



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION
HELD AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, LONDON
ON WEDNESDAY 12 JANUARY 2005**

Present:	Denis Robson	Chairman
	Philip G Mason	Vice Chairman and Yorkshire Shareholder
	Tom J Bradley	Hon. Treasurer
	Terry Collier	Secretary and General Manager
	Sally Bugden	Board Member
	John Carter	Board Member & Hants & IOW Delegate
	Jeff Morris	Board Member
	John Neville	Board Member & Bedfordshire Proxy Shareholder
	Chris Dixon	Board Member & Selection Committee Chairman
	Martin Pool	Laws & Ethics Committee Chairman & Sussex Delegate
	Gerard Faulkner	Vice President and Norfolk Delegate
	Peter Stocken	Vice President
	Max Bavin	Tournament Manager
	Karen Durrell	Reception
	Clare Farthing	Minute Secretary and Office Manager

County	Shareholders & Delegates:		Proxy/ Alternate	County	Shareholders & Delegates:		Proxy/ Alternate
	Present	Apologies			Present	Apologies	
Avon		Mrs J Griffiths- Baker L Bennett	P Green	Lincolnshire	J Gaunt S Knox		
Bedfordshire		R Davis D Gillling	J Neville C Parkin BJ Keable	London	S Cochemé	J Smith	
Berks & Bucks	J E Allen R Brock Mrs M Hatch			Manchester	J Rudolf	B Kaye G Rice J Smith	
Cambs & Hunts				Mersey & Cheshire		Mrs D Herbert G Ellis Dr J Leather	J Rudolf
Channel Islands		P Panter	D Robson	Middlesex	P Kaufmann P Tobias R Amey	K A R Drane	
Cornwall Cumbria Derbyshire Devon Dorset	C Brand	G Bell	D Robson	Norfolk North East Northants Notts Oxford	R Vajda E Nunn Mrs B Harris P Baxter J Dilworth E Sutton	Mrs C Buchanan R Thompson T King	I Spoons
Essex	Mrs M Curtis S Prince			Somerset		Miss J Pooley	
Gloucestershire		E Hill K Stanley	Mrs N Allen	Staffs & Shrops		Mrs P Poxon	J Withers
Hants & IoW Herefordshire	Dr S Strachan	G Harrington	Dr S Munday Mrs C Brown	Suffolk Surrey	Mrs P Griffin P Bentley Mrs J Virley P C Kent M Pool P Bates J Pyner J Downing M Allen	A Moore	
Hertfordshire	M Hancock B Eddleston	Mrs F Warner	M Minting	Sussex			
Isle of Man		Dr EF Slatcher	D Robson	Warwicks			
Kent	BR Crack B Manser	Mrs C Draper		Westmorland			
Lancashire	B Brelsford AA Cordery			Wiltshire			
Leicestershire	RH Northage J Wilcox	Mrs P Watson		Worcester		Mrs L Boyes	
				Yorkshire	P G Mason		

I Rodger
Mrs J Latham
G Jepson

1. APOLOGIES

See the table on page 1.

The Chairman opened the Council meeting by announcing that a proposed Chairmans' Conference would be discussed at the next Board meeting.

(Secretary's Note: Please note that this will now be held on 10 May in Kettering, details to follow).

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 6 OCTOBER 2004 AND MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Accuracy

2.1.1 Membership Subscriptions (Item 10.2):

The incorrect use of an apostrophe in member's was noted and should read members.

2.1.2 Apologies (Item 1): Alaine Hamilton and Peter Stocken were incorrectly referred to as Board Members.

2.1.3 Dates of Council Meetings (Item 8.1): The venue of London was also approved.

2.1.4 Accuracy (Item 2.1.1): It was noted that County Secretaries and Membership Secretaries meetings had been cancelled for 2004 only.

2.1.5 The minutes were **approved**, subject to the above.

3. MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF EBU LTD

3.1 2 September 2004 (formally approved by The Chairman)

3.1.1 National Bridge Centre (Item 2.2.4): It was confirmed that a report from the General Manager did include costings and that the Board would visit the Kettering Leisure Village on 25 January.

3.1.2 CASS (Item 7): A report relating to the future development of CASS will be given to the Board on 25 January.

3.1.3 Financial Matters (Item 3): The Treasurer confirmed that both he and the General Manager have met to review the Bridge Shop and various options were open to us in the future.

3.1.4 Sim Pairs (Item 5): The first of the "fun weeks" is planned to take place in the week commencing 14 February, (Valentines Day). The event will take the form of a "Play with the Experts" and five sets of hands will be available during the week. This event is free to all affiliated clubs, but participating clubs are asked to use it as a fundraiser in support of the EBU Tsunami Appeal, details of which were handed to all Delegates at the meeting.

