



**MINUTES OF THE SHAREHOLDERS MEETING
HELD AT THE ROYAL NATIONAL HOTEL, LONDON,
ON WEDNESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2007**

Present:	Peter Stocken	Chairman
	Sally Bugden	Vice Chairman
	John Neville	Treasurer
	Barry Capal	General Manager & Company Secretary
(Apologies)	Philip Mason	Board Member & Yorkshire Shareholder
	John Carter	Board Member
	Michael Hill	Board Member & London Shareholder
	Graham Jepson	Board Member & Yorkshire Shareholder
	Jeff Morris	Board Member
(Apologies)	Alan Nelson	Board Member & Tournament Committee Chairman
	Martin Pool	Board Member, Laws & Ethics Committee Chairman
	Gerard Faulkner	Selection Committee Chairman, Vice President & Norfolk Shareholder
	Keith Stanley	Vice President & Gloucester Proxy Shareholder
	Sandra Claridge	Minute Taker & Oxford Shareholder
	Sandra Landy	Selection Committee
	Peter Hasenson	Selection Committee
	Steve Eginton	Selection Committee
	Paul Bowyer	Selection Committee
	David Muller	Selection Committee
	Raymond Brock	Selection Committee & Berks & Bucks Shareholder
	Karen Durrell	Reception

County	Shareholders: Present	Apologies	Proxy	County	Shareholders: Present	Apologies	Proxy
Avon		Mrs MA Harris	P Green	Lincolnshire			
Bedfordshire	Mrs V Lawson	RR Davis	Mrs V Lawson	London	S Cochemé J Smith		
Berks & Bucks	R Brock	Mrs M Hatch	T Garrett	Manchester	JA Smith B Kaye	GD Rice	B Kaye
Cambs & Hunts		D Carmichael CN Jagger	B Capal	Merseyside & Cheshire		JA Leather G Endicott	G Endicott
Channel Islands	Mrs P Panter			Middlesex	K A R Drane	P Kaufmann	
Cornwall	J Booth			Norfolk	R Amey JG Faulkner		
Cumbria				North East		MJ Baker	I Spoons
Derbyshire		Mrs J Floutier	GW Jepson	Northants	RF Vajda		
Devon		T Treeby		Notts	EH Nunn		
Dorset				Oxford	Mrs AJ Claridge Mrs B Harris P Baxter		
Essex	Mrs M Curtis SJ Prince			Somerset			J Dilworth
Gloucestershire		E Hill	KE Stanley	Staffs & Shrops	J Withers	PD Hackett	
Hants & IoW		SJ Strachan		Suffolk			
Herefordshire		G Harrington		Surrey	P Bentley MR Curtis ER Buddery		
Hertfordshire	BN Eddleston M Hancock	M W Minting		Sussex			
Isle of Man				Warwicks	J Pyner C Lang		
Kent	BR Crack			Westmorland			
Lancashire	J Brelsford	A Cordery		Wiltshire	P Green	Miss K Hodgson	P Green
Leicestershire	RH Northage Mrs PA Watson	J Wilcox	RH Northage	Worcester		Mrs L Boyes PD Hammond	DR Thomas
				Yorkshire	Mrs J Latham I Rodger	P Mason	

Welcoming shareholders to the meeting, the Chairman congratulated the English Under-25 and Under-20 teams on winning the 2007 Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer Trophies.

1 ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT

The Chairman apologised that the Board's recommendation that Margaret Curtis be elected as a Vice-President had not been put to the Annual General Meeting, though a presentation had been made to her on the 50th anniversary of Essex CBA. The recommendation was unanimously approved.

2 CHAIRMAN'S PROGRESS REPORT

The Chairman said that the EBU had reached a crossroads, and that as indicated in his Christmas message, a great deal of change was necessary to safeguard the future of the Union.

