



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EBU
AT CHARTER CHAMBERS, 33 JOHN STREET, LONDON WC1N 2AT
ON WEDNESDAY 2nd NOVEMBER, 2011**

Present:	Sally Bugden	(Chairman)
	Andrew Petrie	(Vice-Chairman)
	Michael Hill	(Treasurer)
	Jerry Cope	
	Heather Dhondy	
	Jeremy Dhondy	(Note taker)
	Graham Jepson	
	Malcolm Oliver	
	Ian Payn	
	Barry Capal	(General Manager)

The Chairman opened the meeting by:

- Welcoming new Board member Jerry Cope
- Thanking Ian Payn for the provision of accommodation for the meeting
- Congratulating the English Women's' Team on their performance in the recent World Championship.

1. Apologies for Absence

Val Gibson.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Subject to a date of the next meeting correction these were signed as a true record.

Matters arising:

A problem with the NGS has been resolved. All matters on the action list have been dealt with.

Good Standing: AP produced a paper. It was agreed to add a statement to the application form for standing committee members as follows:

Successful applicants must ensure that they avoid situations which may cause them to be found guilty of a disciplinary offence as stated in the EBU Appendix A Disciplinary Rules, Bye laws 3.2.v. Such actions may create a conflict of interest in the work carried out on behalf of the Union and, in addition may reflect badly on fellow directors or standing committee members.

The Chairmen of the standing committees would let existing members know of this at the

next meeting. **Action: HD JD IP**

3. Board responsibilities for 2012 were defined and agreed.

Jerry Cope – Strategy

Jeremy Dhondy – Chairman Laws and ethics, BGB, Editorial Board, TDDG

Heather Dhondy – Chairman Selection and Internationals including juniors, Chairman TDDG

Val Gibson – Chairman National Club Committee

Michael Hill - Treasurer, Charity Registration, update of five year plan

Graham Jepson - Honours and awards

Malcolm Oliver – Aylesbury accommodation and bridge shop

Ian Payn – Tournaments and competitions

Andrew Petrie – Vice Chairman, Charity registration, corporate governance, strategy

Sally Bugden – Chairman, charity registration, strategy update, Chairman Editorial Board, director responsible for education and Annual Report 2012.

4. Financial Matters:

The Treasurer reported that our six month position was approximately £28.7k ahead of budget. Even after accounting for timing it was likely we would finish £20k ahead of budget by the end of the year. There had been some improvement in both reducing costs and improving advertising revenue for the magazine.

A paper outlining the budget process for 2012/13 was tabled.

5. BGB

JD reported that

- Scotland and Wales had signed an agreement to participate in the British Simultaneous pairs as from April 2012
- Both countries had also signed a new agreement on overseas licensing
- The Gold Cup tender was published, available on the BGB website and the process would be complete by April 2012
- Some negotiation on the BGB agreement for its reduced form remained to be completed.
- It was likely that BGB would be able to deregister for VAT as a result of these changes.

6. Charity Update

We have been allocated an Advisor by the Charity Commission

If we proceed then some activities such as the shop and internationals may need to be held by a separate company

If we decide to go ahead we may need a separate Special General Meeting later in 2012.

7. Charity Donation

The Board delegated to the Chairman the decision on the charity to benefit from the donation of licence fees from charitable simultaneous events for 2011.

8. County Constitutions

Chairman to write to the counties who have not supplied an updated copy of their constitutions since P2P. All constitutions to be published on the EBU website. Action: SB

9. Model Club Constitution.

Martin Pool has supplied an updated model club constitution which addresses disciplinary matters – this will assist clubs when dealing with such issues. We now need to address membership matters to make it easier for our clubs to raise funds from the Lottery Foundation and to become a registered charity. Action: SB/JD/AP

10. Licence Fees 2012/13: Were approved with one minor reduction to new Blue Point Events.

11. TDDG Accreditation: There was discussion about the circumstances where it might be appropriate to remove accreditation from a director. It was confirmed that this would be a Board decision and that the TDDG would produce some recommendations for the January meeting. Action: HD

12. Appeals from non affiliated clubs

It was confirmed that they should be considered under our current by laws. A charge would, however, be made to non members and unaffiliated clubs in respect of any services offered. The Chairman of the L&E was asked to determine a reasonable charge. Action: JD

13. Mind Sports

There was discussion over whether we should stay a member of UKMSC. To progress it needed a constitution and the one proposed had several deficiencies. Letter to go to UKMSC informing them of these views. Action: SB

The Board decided to participate in the Mind Sports Association presentation at the London Eye in November. JD would represent the Board. Action: SB and JD

14. EBL/WBF matters

An invoice from the EBL for annual subs is expected in late January. The Board asked the Chairman to initiate correspondence concerning payment in the New Year. Action: SB

The EBL had offered no support in the matter of the decision about the participation of our U20 team in the World Championships. The selection committee Chairman was asked to write further to the WBF. We also needed to clarify the lines of communication regarding decisions as neither the WBF nor EBL published meeting records on their websites nor routinely informed NBO's of some decisions made. The Chairman will write to the president of the EBL on this topic. Action SB, HD

15. LMBA motion

The motion raised at the AGM was discussed. The Chairman will provide a written answer to London. Action SB

16. Entry Fee for SIMS in 2012

It was accepted that

The British and EBU Sims would have the same charging structure

The stratified Sims would continue without increased charge (£2)

The new reduced entry fee would be £2.50 per participant (Inflation based increase cancelled and overall cost further reduced by 50p per participant). With this option no printed material would be sent but it would be available from the internet to download. An option for clubs to pay for printed copies would be introduced.

17. General Manager's Report

The GM reported on a yet as unresolved staffing problem.

18. Funding request

Leeds Bridge Club had made a request for assistance with funding (£3k) to seek an opinion from a tax barrister regarding charitable status and gift aid for clubs. It was resolved that it was best to seek this advice as part of the EBU's moves in this direction rather than doing it by specific club. Accordingly the request for funding was denied. The vice Chairman will respond. **Action: AJP**

19. Reports

There were reports from recent meetings of standing committees. No questions were raised.

20. AOB: None

Meeting closed 16:55

Date of next meeting: 19th January 2012