



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EBU LIMITED**  
**via Zoom 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Present:**

Ian Payn (IP)	Rob Lawy (RL)
Gillian Fawcett (Vice Chairman) (GF)	Ron Millet (RM)
Jerry Cope (JC)	Bev Purvis (BP)
Gordon Rainsford (Chief Executive) (GR)	Patrick Shields (PS)
Adrian Darnell (AD)	Gayle Webb (GW)
Anthony Golding (AG)	Sam Kelly (Minutes) (SK)
Kiat Huang (KH)	

**1. Apologies for Absence**

None

As it was the first meeting after the AGM, Officers' roles and Board roles were clarified. KH was co-opted to the Board for one month, he confirmed he would be stepping down from the EBU Board but will remain as part of the Technology Executive Working Group. KH noted he had enjoyed his time on the Board.

IP clarified the current roles of the Board members as follows:

IP – Chair, Liaison for Laws & Ethics Committee, Liaison for Disciplinary Committee and Commercial Lead.

GF – Vice Chair, Liaison for Selection Committee and Bridge Great Britain Representative

JC – Treasurer, Finance, Editorial Board and Bridge Warehouse. JC noted he would be stepping down from the Board in November 2021.

RM – New Membership and Development

RL – Board Tournament Panel liaison

BP – Detailing membership package, communications with clubs and litigation

PS – Strategy

KH – Technology

AG – Compliance and Masterpoint regulations. AG also noted he would be stepping down from the Board in November 2021.

AD – Liaison with EBED and supporting role for RL

GW – Club liaison and development

IP asked Officers and Board members to review their current responsibilities.

It was decided that the Board Covid Sub-Committee will restart. Following the meeting, the dates for the sub-committee meetings were set as every second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

**2. Co-option of Board members for 2020/21 and Board Director Responsibilities (IP)**

Following a vote by EBU affiliated clubs, Gayle Webb (GW) was formally co-opted to the EBU Board.

### **3. Minutes and Approval from last meeting**

#### **2.1 Accuracy**

The minutes were approved as accurate.

#### **2.2 Matters Arising**

None

### **4. Chief Executive's Report (GR)**

GR had a circulated a report prior to the meeting, and a number of matters from it were discussed.

GR highlighted that the new EBU website is in the final stages. He asked for the board to look at the new website and return any thoughts via email within the following week.

GR confirmed the new Technical Executive Working Group is working well.

Competitions are still being planned three months in advance, the Easter congress will be held online. As RealBridge is now running fully, it will be possible to run a full range of events for future EBU congresses, including Easter. GR noted that it is hoped that it may be feasible to run the Summer Meeting in person, as well as online.

BP asked if there were plans to host more EBU lower level games on RealBridge. There was discussion around the new RealBridge Lounge which may be ideal for EBU social games. GR stated he will look into the possibilities of this.

GR noted that that the year-on-year capping of UMS that was introduced to help clubs in need, will be ending on 28th February. This will be confirmed to clubs in the Club Management Focus.

GR stated that he is in discussions with Jonathan Lillycrop and RealBridge about providing basic TD training. GR is also discussing with Giorgio Provenza (GP) (EBED CEO) about a potential EBED collaboration in running the training, perhaps with some free places for EBU affiliated clubs.

### **5. Financial Matters (JC)**

#### **5.1 Treasurer's Report & November Management Accounts**

JC had circulated a report prior to the meeting, he highlighted some aspects of his report.

JC started by saying he was happy with the current financial status for the first time since Covid last March. He said the positives come from UMS sessions, both virtual clubs; sessions and those EBU games which are played on BBO. JC noted competitions have also performed well this year, making a consistent contribution, which had not been the case for some time. He cautioned that December will still show a downturn, due to the payment of WBF and EBL fees, even though we had secured a reduction in those fees. JC is hopeful that in the January – March report the EBU will show a small underlying surplus.

IP will hold a meeting with EBED to discuss the way forward with regards to any funds given to EBED from the EBU. IP invited AD to attend the meeting.

JC noted Club Affiliation fees will be due at the beginning of April, with the majority collected by direct debit. If clubs may have difficulty in paying the fee, we will ask them to let us know by 31st March and we will defer payment but maintain the club's EBU affiliation. This notification will go in the Club Management Focus.

## **5.2 2021/22 Budget**

JC stated that the budget planning is underway. He asked for members to submit their applications for funding next week.

There was discussion about spending for international teams. JC confirmed that there is always a balance to be met and that bids for international funding should be submitted in broad terms; the Board will then need to prioritise on advice from the Selection Committee.

## **6. Disciplinary Panel & Prosecution Panel 2021-22 Confirmation**

IP noted that he had dynamically approved new submissions for members of the prosecution and disciplinary panels throughout the year and asked if there were any issues with this continuing. There were no objections from the board, and the list was approved.

IP said with regret that John Williams and Brian Crack have stepped down from their roles.

JC mentioned that Heather Dhondy (HD) is a member of the prosecution panel and should be added to the list.

IP confirmed that prosecutions are operating more smoothly, Nick Doe (ND) now has some help from Jeremy Dhondy (JD). The work put into the prosecutions was acknowledged.

IP then talked about sentencing guidelines. Following a meeting, two conveners JD and Sarah Bell (SB), issued sentencing guidelines for each disciplinary committee. Each committee can increase or decrease sentences based on individual cases. International playing bans should be separate from bans from EBU games. The board agreed that international games includes, but was limited to, any games where the Selection Committee select people to play, including friendly events.

## **7. EBU Strategy Review (PS)**

PS confirmed he has spent the last year establishing the fundamentals of the EBU strategy. He asked the Board for any objections to the current proposals, no objections noted, all agreed.

PS stated that the next stage will look at the six identified strands. This will require communal wisdom and combined effort. He asked for volunteers for each of the following sections: Player Recruitment; Competitions; Representative Events; Membership & Communications; Financial & Commercial; and Technology.

The volunteers discussed during the meeting were:

Competitions - GW, RL, PS & GR

Representative Events – GF

Membership & Communications – RM

Financial & Commercial – JC

Technology - KH

PS will resolve each section over the next few weeks, with the next stage of work beginning thereafter.

## **8. EBED Matters (IP/RL)**

IP stated he has a meeting planned next week with Andy Margetts (AM), EBED Chair.

GF noted that AM is stepping down as EBED Chair and EBED are currently looking for a replacement, she noted any ideas are welcomed from EBED.

EBED can have up to nine trustees on their board (five from EBU and four from EBED). They currently have seven including four from the EBU. If they appoint a further EBED trustee, the EBU will look to appoint a further EBU trustee.

AD is taking on the EBU liaison role with EBED.

### **9. County Working Groups – Update (PS)**

PS noted there was not much to update from the CWG's. He noted that the County Chairs meeting is due for May, there is nothing planned prior to this.

### **10. BGB Representative 2021-22**

It was agreed that GF will be the Bridge Great Britain EBU representative for 2021-22.

### **11. Any Other Business**

Best Behaviour at Bridge Update: The Best Behaviour at Bridge guidance has been updated to make it clear that online bridge is also included. The changes proposed were approved by the Board. AD asked if it could also include asking people to add their real names to their online profiles. It was confirmed that this was not a Best Behaviour at Bridge issue and that many people, especially women, may not wish to include their real name due to previous online harassment.

The date of the Board meeting in June was rescheduled to Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June.

IP confirmed for new Board members, the June meeting will consist of a two-day meeting. The first half-day will be a general Board meeting, and the second half-day will be a strategy meeting.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

**Meeting closed at 16:22**