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and General Manager had attended the EBL's biennial Seminar for NBOs in Rome at the beginning of this month. The Chairman said that the experience had been both exhilarating and frustrating: exhilarating because some European countries had made great strides forward in the promotion of Bridge and in increasing their membership; frustrating because England had the technology, the ability and the resources to follow in their footsteps, but in recent years had seemingly lacked the will to harness them.

The Officers and the Board were united in their intention to turn the Union round. Much had already been set in motion since the October elections:

Focus on Value had been launched on the day after the AGM.

After a considerable amount of hard work and research MDAG had put to the Board its 'vision' of universal membership by April 2010, to which the Board had given its unanimous backing; the strategy for implementing this policy would be put to the Board at its May meeting, for later discussion at the following Shareholders' Meeting.

The Officers were meeting with the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of three Standing Committees to discuss the future direction of policy and to ensure that all three worked in harmony with each other.

Several steps had been taken order to improve communication, so essential in a membership organisation like the EBU; the Membership Secretaries Meeting had been reintroduced, and feedback from the recent meeting was very constructive; the General Manager had also set up a Shareholders' Forum on the website which would afford nominated Shareholders, Board Members and Officers the opportunity to exchange ideas and resolve problems. For the long term, the Board would be appointing a full-time Communications Officer as soon as possible.

The Chairman thanked Sally Bugden and Anna Gudge for putting together the recent membership survey. The response, both through the web-site and *English Bridge*, had

been phenomenal, 20% of the membership having replied, and the results were currently being co-ordinated.

3 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 4TH OCTOBER 2006

3.1 Accuracy

3.1.1 Ian Thompson, as proxy for Worcestershire, to be added to the list of those present.

3.1.2 R Northage to be referred to throughout the minutes as Robert Northage.

3.1.3 A paragraph to be added to Item 25 as follows... "Peter Bentley requested that the introduction of mandatory membership of the Union for all members of affiliated bridge clubs be pursued. "

Subject to the inclusion of the above it was agreed that the minutes be signed as a true record.

3.2 Matters Arising

3.2.1 Change of date for National Womens Teams

Val Lawson said that the change of date for the National Women's Teams had not been notified to counties. The new date clashed with the Bedfordshire/Northamptonshire Congress and was likely to affect entries adversely. Similar comments were made by representatives of Berks. & Bucks, Leicestershire and the North-East, with regard to the Seniors and Autumn Congresses.

In response Max Bavin said that unfortunately the draft calendars did not include the dates of county congresses, but that this would be rectified immediately and in future counties informed of potential changes. It should be noted that the dates for County Congresses often have to be guessed along way ahead, making clashes inevitable.

3.2.2 Educational CD

Graham Jepson confirmed that the educational CD was in the possession of the marketing manager of a business colleague of Terry Collier, and that efforts were being made to retrieve it.

3.2.3 Centralised Subscription Collection

David Thomas urged that further discussion on Centralised Subscription Collection should be viewed as a priority.

3.2.4 White Book

The Chairman confirmed that copies of the new Guide for Tournament Directors had been sent to County Secretaries and were available for collection at this meeting at a cost of £5, or from Aylesbury at £6.

4 POLICY DEBATE : INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

Presenting the document “EBU Selection Committee Review”, Sandra Landy thanked her colleagues Peter Hasenson and Steve Eginton for the significant amount of time they had spent on producing the report.

Sandra said that the aim of the paper was to give the history of the selection process and its funding, a summary of recent team performances, the present role of the Selection Committee and its current procedures, and recommendations for the future.

The main thrust of the debate which followed centred around the current cost of internationals, and, given the lack of recent success in the Open category, whether the membership at large resented a significant proportion of the EBU’s annual turnover being spent on subsidising a small number of players.

Sandra pointed out that unfortunately the world scene had become tougher and more professional. A large number of countries had worked hard to increase their membership and attract sponsorship to fund the necessary preparation and training for major events. A lack of high quality events in England was also a contributing factor, only the Spring Foursomes offering the level of rigorous competition needed. To achieve success the Committee needed funds to set up a proper coaching and training programme and to have available the services of a Sports Psychologist. She said that the Committee had not been extravagant and had not exceeded the budget put aside for internationals despite catering for a large number of events in the Open, Ladies, Juniors, Under-20s and Seniors categories.

