



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS OF
THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION LIMITED
HELD AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, LONDON
ON WEDNESDAY 20TH JULY 2005**

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| Present: | Denis Robson | Chairman |
| | Philip Mason | Vice Chairman |
| | John Neville | Acting Treasurer |
| | Terry Collier | General Manager |
| | Sally Bugden | Board Member |
| | John Carter | Board Member |
| (Apologies) | Chris Dixon | Board Member |
| (Apologies) | David Harris | Board Member |
| | Jeff Morris | Board Member |
| | Alan Nelson | Board Member |
| (Apologies) | Chris Dixon | Selection Committee Chairman |
| | Martin Pool | Laws & Ethics Committee Chairman & Sussex Shareholder |
| | Margaret Curtis | Tournament Committee Chairman & Essex Shareholder |
| | Gerard Faulkner | Vice President & Norfolk Shareholder |
| | Karen Durrell | Reception |
| | Clare Smith | Minute Secretary |

| County | Shareholders: Present | Apologies | Proxy | County | Shareholders: Present | Apologies | Proxy |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------|--------------------------|--|--|------------|
| Avon | | Mrs M A Harris | P Green | Lincolnshire | | | |
| Bedfordshire | | R R Davis | DJ Gilling | London | S Cochemé | | |
| Berks & Bucks | Mrs M Hatch R Brock | Mrs V Lawson | | Manchester | J Smith B Kaye | J A Smith G D Rice Mrs D Herbert | |
| Cambs & Hunts | | C N Jagger D Carmichael | | Merseyside & Cheshire | | | |
| Channel Islands | Mrs P Panter | | | Middlesex | K A R Drane | | |
| Cumbria | | | | Norfolk | R Amey JG Faulkner | | |
| Derbyshire | | R A McEwan | C Band | North East | | | I Spoons |
| Devon | | J Lankshear | | Northants | | RF Vajda | |
| Dorset | | | | Notts | | Mrs J Burgess P Baxter | |
| Essex | Mrs M Curtis SJ Prince | | | Oxford | Mrs B Harris | Mrs A Claridge | |
| Gloucestershire | E Hill | | | Somerset | | Miss J Pooley | J Dilworth |
| Hants & IoW | | Dr S Strachan | | Staffs & Shrops | J Withers | | |
| Herefordshire | G Harrington | Dr S Munday | | Suffolk | | M R Carey | |
| Hertfordshire | M W Minting | M Hancock B N Eddleston | | Surrey | M Curtis P Bentley Mrs M Griffin Mrs J B Virley | | |
| Isle of Man | | Dr EF Slatcher | | Sussex | P J Bates M Pool M Allen | P Kent | |
| Kent | BR Crack | | | Warwicks | | | |
| Lancashire | A Cordery J Brelsford | | | Westmorland | | | |
| Leicestershire | RH Northage J Wilcox | Mrs P Watson | | Wiltshire | P Green | | |
| | | | | Worcester | | Mrs L Boyes | A M Reid |
| | | | | Yorkshire | G W Jepson I Rodger | Mrs J Latham | |

In welcoming Shareholder's to the meeting the Chairman extended his thanks to all who had assisted us in raising funds for the Tsunami Appeal. In conjunction with Rotary International we have supported a village in the south of Sri Lanka by providing ten motorised fishing boats and sets of nets. Photographs showing the first two boats of the production line were on show.

The Chairman also advised that we have now received delivery of the 2005/6 EBU Diary and these will be distributed with the August issue of English Bridge.

1. A MINUTES SILENCE WAS HELD IN MEMORY OF THE LATE TOM BRADLEY

2. APOLOGIES

See the table on page 1.

3. MINUTES OF THE SHAREHOLDERS MEETING OF 6th APRIL 2005

3.1 Accuracy

The question raised (item 2.1.2) was whether the Company's limited liability extended to all of our committee. This matter requires attention from Hammonds, our legal advisors.