3.1.5 The minutes were **noted**.

3.2 2 November 2004 (Draft Minutes)

3.2.1 Membership Development (Item 5): Despite a lengthy delay in finalising the basis of a membership “pilot scheme” in association with Middlesex CBA, this has now been agreed and will be presented to the county’s meeting on Tuesday 18 January. Further details will be reported to the Board on 25 January.

3.2.2 Diary & Handbook (Item 2.2.5) Concern was raised that some clubs in Norfolk did not agree with the Board decision to remove club information from future diaries.

3.2.3 Membership Development (Item 5):The General Manager confirmed that the new ‘Welcome Pack’ and Application Form was ready to go to print.

3.2.4 Personal Expenses, Allowances, Fees and Charges Review (Item 3.4) It was confirmed that the total cost, rather than the individual fees to TDs, would increase by 2.36%, and take effect from 1 April 2005.

3.2.5 Proposed Bridge & Golf Scheme (Item 8): The General Manager was asked to check that this proposal was in accordance with the new Articles of Association.

3.2.6 EBL & WBF Matters (Item 13): The Chairman confirmed that he; the General Manager and Jeff Morris would represent the EBU in Turin.

3.2.7 Youth Development (Item 2.2.4) With regard to disciplinary matters it was confirmed that three levels of responsibility exist, as follows:

- 1) Squad Activities – it is the responsibility of the Squad Managers’ to maintain discipline and they have the authority to exclude players, if need be, from Squad activities.
- 2) Selected Teams – the Selection Committee has the authority to remove a player from a Team and will exercise this power in consultation with our legal adviser, Squad Managers’ and the Board, as appropriate.
- 3) Competing Teams – should action be required when a team is at a competition the NPC has the authority to remove players from the team.

The meeting noted the above.

The question as to likely budget for the Women’s Under 25 Team was raised. The Treasurer confirmed that it will be included in the budget that is currently being worked on.

3.2.8 Board Responsibilities (Item 9): The Chairman agreed that he will nominate a Board member with responsibility for EBUTA.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

- 4.1** The Treasurer presented his report and advised that whilst the overall budget for the year was for an £11k loss, recent figures indicated that this would be nearer £30k. Much of this is due to further decline in our membership, which this year is now estimated to be some nine hundred fewer than last year. On the positive side Competitions are performing well and should exceed budget by £5k. General concern was expressed over the continuing decline in membership and whilst it was appreciated that many members have been lost due to problems associated with age, it was felt that more should be done to investigate the dissatisfaction issues.

5. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

- 5.1** Surrey felt that they lacked membership support and highlighted the recent introduction of our new IT System as a possible reason for this. They also felt it was unacceptable for lapsed members to be able to enter such events as the Brighton Congress and to receive the August issue of *English Bridge* and the diary.
- 5.2** In response, the General Manager advised that the Enterprise system, which covers all of our administration processes, only went live in September and whilst it is providing an excellent service with the majority of our needs, there are still some "teething problems". He was not aware of any specific issues that led to Surrey's dissatisfaction and asked that they be addressed to him. With regard to the issue of lapsed members, he advised that this situation had been going on for some considerable time and the purpose of the report before Council was to show how this can be rectified now that Enterprise had been installed.
- 5.3** It was also raised that the recent membership reminder letter was very strongly worded. The Chairman agreed to review the content of the letter.
- 5.4** The discussion extended to issues concerning the Data Protection Act and the Counties' ability to source information. The General Manager advised that we are aware of the needs and the terms that we need to meet. These would be discussed with Accounting Answers (Enterprise installation and support service) at a meeting planned for 28 January.

6. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EBU SELECTION COMMITTEE

6.1 16 November 2004

- 6.1.1** Chris Dixon summarised recent events and congratulated the Women's team for their bronze medal achievement at the World Olympiad, Council gave a spontaneous round of applause for their achievement. He also drew attention to the success of our under 20s team, in winning the Junior Channel Trophy. With regard to the future, teams will be participating in the Camrose and Lady Milne Trophy with a Bermuda Bowl in 2005 and a European Championship in 2006.
- 6.1.2** The minutes were **approved**.