Keith Stanley, supported by Raymond Brock, said that at the moment we have the worst of both worlds. The only options were either to abandon the idea of being successful internationally and cut the budget, or provide increased funds in line with other countries and aim to achieve the well-publicised success enjoyed by our Women’s team over a considerable number of years.

The sub-committee’s recommendation with regard to longer international Trials received a mixed reaction. The sub-committee felt that to achieve success, the top players had to commit themselves to lengthy Trials where the timings and conditions of play mirrored as far as possible those in the competition for which the Trials were held. The Selection Committee had agreed that in future Trials would be self-funding, and a gradual increase in the entry fee had been put in place.

The Treasurer said that at least £100K p.a. was spent on funding international teams, and, whereas a certain level of support was mandatory, tough decisions needed to be taken on just how much. In the absence of sponsorship, given that the EBU had no access to external funds as other sports had, he did not feel that now was the time for a significant increase in spending on Internationals, but that funding should be subject to ongoing review. Peter Hasenson said that devolution had been costly to the Union; it was pointed out that this had been expected since the cost of the BBL selection process for the British teams had been shared by the four home Unions, though the EBU had paid the lion’s share.

Sally Bugden said that English international successes had been reported in *English Bridge*, and articles on selection would be welcomed. Michael Hill suggested that an article could be commissioned on what is involved in being an international bridge player.

Brian Crack suggested that the Tournament Committee and Selection Committee should discuss the possibility of introducing more meaningful competitions for top players.

Ian Spoons expressed the opinion that the Selection Committee's Terms of Reference were too restrictive, and that Section 3 should be deleted.

The Chairman thanked the committee for an enlightening paper.

5 MINUTES OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON 21ST NOVEMBER 2006 AND 18TH JANUARY 2007

The minutes were presented by Gerard Faulkner.

5.1 *21st November 2006*

5.1.1 *Selection Process*

Referring to a statement in Item 10 of the minutes that England players had been "ill-prepared for international events", Ian Spoons sought confirmation of what was expected of them. In response, Gerard said that the ideal situation would be that once a team had been selected a Coach would be responsible initially for researching opponents' systems and working with the team either as a whole or in pairs to ensure that they had the weaponry to deal with the methods they would encounter. Thereafter there should be at least two weeks of tough preparation for the event. The Committee's recommendation to the Board would be for a part-time coach, and if approved, the players would then be told what to expect in terms of preparation and commitment.

5.1.2 *Girls' Partnerships*

Jeff Morris reported that Alison Nicholson had informed him that she had not been asked to establish what interest there was in girls' partnerships. It was agreed that the minute would not be amended, but that an additional minute would be agreed at the next meeting.

5.2 *18th January 2007*

5.2.1 *Under-25 Girls European Championship*

Mr Faulkner said that the Selection Committee was conscious of its responsibility as an NBO to send teams to major championships and had discussed the possibility of sending an Under-25 girls' team to the European Championships. However, the Committee's information had been that there was a total lack of interest, and that, when asked to respond to whether they would like to form a team to take part, the girls had said that they would not. Sandra Landy and Pat Davies had expressed strong views that this competition should not be supported because, from their experience, playing in same-sex partnerships at that age was detrimental to the development of their bridge.

Sandra Landy went on to say that giving the right experience to developing players was very important. The existing squad system had proved very successful, but forming female partnerships was difficult in geographical terms. The Committee would continue to look at how to offer help to young female players, but it was felt that their bridge was more likely to develop in mixed partnerships.

Jeff Morris disagreed; in recent years there had been significant successes both here and abroad, and it was imperative that our young players should obtain the experience to enable them to move into the Open and Womens international game in the future. Moreover, an Under-25 Girls' team had been sent in 2005. If funding was an issue, Jeff Morris was prepared to raise funds for the event.

