



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EBU LIMITED
AT ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION, BROADFIELDS, BICESTER ROAD, AYLESBURY, HP19 8AZ
ON TUESDAY 28TH & WEDNESDAY 29TH JUNE 2016**

Present: Jeremy Dhondy (Chairman) (JD)
Ian Payn (Vice Chairman) (IP)
Heather Dhondy (HD)
Darren Evetts (DE)
Anthony Golding (AG)
Robert Lawy (RL)
Ron Millet (RM)
Barry Capal (General Manager) (BC)
Peter Stockdale (Minuting the meeting) (PS)

1. Apologies for Absence

28th June - Jerry Cope (Treasurer) (JC)
29th June - none

To start the meeting the Board recorded their congratulations to the England Women's team on their victory in the European Championships.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 23rd March 2016

2.1 Accuracy

The minutes were approved as accurate.

2.2 Matters arising

There were no matters arising not otherwise on the agenda.

3. General Manager's report

BC had circulated his report prior to the meeting. He added that a copyright agreement between the EBU and EBED had been produced. JD signed the agreement, and BC would arrange for it to be signed by the necessary EBED trustees. **Action: BC**

BC reported that the implementation of Workbooks had again been delayed, though it was hoped that it would go live on 18th July. The delays had been due to problems integrating third party software, but this had been resolved at no additional cost. BC advised that when the change was made there would be a short period when some services were unavailable – only 'manual processing' could be done. It was hoped that this would only affect the office for up to two days, and clubs and members would be notified in advance. Once the change had been made the only difference which it would make to members would be that My EBU would no longer be a 'beta version' and would be the only 'members area' available on the website.

RM asked about the EBU's relationship with the Sport and Recreation Alliance. BC and JD advised that although they had met with representatives in the past, they had received little support during interactions with Sport England. The possibility of not renewing membership in future was considered.

BC reported that Pershore BC had successfully registered as a Community Amateur Sport Club, the first affiliated club to do so. This will allow them, amongst other things, to claim gift aid. The Club Liaison Officer, Bev Purvis (BP), will discuss this matter with the EBU's auditor, Tony Parks, and will look to update the model constitution to make available a version which would be appropriate for clubs who register as a CASC. It was believed that this option is only available to clubs with a turnover of under £5K per year – the equivalent of a small club which plays once a week. Any changes to the club constitutions would be shown to AG, who added that he would wish to make a change to address an issue which had arisen when a club committee resigned en bloc.

BC advised that there had been a large demand for the grants which had been available. Eleven clubs had been successful and would be purchasing dealing or scoring equipment. The unsuccessful clubs had been notified and advised that some grants may be available next year. When all the grants had been issued this would be reported to the membership, and feedback would be sought in due course. It was discussed that providing feedback could be made a necessity for receiving future grants.

The colour error made by the diary printer was reported. Board members agreed that the decision to receive a discount, rather than requesting a reprint, had been correct.

4. EBED Matters

RL reported that he attended the most recent EBED meeting – held on 1st June – and that he was very positive about the work the charity was doing. He was encouraged by the way the relationship between EBED and the EBU was handled, with clearly defined job roles, and an awareness of integrating the work of the EBU Club Liaison Officer with what EBED was doing. He advised that EBED had identified that 'education' was a larger area than could be handled by the current staff, so they had advertised for an Education & Development Officer.

RL advised that EBED was currently working on: an academic study in to the health and wellbeing benefits of bridge – the first part of which was a survey which had been circulated to EBU members; a refresh of the Bridge For All books which would be ready for the start of a new year of lessons in September – students learning through Bridge For All receive a year's free membership of the EBU; 'Fast Forward Bridge', a scheme for enabling the teaching of bridge in a shorter time than was presently available.

RL reported that he had been asked at the meeting for the EBU's view on TD training as EBED were considering how it might be priced. RL had replied that the EBU would see TD training as crucial, as ensuring well organised games was important to encouraging a growth in participation – the Board were in agreement with this position.

JD added that EBUTA had now become EBTA – the English Bridge Teachers Association – thus removing any direct connection to the EBU.

5. Standing Committee Update

JD advised that the Board is responsible for updating the Terms of Reference for each Standing Committee, but input had been sought from each Standing Committee prior to the meeting.

5.1 Tournament Committee – Terms of Reference amendment

The Tournament Committee had been generally happy with their Terms of Reference, and no significant changes were required. IP advised, however, that there was one possible change which could be made which hadn't been included in the document circulated to the Board – he would seek to clarify this and advise the Board if he considered the change to be worthy of their input, otherwise the Board were happy for it to be adopted without further consultation.

5.2 Selection Committee – Terms of Reference amendment

The Selection Committee had identified a few changes which should be made to their Terms of Reference (ToR). The Board discussed what the committee's primary goal should be when selecting a team for international events, as an amendment had addressed this matter. It was noted that a policy document also existed alongside these ToR which addressed the subject in more detail, so it was agreed that the proposed wording was therefore acceptable.

