



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EBU LIMITED  
AT METROPOLE HOTEL, BRIGHTON  
ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 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)  
Malcolm Oliver (MO)  
Ian Payn (IP)  
Gordon Rainsford (Observer) (GR)

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Barry Capal (BC). GR was attending as an observer for BC, so that communications could be maintained with the Aylesbury team.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

**2.1 Accuracy**

In paragraph 7, 'eleven' vice presidents should read 'ten' and 'Requirements agreed for the future' should read 'Recommendations suggested for the future'. With these changes, the minutes were agreed as accurate.

**2.2 Matters Arising**

- Article 17.3 - The recommended wording of the new article 17.3 was approved; there also needed to be a further article change to remove reference to non-existent sections 11d and 11e and SB would circulate this minor change; both changes now needed to go to the next AGM as Special Resolutions. **Action: SB**
- Governance - Separately over the next 12 months or so, it might be useful to instigate a general review, in a balanced way, of our articles and the powers of the Board, Shareholders etc to streamline governance. **Action JD**
- BBO Online - Everything was on course for an October start of trial 16 board sessions, timed as far as possible not to clash with Club events. The charge would be \$1 per player, bringing a net revenue to the EBU of just under £2 per table; EBU members will get master points contributing to overall master points prizes and magazine points, but the sessions will not count in NGS.

- Prize structure for Sims - The new structure had been approved by the Tournament Committee. Scotland & Wales had not made any comment.
- Charity Commission Partnership - AP was in the middle of reconciling our model Club Constitution with the requirements of the Charity Commission.
- Charity Registration - Following our online application, the Commission had returned with some points of clarification, centred mainly on the independence of the new Education Charity from the EBU.
- New Member Pack - This had been reviewed and refreshed, including using Universal Membership rather than P2P as the description of our subscription; this name should now be used in all EBU material etc. **Action BC**
- The Board wished everyone competing in Bali good luck.

### **3. Financial Matters**

#### **3.1 Treasurers Report**

A big thank you was due to Gail for producing these 1st Management Accounts despite the new Sage system not working properly.

It was a little early to be clear on trends, but the first quarter's results were below expectations, particularly in terms of Sims and Competitions.

A review was needed of why Sims participation was down and the team at Aylesbury would conduct a telephone survey of a sample of lapsed Clubs to see if there were any themes or root causes. This would probably be followed by a relaunch alongside the new Sims prize structure, including an article in English Bridge and a look at the calendar for Sims. **Action GR/BC**

On Competitions, the huge amount of work promoting Brighton had reversed last year's trend, but maybe not back to the levels of 2 years ago. A worrying further trend was the drop in representative events like the Corwen. The Tournament Committee would continue to be proactive in aligning tournaments to Members' needs. **Action IP**

#### **3.2 Universal Membership Subscriptions 2014/5**

It was agreed that the Board would recommend that these should rise roughly in line with the June inflation figure, and the context would be fully explained to shareholders, including that over time increases remained below inflation. This would mean an increase from 0.34p to 0.35p. **Action AP**

#### **3.3 Other Subscriptions 2014/5**

It was agreed these should also broadly rise by inflation. The effect would be an increase of £1 in Club affiliation fees (now to be merged as a single fee) and in UK Direct Members and EBUTA Members' fees. However it was agreed to recommend an increase of £2 (to £30) in Overseas Members' subscriptions to start to reflect the increased cost of postage for such members.

**Action: AP**

#### **3.4 VAT Claim Update**

The hearing was scheduled for 5th September after which the Board would be updated in correspondence i.e. well before the October Board Meeting. **Action: AP**

#### **4. General Managers Report**

The report was welcomed but with a request going forward for more specific updates on target completion dates e.g. for IT projects.

**Action: BC**

Since the report had been written Matt Betts had announced his resignation to take up a vocational role and the Board thanked him for his work over many years and wished him well for the future. In line with good practice, an exit interview would be undertaken (and GR would let Matt know of our intention).

**Action: JC/GR**

#### **5. County Chairmen's Meeting**

This had been a useful and productive meeting with good ideas for improvements, particularly communication. Thanks were due to all the facilitators who had helped so much on the day.

##### **5.1 County Working Group's Terms of Reference**

The terms of reference for this Group were agreed as marginally amended. The first meeting would be of the Midlands Group in October as a pilot for subsequent meetings in other regions; Counties not in a Counties League structure would be contacted directly and discussion would also take place about how the two remaining members of the NCC could use their experience and enthusiasm to help. A decision about the future of the NCC would be taken after this initial round of discussions.

**Action: DE**

#### **7. Annual Report 2012-13**

The draft report was both welcomed and approved subject to a reworking of the section on Competitions to explain the difficult climate for such events.

**Action: IP/SB**

#### **8. Awards**

##### **8.2 Award Structure for International Players**

The new structure was welcomed and agreed subject to an additional team award to recognise outstanding performance, but there needed to be greater definition around the criteria for the awards. The appropriate nomination route was probably best that the Selection Committee recommend to the Board, with anyone having the ability to make nominations to the Selection Committee, albeit the vast majority of the nomination would probably come from within the Committee.

**Action: RM/HD**

The proposed Club Performance awards would be considered by the County Working Group.

**Action: DE**

The proposal on education awards would be considered by, and probably launched alongside, the new Charity.

**Action: SB**

#### **9. EBL Champions Cup 2014**

The Board was very disappointed that this had been awarded to Milan without any prior communication from the EBL. Although no further action was proposed, the EBU would need much firmer assurances on process before considering any future proposals to stage tournaments. We now needed to communicate to our potential sponsors.

**Action: HD**

HD and GR were thanked for all the hard work they had undertaken in preparing a possible proposal for this event.

#### **10. WBF Sport Accord Mind Games December 2013.**

It was also very disappointing to hear, again without prior consultation, of the decision to invite the Israeli Women's team rather than the World Mind Sports Champions (England) to the Sport Accord Mind Games as had previously been the tradition. If a delegates meeting takes place in Bali we will make clear our disappointment to the WBF that the Israeli team had felt it necessary to withdraw from the Venice Cup, and that we hope in future that the WBF will ensure all tournament venues are required to provide safe arrangements for all competing teams. **Action: JD**

In the light of the potential for heightened interest in the event the Board asked the Chairman to review previous advice to teams who had travelled to countries that may be affected by terrorism. **Action: SB**

#### **11. Calendar Of Meetings For 2013/4**

This was approved.

#### **12 AOB**

The last Tournament Committee minutes had not yet been circulated. **Action: IP**

HD was standing down at the end of her maximum term as Chairman of the Selection Committee. The Board thanked her for all the tremendous work she had done as Chairman, including the building of much stronger relationships between the Board and this Committee.

This was also SB's last meeting as EBU Chairman. She thanked the Board for their support during her office and wished the future Chair well. The Board for its part thanked SB for the huge energy and ability she had put into the role which had taken the EBU forward in so many ways, and were very pleased that she was standing for re-election, with a view to taking on the Chairmanship of the new education Charity.