Gerard Faulkner said that the Committee had been offered, but had declined, a meeting to discuss the matter further. Instead a full discussion by phone and email had taken place between members and the committee had formally reiterated its decision, by 5 votes to 1 with 2 abstentions, not to send a team in 2007, but agreed that future participation would be discussed again at the July meeting.

Val Lawson pointed out that England's success in recent years had for the most part been in the women's game, and that our young players needed experience from top calibre competition. Sandra Landy agreed, but said that development of the women's team in the past had rarely been in female partnerships. Sandra offered to assist in developing the girls' game.

Paul Bowyer, as Under-25 Squad Manager, confirmed that the response from the girls had been lukewarm, that in reality there was only one existing partnership and that there seemed little point in forming a team of six individuals. The girls had been asked to play in events to demonstrate their ability and commitment, but there had been no response, and only one girls' pair had entered the Junior Camrose Trials. In his opinion a considerably more positive attitude was needed if a team were to compete in 2009.

In response to a question from Ian Spoons as to whether under its terms of reference the Committee had a duty to select a team for the Championships, and later responding to a proposal from Jeff Morris that an Under-25 Girls team should be sent to the 2007 European Girls Championship, the Chairman said that it was ultimately the responsibility of the Board to decide the EBU's international commitments. Bringing the discussion to a close, the Chairman asked for a straw poll and a majority was against sending an Under-25 Girls team this year.

5.2.2 *Junior Squad*

Gerard Faulkner reported that the formation of a Junior Squad sub-committee was merely a change of emphasis. Hitherto the Squad Managers had attended only the first part of Selection Committee meetings. In future proposals all aspects of Junior matters would be formulated by the sub-committee, for ratification by the main Committee.

5.2.3 *Trials*

In answer to a question from Brian Crack concerning the format and qualification for Open Trials, Mr Faulkner said that the Committee wished to make trials as meaningful

as possible by taking into account players' current form in terms of experience and success in a wider range of competitions, both national and international, without relying exclusively on the Gold Point Scheme. Past experience had shown that extending the entry to less experienced players had caused some distortion in results, and for this reason the number of teams competing had been restricted to twelve.

6 TREASURER'S REPORT

John Neville reported that due to a lower headcount at Aylesbury, a reduction in spending on promotional materials, savings on postage, and a lower than expected drop in membership figures, the surplus for the year was likely to be significantly ahead of the budgeted £33K. Whilst this was encouraging, necessary changes could not be achieved without some risk, and the Board anticipated making funds available for proposals from MDAG, some restructuring at Aylesbury, and in budgeting terms a larger spend year on Internationals. In answer to a question from Tom Garrett on the apportionment of overheads, the Treasurer confirmed that these are split between the various cost centres at the end of the financial year on a reasonably accurate, but necessarily subjective basis.

7 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Sally Bugden reported on early results of the survey, covering a wide range of topics, which had been launched in the December issue of *English Bridge* and on the EBU website. The aims had been to communicate to the membership the value of their views, and to identify a pool of members who could be consulted in future on key issues. There was general agreement that the hit rate of 20% of the membership had been extremely successful. Sally stated that in this first ever survey the EBU's duty was to consult its membership. However, it was stated that the efforts to target the large number of non-EBU members who play in affiliated clubs should continue.

Sally informed the meeting that an article on the results of the survey would be published in *English Bridge*, the information received would be acted upon, and that consultation with the membership would continue. As an example, an early discussion would take place with the Laws and Ethics Committee on the subject of announcements and alerting, which had received a particularly poor response from the membership.

8 MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF 19TH SEPTEMBER, 5TH DECEMBER 2006 AND 23RD JANUARY 2007

8.1 *Minutes of 19th September – presented by John Neville*

8.1.1 *WBF and EBL Subscriptions*

Gerard Faulkner asked whether, in line with the EBU's drop in membership, a reduced subscription had been paid to the WBF and EBL. The Treasurer replied that whilst the WBF and EBL have a clause written into their subscription mechanism that subscriptions may not be reduced, the EBU's membership details had been submitted and a subscription paid on that basis. It was agreed that David Harris be requested to seek confirmation of the regulations.

