



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EBU LIMITED

AT BAKER TILLY MANAGEMENT LTD, 2, BLOOMSBURY STREET, LONDON WC1B 3ST

ON TUESDAY 11TH JUNE, 2013

Present:

- Sally Bugden (Chairman) (SB)
- Jeremy Dhondy (Vice Chairman) (JD)
- Andrew Petrie (Treasurer) (AP)
- Jerry Cope (JC)
- Heather Dhondy (HD)
- Darren Evetts (DE)
- Michael Hill (MH)
- Ron Millet (RM)
- Ian Payn (IP)
- Barry Capal (General Manager) (BC)

1. Apologies for Absence

Malcolm Oliver.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

2.1 Accuracy

The minutes were passed as accurate.

2.2 Matters Arising

- BBO online – contact with Fred Gitelman had been restored.
- British Simultaneous Pairs – Wales and Scotland wished to continue to be involved in these. They had been notified of England's decision to increase the entry fee to £2.60 from October 2013.
- VAT claim – hearing of our appeal has been set for 5th September. We have obtained details of the relevant VAT rules for Eire, France, Germany and Italy to support our case.
- Master point reciprocity – Wales and Scotland will align with the EBU (the latter more slowly as they're doing their own book of rules and will not, for the moment, have blue or gold points).

- Clubs – After a considerable period of discussions, North Cotswold Bridge Club had failed to comply with universal membership and had been disaffiliated.

2.3 Review of Action List

Already covered in the matters arising.

2.4 Correction of Item 10 of the Minutes of 10th January 2013

The correction would be published (and its existence flagged on the online copy of those minutes) as follows:

Vice Presidents can attend Standing Committee meetings. If an invitation to attend is issued by the Chairman of the standing committee, reasonable expenses will be re-imbursed. This policy has been in operation since 2007 and the Board wishes to formalise this.

See also Item 7

3. Financial Matters

3.1 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer advised the Board that there was no current year-to-date report available as yet.

3.2 Draft Annual Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2013

The Treasurer presented the draft annual accounts for the year ended 31st March 2013. It was noted that the EBU had made a small surplus in 2012-13 against an initial budget that showed a significant loss. The Treasurer thanked all concerned in achieving this, in what has not been an easy economic climate. The draft company accounts and Report to Management from the auditor were accepted subject to some minor changes to the former.

4. General Manager's Report

The chairman thanked JC and BC for running the staff training day. JC reported a very high level (i.e. above the norm) of staff commitment.

5. Charity

5.1 Registration

The charity would be called "English Bridge Education and Development" and is in the process of being registered.

5.2 Structure and Set-up

The structure and objectives of the charity as set out in SB's paper were agreed.

5.3 Funding

About £35k of additional funding (i.e. over and above current EBU expenditure on Education) would be required due to staff replacement. The Board agreed to provide this as a grant from the EBU sourced by savings on expenditure or additional income.

5.4 Working in Partnership with the Charity Commission

The charity commission has invited us to work in partnership with them dealing with clubs becoming charities. The Charity Commission requires some measure of regulation for any bridge club that

applies and this will be supplied by the club's affiliation to the EBU, England's national regulatory body for duplicate bridge.

6. Formation of a New County

The EBU needed to establish a flexible process to handle requests to form a new county. Key points to cover in it included:

- The response would be likely to be more favourable if all affected counties supported it.
- Geographic logic in any split
- Viability in governance and resources – constitution, finance and volunteers
- Mediation in the event of dispute.
- Club opinions
- Possibly balloting members affected.

7. Vice Presidents – Attendance at Standing Committee Meetings

VPs may attend standing committee meetings (albeit at their own expense unless invited). There are currently ten vice presidents, so they could out-number the elected members of a standing committee. Recommendations suggested for the future were:

- Standing committee chairmen must be able to invite VPs.
- VPs may request an invitation to attend.
- VPs may not attend meetings unless invited.

Implementation of this requires a change to the articles (via a resolution at the AGM 2013)

Action BC

9. Prize Structure for Simultaneous Pairs

AP's proposal document was agreed and referred to the Tournament Committee for further discussion. The following points were clarified:

- Heat winners' draw and club draw would both be annual.
- For the purposes of the above, heat winners at clubs are determined by the nationally re-scored results, not the initial local result.
- This prize structure covers only the British and EBU simultaneous pairs. It does not apply to the stratified simultaneous pairs.

10. Award Nominations

There was much general discussion covering all the components of this item. It was noted that there had so far been only one silver award and that no subsequent nominations had been received.

Board members were invited to nominate individuals for silver awards. County Chairmen would also be informed of the availability of this award at their meeting on 26th June.

Action SB

Most awards were announced and presented at the AGM but the “Young player of the year” and “Young pair of the year” awards were presented at the Brighton congress. Nominations were needed for all awards.

It was noted that our existing awards related to administration work at county and/or national level and it was suggested that we to create a new series of awards for outstanding playing achievements. A draft proposal would be prepared for the August Board meeting. **Action RM**

11. Correction of Anomaly of Payments to EBU from U25s and U22s

U25 players get half-price entry to most tournaments but it is only U22s that get exemption from P2P. It was agreed that, subject to confirmation that the loss of revenue would be minimal (**Action AP**); the P2P exemption age should be amended to U25.

12. NCC Structure

Due to resignations, there are currently no representatives for two regions of the NCC, the South East and North. There had been no meetings held for either region this spring and, unfortunately, no meeting held in the South West. There are still a number of counties without club representatives.

Further reasons for the difficulty in recruiting volunteers to undertake this important representational role are daytime meetings which are difficult for those who work to attend and travelling distances for attendees in the larger regions

The Board agreed that this needed to be addressed through the county and club element of the strategic plan – Bidding for the Future 2013-18.

13. Orange Book Becomes the Blue Book

JD reported that the feedback on the orange book had been that there was too much regulation and verbiage. The blue book has not changed much by way of regulation but has truncated it considerably. It was currently being proof-read and would be online in July.

The principal changes were:

- Some new announcements (short minors and 2NT openings/responses)
- Alerting some bids above 3NT
- Level 3 removed
- Transfer of some regulations to the white book.

The Board thanked JD and his team for their efforts.

14. Any Other Business

There was no other business and the meeting ended at 5.30 pm.