3.2 Matters Arising

3.2.1 Isle Of Man Congress

Mrs Curtis reported that the Tournament Committee had reconsidered this matter at its meeting held on 8th June 2005 (Minuted 14.3). Whilst the original decision stood, we will do all we can to support the Manx Bridge Union, including the offer of Green Points status. The disappointment of the Manx Bridge Union was noted.

3.2.2 Seniors Camrose Sponsorship

The Chairman reported that the previous offer of sponsorship has very generously been raised by £1,000. Due to this the Board have requested Aylesbury to consider how an event of this kind could be run in conjunction with another (Lady Milne) once this information is available it has been agreed that this will be placed before the BGB for their decision.

3.2.3 One Day Joint Venture Paper (7.1.1)

Mrs Curtis was concerned that this matter was becoming "bogged down" and suggested that we should proceed with a two year trial of the Licensing option and this was approved.

3.2.4 Tollemache

The Chairman confirmed that this would be the first event to be played at the Kettering Conference Centre and advised that a full listing of Hotels would be sent to Counties shortly. In addition a Hotel booking service is being established both as a telephone and Web based service which will be operated by the Kettering Conference Centre and that it would include special Hotel rates.

4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF EBU LTD

4.1 11th May 2005

Clarification of item 9 was sought as to why we need approval of BUSA to play in University Championships. The General Manager advised that the WBF and FISU (International Student Sports Association) now jointly stage University events and FISU insist that representative teams are approved by BUSA. We have problems with this due to the fact that in Britain, Bridge is not recognised as a sport and consequently not recognised by BUSA. However, discussion within FISU could change this situation to our advantage in the very near future.

The minutes were noted.

4.2 12th July 2005

The minutes of 12th July 2005 were tabled and will be considered at the next meeting.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was noted and approved.

The Treasurer also advised that he had recommended a 50p increase in the 2006/7 membership subscription and an increase of 2p on Master Points raising this from 36p to 38p as from April 2006. He was also minded to recommend a further increase of 2p in April 2007.

With regard to Licensing there has not been an increase this year but a full review will be undertaken over the coming months.

The above was approved.

6. DISCUSSION TOPIC

The discussion covered two main topics, the first the need to attract new members to secure the long term future of the EBU and the second the need to introduce children to the game of Bridge. Whilst acknowledging the importance of both topics the Chairman stated that we should have a clear understanding of our core efforts and suggested that we should initially concentrate on securing the future of the EBU and the game.

Staff from Aylesbury explained the work currently being undertaken in respect to the revamping of the *Bridge for All* scheme and the development of youth based activities. It was also drawn to the meetings attention that Aylesbury does not have the resource to do everything and consequently needs to concentrate its efforts on encouraging and supporting voluntary efforts and activities. The direct question was posed – are you and your colleagues prepared to commit yourselves? In this regard the General Manager drew attention to two targets within our development plan, the first that we double our membership by 2008 and secondly that we would have 1000 schools active in Bridge. These targets could be achieved by each members bringing in a new member and for every Club to adopt a local school.

It was stated that players only join the EBU when they want to play in the County and National events, or, register their Master Points and that the vast majority want neither, therefore, how can they be encouraged to join us? In response it was stated that without the support of all Club players the future of the EBU and the game in general is bleak.

There appears to be growing support, amongst some Shareholders, for the introduction of a system similar to that operated by the English Golf Union, whereby all Club members are automatically members of the EBU. It was noted, however, that recent research undertaken in Sussex did not support this approach. It was agreed that this matter should be given further consideration but that the detrimental affect of losing Clubs and members should be taken seriously.

The experience in Manchester of using a professional teacher to introduce school children to Mini Bridge was explained and it was requested that a budget allocation for Youth Bridge should be increased in support of such activities.

It was agreed that a Working Group should be formed as a matter of urgency to explore future development.