7. MINUTES OF THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

7.1 6 December 2004

- 7.1.2** Margaret Curtis presented the minutes, apologising for the unavoidable delay in their circulation.
- 7.1.3** **Age Qualification for Seniors (Item 4.2.1):** Confirmation is still awaited on any increase.
- 7.1.4** **Isle of Man Congress (Item 6.2):** This is an on-going disappointment and no longer a viable option for us to continue to support.
- 7.1.5** **Tollemache Cup (Item 6.10):** Unfortunately the usual problems were encountered with the hotel and alternatives will be considered. It was suggested that perhaps groups of 12 or splitting venues would help. Counties were asked to come up with some suggestions.
- 7.1.6** **National Newcomers Pairs (Item 9.1):** No suggestions had been received to date, despite flagging it at a previous Council meeting. Future events were going to be split into two categories, one for those with fewer than 5,000 MP's and one for those with fewer than 1,000. It was Council's opinion that this could discourage attendees as one was too high and the other too low. The matter of the high level of Green Points to be awarded at the National Newcomers Pairs was raised and it was agreed that the committee would review this matter.
- 7.1.7** **Overseas Congress (Item 9.2):** A second one in Sep/October was still being considered and future venues sourced.
- 7.1.8** **South-Western Summer Congress (9.3)** This event is running at the same time as Scarborough and contracts were awaiting signature prior to seeking entries.
- 7.1.9** **One-Day Green-Pointed Joint Ventures (Item 10.1):** Costs will be the same as having a one-day and freedom given to set individual pricing.
- 7.1.10** **Year End Congress**
It was agreed that a review of GP awards for national competitions should be undertaken.
- 7.1.11** The minutes were **noted**, (as they were tabled).

8. MINUTES OF THE EBU LAWS & ETHICS COMMITTEE

In presenting two sets of minutes, Martin Pool asked that all items relating to the Orange Book be removed for separate discussion later in the meeting.

8.1 10 November 2004

- 8.1.2** There were no questions raised and the minutes were **noted** awaiting the outcome of the Orange Book matter.

8.2 14 December 2004

8.2.1 These were also noted as above.

(The meeting resumed, having adjourned to deal with Item 9 – Resolution to Dissolve the Union)

8.2.2 A lengthy discussion took place in respect to the Orange Book and it was noted that more work by the Committee was needed, leading to a possible publication date of April 2006.

8.2.3 Whilst there were numerous issues raised in particularly the following two matters;

1 The combined effect of some of the decisions under items 3.1 (A) and 3.1 (B) of the minutes of 14 December 2004, which results in opening bids at the 2 level, requiring neither an announcement nor an alert if they are:-

- (a) natural and weak; or
- (b) natural and strong

This was referred back to the Laws & Ethics Committee. (Note – the remaining decisions under these items are unaffected by this reference back.)

2 The fact that the Laws & Ethics Committee had not yet decided whether to publish a successor to Level 3 as part of the new Orange Book (Item 5.2 of the minutes of 10 November 2004).

Council wished the Committee to note its firm view that the equivalent of Level 3 should continue to be published in some form for the benefit of sponsoring organisations wishing to use it, such as Counties and Clubs.

In relation to other matters, the Chairman proposed that Council endorse the work of the Committee so far and await with interest the results of its further deliberations.

Subject to the points noted above the minutes were **approved**.

9. RESOLUTION TO DISSOLVE THE UNION

Satish Khandke and Stephen Sampson from Hammonds joined the meeting.

9.1 It was proposed that the English Bridge Union (Unincorporated Association) be dissolved in accordance with Bye Law 39.2 and responsibility be passed to EBU Ltd. The resolution was to take effect at the end of the present Council meeting.

9.2 The vote was unanimously in favour.

***The meeting was temporarily adjourned to allow the Extraordinary
General Meeting of EBU Ltd to take place.***

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Topic for Discussion - Master Points Proposal

10.1.2 Philip Mason summarised the good response to the proposal and the excellent value that many of our members placed upon our Master Points scheme. He then introduced Simon Cochemé who highlighted the five recommendations covered by the Working Group's paper.

1. **Depreciation:** 80/20 disliked it and the Board had recommended that it should be removed from the proposal.
2. **Green/Black Points:** Should be handled by the Tournament Committee and reviewed by event, in particular simultaneous events.
3. **Gold Point Scheme:** Club level players are probably unaware of these, but they do work well as an indication of current form. *English Bridge* could be used to improve this situation and Gold Point seeding in events could be introduced where practical.
4. **Review:** Is needed to the ranks of Master Points, either stay with existing and add one at top and one in the middle, or to do a mapping as per the proposal, with 4 divisions to make it clearer to their position. It is not worth changing names, now that depreciation has been removed.
5. **Green Points:** We could change to bronze, silver and introduce a gold enhanced points system and assist Swiss Pairs.

10.1.3 It was noted that it was desirable to maintain some consistency with the outside world when renaming ranks, and to bear in mind the effect of changes on the transfer of records to and from other Home Unions.

10.1.4 A gold point event will be discussed by the Tournament Committee as a possible sponsored event.

10.1.5 Philip Mason asked Council if they are happy to leave it with Tournament Committee to review the suggestions and queries. Council voted in favour of this recommendation.

10.1.6 The Chairman introduced a members-only ranking paper, which whilst not being warmly received will be presented to the Board for further consideration.

10.1.7 The last Council meeting of the English Bridge Union was closed. A Shareholders meeting will be held on 6 April 2005.

A Shareholders meeting will be held on 6 April 2005,
at the Imperial Hotel, London, starting at 12.30pm