



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HELD AT THE HILTON METROPOLE HOTEL BRIGHTON
ON THURSDAY 12TH AUGUST 2010**

Present: Sally Bugden (Chairman)
Andrew Petrie (Vice-Chairman)
Michael Hill (Hon. Treasurer)
Jeremy Dhondy
Suzanne Gill
Graham Jepson
Jeff Morris
Alan Nelson
Malcolm Oliver
Barry Capal (General Manager)

The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking everybody for attending this extra Board meeting to discuss the Pay to Play subscription.

She took the opportunity to thank Laurence Longe and Baker Tilly for their continued sponsorship which she had been informed about the previous day.

The Chairman stated that she would write up the minutes of this meeting and requested that for future meetings Board members took it in turns to take the minutes – this due to streamlining and thus reduced staff numbers at Aylesbury. The Board agreed and Jeremy Dhondy volunteered to take the minutes of the next meeting. On behalf of the Board, the Chairman said she would contact Karen Durrell and thank her for taking the minutes over the past two years which was an additional task to Karen's already busy work schedule.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Martin Pool

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 8th June 2010

There were no points of accuracy.

Due to the short time available matters arising from these minutes will be dealt with at the next scheduled Board meeting on the 28th September 2010.

The action list will be reviewed at the above meeting.

3 THE PAY TO PLAY SUBSCRIPTION FEE

The Chairman pointed out that the Pay to Play subscription fee of 29p had been set based on the annual accounts information in 2006-7 and on 2.3 million player sessions as reported from the club consultation which took place at the end of 2007.

This was done for two reasons:

1. To ensure that clubs knew what figure that they would be expected to pay for the financial year 2010-11 so that they had the correct information to give to their members to discuss continued affiliation to the EBU.
2. To demonstrate that the exercise was revenue neutral in money of the day.

Since the figure was set the number of player sessions reduced to 1.9 million. However due to the streamlining of operations at Aylesbury, the project could go ahead with this lower number of player sessions.

However, setting the figure on accounts from four years ago has meant that the inflationary rises that are applied each year to the subscription fees have been lost.

A lengthy discussion took place which highlighted the following points:

1. It was agreed that the Board must ensure that the Union attains financial stability and to ensure this the lost increases in inflation need to be recovered.
2. There has not been a full year of Pay to Play yet, so it is difficult to predict any pattern when setting the Pay to Play fee for 2011-12.
3. Some clubs had raised their table fees by 50p to cover the increase.
4. Some clubs had given their members a table fee rise holiday to encourage membership of the EBU in the first year of Pay to Play.

The Board recommends option 1 below but believe that the Shareholders should be given the choice as follows:

1. One rise for 1 April 2011 to recover 4 years lost inflation followed by a yearly rise generally in line with inflation from 1 April 2012.

OR

2. Two rises for 1 April 2011 and 1 April 2012 to recover 4 years lost inflation followed by a yearly rise generally in line with inflation from 1 April 2013.

This choice to be put in a paper providing the background information to the Shareholders and circulated with the documents for the AGM on the 6th October 2010.

4. BRIDGE GREAT BRITAIN

A short discussion took place on the information and correspondence received from the Welsh Bridge Union and the Scottish Bridge Union re the BGB Core Committee's proposal of a reduced levy for the BGB Sim Pairs.

The Board decided to give formal notice of the requirement to re-negotiate the full BGB agreement with both the SBU and the WBU.

Anna Gudge to be informed that ECATs will be required to charge an additional fee of 50p per player for any participants in the BGB simultaneous pairs from the Autumn event (October 13th/14th) onwards. This additional fee is only for participants in clubs that are in England and where the club is unaffiliated to the EBU. It is in addition to the existing entry fee.

5. CAPPING OF COUNTY ONE DAY GREEN POINT EVENTS

Andrew Petrie informed the Board that the current arrangements were proving to be unsatisfactory with three out of four counties that had submitted accounts registering a reduced income. There was no suggestion that these counties have in any way behaved improperly but this represents a significant loss of revenue and is effectively a subsidy by the general membership to those events - the lost revenue has to be recovered from other sources such as membership subscriptions and increased congress entry fees. Andrew provided a letter setting out a way forward. The Board approved the basic premise of the letter as a recommendation to be put to the Shareholders at the AGM on 6th October 2010.

6. BEST BEHAVIOUR JURISDICTION

A copy of a conversation on Face Book about payment of travel expenses for a player who had taken part in the European Championships was tabled for the Board to read. The Face Book page was private but was openly available to many EBU members to read. The comments made gave rise to the following recommended actions:

All international players should be made aware of the amounts that they will be paid for expenses – travel, accommodation and per diems – every time they are selected to represent their country in an international bridge event.

All players should sign up to conditions which will embrace behaving in the appropriate manner as a playing representative of their country. Any defamatory statements published in the public domain referring to any aspect of that representation and the EBU, its staff, volunteers, tournament directors or members will involve investigation and possible suspension from future international matches.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**12.30pm, 28th September 2010,
London. Baker Tilly, Russell Square House**