7. PROPOSAL FROM CHAIRMANS' CONFERENCE

Concern was expressed that the County Chairman had responded to an invitation directly from the Chairman of the Union and as a consequence were attending as individuals and not representatives of their County Association. This minority view was not accepted nor was the opinion that this proposal had not been directly proposed at the meeting.

It was agreed that this matter would be reported back to the County Associations and would be considered at the October 2005 meeting with the following additional proposal:

Proposal –That the number of Shareholders' meetings is restricted to the AGM in October, plus one other meeting.

Urgent consideration will be given to the following points:

- Possible arrangements for staging a mid-year conference.
- Methods of communication should the number of Shareholders meetings be reduced.

8. PUBLICATION OF MINUTES

This matter was fully considered and was agreed firstly that all EBU minutes would be published on the website. It was also agreed that minutes should be posted to the website and marked "Awaiting Approval" not less than seven days after circulation to Shareholders/Committee Members. Once the minutes are approved these should replace those marked "Awaiting Approval".

9. PROPOSAL FROM GLOUCESTERSHIRE CBA

This proposal was presented by Ted Hill on behalf of the Gloucestershire CBA and he explained that his Committee was concerned that we do not have a Code of Conduct for our young players nor do our Squad Managers have the authority to exclude players from selected teams.

It had previously been agreed by the Council that the following procedures would be followed:

- 1. That the Squad Managers have the authority to exclude players from the squad activities.***
- 2. That the Selection Committee have the authority to remove a previously selected player from a team.***

3. That the NPC has the authority to remove a player from a participating team.

Concern was expressed that it would appear wrong to provide a Code of Conduct for just Youth Players particularly as many of the players are far from being children. It was therefore suggested that the Selection Committee consider the introduction of a Code of Conduct for all International/Prospective International Players.

It was also noted that the Chairman of Selection Committee was not present at the meeting due to International commitments and it was therefore agreed that this matter should be considered at the next meeting when he will hopefully be in attendance.

It was also agreed that the Selection Committee should consider the Code of Conduct proposal and to present their thoughts at the next meeting.

10. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

10.1 8th March 2005

These minutes were noted.

10.2 8th June 2005

Clarification of 6.2 was sought in respect of the proposed additional charge for teas and coffees. The General Manager explained that the only cost effective way of providing this excellent value service was for it to be open to all participants so that staff would not be needed to control it.

Clarification was sought in regard to item 8.1 (Age Qualification for 2005/6 Events), but was agreed that the proposed system should proceed.

Concern was expressed in regard to item 9 and the proposal to issue Green Points in simultaneous pairs. It was noted that this matter is still under consideration and would be investigated further.

The minutes were noted.

11. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EBU SELECTION COMMITTEE

11.1 20th April 2005

The minutes were presented in the absence of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman by Mr Faulkner. Concern was expressed in respect of the Committee's view of the Commonwealth Bridge Championships (item 13.2) and it was stated that the minute taker did not accurately reflect the opinion of the Committee who mainly saw that there was not a need for the Selectors to be involved. The Chairman advised that the EBU was currently seeking interest from other teams and an article relating to this is planned to be included in the August edition of *English Bridge*.

11.2 6th July 2005

Mr Faulkner expressed his pleasure at being able to report that the problems associated with the Women's Trials 2005/6 had now been satisfactorily resolved. Concern was expressed that this situation should not have occurred in the first place and that the whole episode had been poorly managed, assurances were therefore sought that a similar occurrence would be avoided in the future.

Both sets of minutes were approved.

12. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE EBU LAW & ETHICS COMMITTEE

13th April 2005 and 22nd June 2005

Martin Poole had nothing to add to the minutes but was prepared to answer any questions; there being none both sets of minutes were noted.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

THESE MINUTES WILL BE APPROVED AT THE NEXT SHAREHOLDERS MEETING

The next Shareholders meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th October 2005
At The Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, London

(All meetings commence at 12:30 pm unless otherwise indicated)