman to write to the BGB Chairman informing him that unaffiliated clubs will need to pay a per person surcharge to the EBU if they wish to take part in the BGB Sim Pairs. 100% of this surcharge to be paid directly to the EBU.

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 at the next BGB meeting which will take place in April 2010.

16 EBL AND WBF MATTERS

Nothing to report.

17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

17.1 Northamptonshire CBA Constitutions

Martin Pool has been corresponding with Northamptonshire CBA regarding their constitution. The constitution could not be approved in its current form, Martin Pool to write to them.

The EBU has received a communication from Mario Dix asking us to provide support in any way we can to the Malta Bridge Association. We cannot give any financial assistance and Jeremy Dhondy, who will be meeting with Mario later this month, will ask him what precisely Malta is looking for in this relationship.

The General Manager to action a policy for those selling merchandise at our tournaments.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Board, thanked Peter Stocken for all he had contributed to the Board and the EBU.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

13 January 2010, 12.30pm TBC