



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EBU LIMITED  
AT THE HILTON METHROPLE HOTEL  
ON WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2011**

**Present:**

Sally Bugden	(Chairman and Note Taker)
Andrew Petrie	(Vice-Chairman)
Michael Hill	(Treasurer)
Jeremy Dhondy	
Heather Dhondy	
Graham Jepson	
Malcolm Oliver	
Ian Payn	
Barry Capal	(General Manager)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2011**

MH was thanked for producing the minutes.

**2.1 Accuracy**

Some items were amended and the minutes were then accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**2.2 Matters arising**

**5. Simultaneous Pairs**

The Chairman reported that Aylesbury were able to run the EBU Simultaneous Pairs on each weekday rather than restrict them to just two days. This would allow any clubs that did not meet on those days to also offer the Sims to their club members. The Board accepted this with the proviso that take up was monitored. It was also reported that any clubs that wished to undertake the Simultaneous Pairs on an online basis only i.e. with online hand records and commentaries, then the price per person would be further discounted.

The General Manager reported that Aylesbury would be running a free simultaneous event for testing purposes for all clubs to take part in towards the end of 2011.

**2.3 Review of Action List**

All items within the specific time frames had been completed.

**3. THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS DEVELOPMENT GROUP (TDDG)**

The TDDG have consulted with Gordon Rainsford and together they will be providing a schedule of tournament directing requirements for each EBU tournament and competition. The Chairman reported that she had spoken with Martin Pool who is standing down as Chairman of the TDDG from October 2011. The Board were unanimously in favour of the appointment of Heather Dhondy as Chairman of the group from that date. The Chairman, on behalf of the Board, noted her thanks to Martin Pool for the excellent work he had done and was delighted that he will continue to serve as a member of the working group.

## **4. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **4.1 *Treasurer's Reports***

The Treasurer reminded the Board of his report after the first quarter where figures were in line or slightly better than budget.

The Treasurer had circulated his annual report for the shareholders earlier in the week.

### **4.2 *Reserves Policy***

The Officers made a recommendation to the Board that it adopts a formal reserves policy which is reviewed each year by the Board. This is in line with Charity Commission guidance and will replace the current less formal arrangement, managed by the Treasurer. The reserves policy uses the liquidity ratio and levels of liquid assets as measures of the financial health of the Union and alerts the directors to any problems.

### **4.3 *Subscription fees 2012-13***

The Treasurer circulated the proposed subscriptions for pay to play, direct membership, club affiliations and EBUTA. The Board accepted the proposals.

### **4.4 *The Five Year Plan***

The current five year plan was produced in 2009 and was based, quite properly, on the best estimates of income generation from various operations which had not been undertaken before. We also factored in cost reductions which have been delivered.

We should create a new five year plan alongside our new strategy for the next five years. The timings of this to be as follows:

New strategy to be recommended to the Board at the beginning of 2012.

New five year plan to be compiled once the new strategy is agreed by Board and to be delivered to the Board by summer 2012 and then to the Shareholders at the AGM in October 2012.

### **4.5 *Membership Renewals and online tournament entry***

Jeremy Dhondy asked if there was any way in which players whose membership had lapsed could be stopped from entering tournaments online until they renewed their membership. Barry Capal said that the change will be made before the end of August. This change will prevent people who are lapsed from being able to login to their member's area.

[This change was slightly more difficult than first envisaged, so will take a little longer].

## **5. BRIDGE GREAT BRITAIN UPDATE**

### **5.1 *Simultaneous Pairs***

Jeremy Dhondy had been informed that a letter had been sent from the SBU re this matter but the EBU had not yet received it. The WBU had also written but, this letter has not been received either.

### **5.2 *Gold Cup/Silver Plate/Home Internationals***

The Gold Cup tender document was being compiled and would be available by the end of September. The EBU will be able to tender.

## **6. UPDATE ON CHARITY REGISTRATION**

Andrew Petrie stated that the next step in registration was to ask the Shareholders to approve an ordinary resolution that the EBU undertake the application for registration with the proviso that we would report back to them if we discovered insurmountable problems as we proceed with the application. Ultimately, if we are successful with our application, then the shareholders will have to approve the corporate changes to the Union through the appropriate constitutional methods.

## **7. MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING**

David Harris, Honorary Counsel, joined the meeting to discuss this matter with the Board. The Board agreed that the current disciplinary process would be the best way to deal with any individuals who are Board Directors or Standing Committee members who are in breach of the disciplinary codes. However, it felt that it needed to further discuss the way in which it can convey to these elected individuals that they should avoid any situations which may cause them to be found guilty of a disciplinary offence which may then create a conflict of interest for themselves in the work that they do on behalf of the Union and, in addition, which may reflect badly on their fellow directors or standing committee members.

The Chairman thanked David Harris for taking time out of his busy schedule to advise the Board on this matter.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

These items were taken out of order before David Harris joined the meeting.

### ***8.1 Herefordshire Bridge Association Membership at 31 March 2011***

HBA disputed the number of members that the EBU recorded on its Register of Members for 31 March 2011. The Board unanimously agreed that the Constitution is clear on this matter and supported the Company Secretary, Barry Capal, who had acted on their behalf in dealing with this matter.

The Board are grateful to Barry for offering to capture the data on 31st March from 2012 onwards and keep a static record of it so that we can show any county that questions their membership numbers, the data from that date which forms the EBU Register of Members that is referred to in the Articles of Association.

### ***8.2 Youngsters Qualification for World Championships***

The Board will be making a representation to the EBL to ask them to request that the WBF refrain from implementing their new age limit regulations for another year so that the majority of the members of the Youngsters Team that qualified for the World Championships next year are able to take part. The Board were upset that the WBF chose to inform the participants of this new regulation at the Awards Ceremony in Bulgaria a few weeks ago when they had apparently agreed it at an Executive Committee meeting in 2009.

## **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

1.00pm, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 at Baker Tilly, Russell Square, London.