



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HELD AT STUBBS COMMON FARM, DONCASTER, ON TUESDAY
7TH JULY 2009.**

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)	

The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking Peter Stocken for hosting the July Board Meeting again this year.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 11th MAY 2009

2.1 Accuracy

Subject to a minor spelling error, the minutes were signed as a true record.

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 NGS Presentation

John Carter reported to the Board that the NGS presentation was well received at the June Shareholder's Meeting, the Board agreed. All questions and comment received regarding the NGS have been constructive. Two information documents have been

created to go on to the EBU website, one is ready to go up straight away and the second document, the Q& A to be reviewed before publishing.

John Carter and Barrie Partridge have been asked to do a NGS presentation at the Brighton Summer Congress on the second weekend.

2.3 Review of action list

All the items on the action list had been reviewed and were reported in these minutes.

2.3.2 Selection Committee proposal

Malcolm Oliver has circulated the proposal to the BGB delegates, and it will be reviewed by them at the end of the 5 year cycle at their next meeting which is April 2010.

2.3.3 Water Rates for Bridge Clubs

Jeff Morris reported that the Bill is currently being reviewed, the CCPR have been informed by the minister that perhaps the Bill should be widened to include bridge clubs and similar groups/associations. Jeff Morris to keep the Board updated.

3 FINANCIAL MATTERS

3.1 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the 2008-9 year shows the EBU effectively breaking even, before tax. This a better result than predicted against the budget and January re-forecast of a deficit of £20k (after tax of £4k) and his verbal indication that the deficit was circa £10k (after tax). This is because almost all the late adjustments have been positive.

Alan Nelson raised a concern regarding the international budget being over spent by 10%. The treasurer reminded the Board the reasons for the overspend were due to a number of unexpected issues, exchange rate, additional charging of taxes on the free flights to the 1st World Mind Sports Games and the cost of the extra committee meetings.

The Board to closely monitor the level of expenditure in the budget for the coming year, the Chairman reminded the Board that the Selection Committee have been working hard to conform to current budget. A meeting is to be organised between the Treasurer, Heather Dhondy and Max Bavin regarding this year's budget.

3.2 Draft Annual Accounts for the Year ending 31st March 2009

The Treasurer reported that Cost of Sales now includes all general expenditure i.e. salaries, postage and so on. This will now match up with the format of the one page summary of the management accounts. The Auditor was happy to separate out Universal Membership to its own line for ease of reference but wanted this to be within overheads and not Cost of Sales. Page 15 "Competition Results before Overheads" now includes an "Other Direct Costs" line for 2008/09 and 2007/08 but not 2006/07. The Accounts were formally adopted by the Board.

4 BUSINESS PLANNING TEAM

4.1 Club Affiliation Responses - Report

The General Manager reported that 199 clubs had responded back. The Chairman informed the Board that a schedule of reminders has been created; July Club Focus has a section on affiliation, letter to clubs from Chairman in 3rd week of July, EBU HQ to call clubs that have not returned the application in final week of July, a letter to be sent by the EBU Chairman in September to all counties, and August issue of *English Bridge* to have a post-box on the cover reminding clubs to return their affiliation form.

4.2 Strategy – Constitution, Bye Laws & voting structure

John Carter has been asked to provide a simple scale to work out the total number of Shares the association will be entitled to for the September Board Meeting.

It was decided that the scale should be increased, in line with the current scale below:
Number of Shares to which the Association is entitled

Up to 300 1 Ordinary Share

From 301 – 700 2 Ordinary Shares

From 701 – 1500 3 Ordinary Shares

Upwards of 1500 4 Ordinary Shares

The General Manager informed the Board that the Articles of Association would be required to be changed to accommodate the new scaling and representation. This was noted by the Board and should be done at the March Shareholders meeting next year.

The Board recognised that the current planned changes to the Bye Laws were designed to facilitate Pay to Play.

Treasurer informed the Board of the year on year individual membership figures:

9th June 2008 individual members 20166

9th June 2009 individual members 20006

4.3 Handbooks- documentation to be reviewed

Andrew Petrie on behalf of the Tournament Committee is working on updating the Licensing and Master Point handbooks. The new versions, will be available from April 2010 via the EBU website. In future all handbooks will be referenced and indexed for ease of updating in the future. All documentation will be in electronic format on our website. If an individual wants a hard copy, they are to contact Aylesbury to arrange a photocopy.