The process for monitoring and reporting the spending by the Selection Committee was discussed and agreed to be appropriate.

The Board were happy to adopt the new ToR for this committee.

5.3 Changes and Consultation

JD reported that all the Standing Committees had seen the revised document which has been produced following the Shareholders' meeting in May. The proposal would be finalised by JD, with input from AG, and circulated to County Shareholders and Chairmen with an invitation for them to make comments in advance of the September meeting. **Action: JD**

6. Award nominations

The possible recipients of awards which would be presented at the AGM and Summer Meeting were discussed, and agreements were reached in all instances.

7. County Working Groups

Possible changes to the National and Regional County Working Groups were discussed.

8. Appointed Directors

Tuesday – JD reported that ten people had expressed interest in possibly becoming a Board Director. He had spoken with them, and explained that this would be an annual appointment, renewed at the AGM – including at the 2016 AGM. Six had gone on to submit an application form. The merits of the applicants were discussed, though a decision was deferred until JC could be present to give his opinion. It was agreed that someone should only be appointed if they provided specific skills – there were sufficient people on the Board at present so someone to simply 'fill a seat' was not required.

Disappointment was expressed that there was little diversity amongst the applicants. It was noted that efforts would be need to be made in future to ensure that those from other groups would feel that they could apply.

Wednesday – Following input from JC the board decided to proceed by shortlisting three candidates, and inviting them for interview. JC and IP would carry out the interviews. JD would notify the unsuccessful candidates. **Action: JD**

9. EBL/WBF Matters

JD circulated a letter which he had received from the WBF in response to a formal complaint which had been made at the 2015 World Championships regarding perceived ethical violations by an opposing pair. JD expressed his disappointment at the response from the WBF.

10.

This matter had already been satisfactorily resolved so was not discussed.

11. Any other business

JD advised that at present DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks for those involved in EBU activities were organised by John Pain (JP), but JP had suggested that someone else should also be involved. As EBED were undertaking more activities for which DBS checks would be required it had been suggested that Richard Banbury (RB), who organises youth events for EBED, may be the most suitable person to work alongside JP. He would also organise checks for those involved in EBU activities. It was agreed that this would be appropriate and BC would discuss this with RB. **Action: BC** (Update: This has now been agreed.)

EBED had raised the possibility of allowing unaffiliated clubs to take part in the EBED Simultaneous Pairs events. This would not present a logistical problem, and as well as helping EBED – through raising funds and allowing for interaction with other clubs – also may be beneficial to the EBU by providing a means through which the benefits of affiliation could be promoted. All Board members were therefore in agreement that unaffiliated clubs could be encouraged to take part.

JD reported that some clubs had been disqualified from the National Inter-Club Knockout (NICKO) and Garden Cities Trophy for fielding ineligible players. In future, the teams would be checked at the time of entry – rather than relying on the club itself to ensure that the players were eligible – and JD would be updating the entry regulations to ensure that the process was clear. **Action: JD**

DE advised that he and BP had agreed that she would keep counties informed as to her contact with unaffiliated clubs. Also, DE will ask Counties to keep BP informed of any work they are doing to approach unaffiliated clubs.

DE mentioned the ACBL's Blue Ribbon Taskforce, which was being established to try to eliminate ethical violations committed by its members. JD advised that in instances where 'unusual' results were being seen GR was writing to clubs to advise them, though it was agreed that it may be suitable to put in the Club Management Focus newsletter some measures which clubs could adopt in order to reduce the likelihood of any infringements being committed.

Financial Matters (*Wednesday*)

1. Treasurer's Report and update

JC indicated that he had now seen a very early draft of the 15/16 management accounts, and these suggested an outturn of around a £200k loss, which was better than last reported. Improvements included most significantly a £12.9k late influx of Licence income, better UM, competition, Sims Pairs and Bridge Shop performance in the last 2 months of the year, and a significant un-forecast

underspend in the International budgets. Some of these improvements might flow through to subsequent years and the 4-year forecast, which now included inflation, would be revised accordingly. **Action JC**

The first full results from the new financial year were not due until end July, and would then resume a monthly cycle. But first indications suggested an improved UM performance in April and May. So overall finances seem to have stabilised, but it remained likely that over the 4-year cycle there would still not be the generation of the appropriate cash for investment for an organisation of the EBU's size.

2. VAT case

It was unclear what the effect of the 'Brexit' vote would be on the handling of our important VAT appeal, and whether, in response to a question from RM, we would need to adjust our reasoning underpinning the appeal to focus less on equivalence with the rest of Europe. JD promised to discuss the situation with our Honorary Counsel, but in practice it was too early to be sure how things would unfold and whether the attitude of HRMC would change. **Action JD**

Bridge+ more (Wednesday)

The Board members had seen a demonstration of the Bridge + More system. They agreed that there was much research to do before deciding whether to progress. BC was authorised to ask Gordon Rainsford & Michael Clark to investigate technical matters and in addition BC would look at the possible financial implications. He would report back at the meeting in September. **Action: BC**