5 PAY TO PLAY

5.1 Gloucestershire CBA

Gloucestershire will be paying a Pay to Play fee on some of their regular events. As you need to be a member to play in most County events, it was agreed, after consultation, that these sessions counted towards the twelve sessions required for membership. The Isle of Man operate similar regular events and would like to have the same opportunity as Gloucestershire, the Board agreed. The Board concluded that

other counties could be in the same position as Gloucestershire and the Isle of Man and that the facility to do this should be put in to the updated handbooks. Andrew Petrie to action.

6 CONSTITUTIONS

6.1 Devon

The Board approved the Devon constitutions, subject to changes to the Commencement date and minor typos.

6.2 Sussex

The Board approved the Sussex constitutions, subject to minor typos and spelling inaccuracies.

The counties are to be contacted by Martin Pool asking for the changes to be made and final copies to be sent to the EBU. The Company Secretary is to inform the counties in writing that their constitutions have been approved.

Oxfordshire are currently working with Martin Pool to revise their county constitution.

7 REPORTS ON MEETINGS

7.1 Laws and Ethics Committee

7.1.1 Minutes of 19th May 2009

The Board had no questions on the minutes.

7.2 Tournament Committee – 10th March 2009

7.2.1 Minutes of 2nd June 2009

Jeff Morris queried whether the National Newcomer Pairs event will be reinstated; Andrew Petrie re-iterated that in season 2010/11 there would be a national EBU event held in clubs that would encompass both players new to competitive bridge and new members of the EBU. The Tournament Committee's current view is that this event, together with the Really Easy Congresses, will better meet the requirements of "Newcomers" than the old format.

7.2.1.1 MP awards for simultaneous pairs at unaffiliated clubs

Malcolm Oliver was asked to request BGB to change the Conditions of Contest of their Simultaneous Pairs so that unaffiliated clubs in England would not be able to take part.

Non-affiliated clubs would not be able to enter EBU Simultaneous Pairs apart from those designated as Charity events. In this latter case no MP awards would be made to non-affiliated clubs.

7.3 Editorial Board

7.3.1 Minutes of 9th June 2009

The Chairman reported that advertising was slightly up and looking good for the August issue. Also that we made a small profit from the web advertising and that this revenue generation needs further investigation.

7.4 Youth Committee

7.4.1 Minutes of 9th June 2009

Malcolm Oliver reported that the meeting went well. Mike Amos to write a paper on developing bridge in universities

7.4.2 Terms of Reference and appointment of members

The Terms of Reference are to be changed to to recognise the new working relationship with the Selection Committee.

7.4.3 Junior Teach In

The Junior Teach In was originally self funding but when the existing venue became unavailable it moved to a more expensive location and has been subsidised for the last couple of years. Malcolm Oliver is to write a report on the Junior Teach In for next meeting.

8 BGB MATTERS

General Manager reported that the EBU existing facilities for running Knock Out events could run the Gold Cup for the BGB. We have the draw software, we already have administration in place for taking entries and we have a results service. Malcolm Oliver will report to the BGB.

9 EBL AND WBF MATTERS

The Treasurer informed the Board that our WBF and EBL dues are paid by the income raised from the BGB Sim pairs and that when we increase our membership we will need to raise additional funds in some other means to pay our dues.

Alan Nelson represented the EBU at the NBO Presidents Meeting in Sanremo on the Sunday 21 June 09. Jose Damiani the WBF President gave an excellent presentation on encouraging minds sports to get Olympic recognition. Alan Nelson raised the possibility of changing how the NBO communicate with each other, perhaps to have one nominated person to filter the information round the rest of organization. After much discussion by the EBL Management Committee no change was made.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The General Manager asked the Board to look at idea that a member of the EBU brought to his attention regarding advertising online poker. After a short discussion the Board in principal are prepared to consider a proposal on this, the General Manager to come back to them with more information.

Jeff Morris reported that the Mind Sports Council would like to form a company limited by guarantee and would like the four major associations Chess, Bridge, Go and Draughts to become founding members. The Board would like to see the aims and objectives for the new company before possible committing an answer. Jeff Morris is to supply this information for the September Board Meeting

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

19th August 2009, 10am at the Brighton Summer Congress