8.1.2 ***Staffing & Aylesbury Headquarters***

The Treasurer reported that the new air-conditioning unit at Aylesbury, which had considerably improved working conditions, had cost in the region of £15K. Barry Capal confirmed that a new telephone system would be installed in the very near future, and that callers would be informed that their conversations “may be recorded”.

8.1.3 ***Bad Behaviour at Bridge***

Keith Stanley expressed the view that bad behaviour was the most significant negative element in terms of membership recruitment, and urged the Laws & Ethics Committee to strengthen its procedures in this area.

8.1.4 ***2008 Olympiad***

It was noted that details of the 2008 World Team Olympiad had not yet been confirmed, but Max Bavin said he was confident that a Mind Sports Olympiad would be held in conjunction with the Team Olympiad which would encompass bridge, but for youth teams only.

8.2 ***Minutes of 5th December - presented by the Chairman***

8.2.1 ***Item 9 - Committee Reports***

Gerard Faulkner said he believed that under the terms of the Union’s bye-laws there was no provision for the General Manager to attend meetings of the three Standing Committees as of right, though he may be offered an open invitation to do so. The Chairman said that as these were Standing Committees of the Board, the Board could instruct the General Manager to attend, which it had done, leaving it, however, to the discretion of the General Manager as to whether attendance at any particular meeting was in the furtherance of his duties. Obviously he would have no vote.

8.3 ***Minutes of 23rd January - presented by the Chairman***

8.3.1 ***VAT consequences of Charities Bill***

The General Manager reported that no firm confirmation had been received on the VAT position, but it was hoped that clubs would avoid VAT on Council Tax, and the EBU on competition entries.

The Chairman thanked Jeff Morris for his work on the CCPR. There had been a recent amendment to the Charities Act recognising Mind Sports in terms of charitable funding and it was anticipated that eventually this would be beneficial to the EBU.

8.3.2 ***Membership Secretaries Meeting***

David Thomas raised two concerns, firstly that Counties are currently waiting two months for the return of their portion of direct debit subscriptions and this placed an unnecessary burden on them; the EBU must improve its procedures to ensure that payment is made within 30 days. Secondly, he believed that if the penalty for non-payment by direct debit were to be pitched too high, more members would be lost.

The General Manager said the meeting had produced a great deal of positive comment, but that there was still much to be done. The Board would be considering ways of

encouraging payment by direct debit, and in the meantime funds could be transferred direct to County Association accounts on production of the necessary Bank details.

8.3.3 *Rolling election for Board of Directors*

The Chairman said that to provide continuity and stability for the Union, he believed that the time had come to introduce rolling elections for the Board, as currently in use for the election of the three Standing Committees. The change was supported by the General Manager who, as Company Secretary, pointed out that some of the Union's current procedures were illegal in terms of Company Law. He assured Shareholders that their powers would not be affected, since, with sufficient support, they could call a Special or Extraordinary General Meeting at any time. It was agreed to move to a rolling election at the next Annual General Meeting and that the proposed wording for a change in the Constitution would be produced at the next meeting.

8.3.4 *Focus on Value*

Robert Northage said that whilst the Board had approved the new strategy of "Focus on Value", the scheme had not been communicated sufficiently to clubs and counties, and concern had been expressed by clubs that they would not in future have the benefit of new students. In response Sally Bugden said that the first phase of the education project involved partner/teachers training enough students to form a Learn and Play Club at the end of the academic year. After a further ten months the club would become a partner club affiliated to the EBU, with 100% EBU membership. It was not the intention that the scheme should detract from existing clubs, who would have the opportunity to find their own partner/teachers and ultimately have a Learn and Play section. She also informed Mr. Northage that an article had been written in English Bridge, information was available on the website and that EBUTA teachers had been informed by personal letter of the scheme.

8.3.5 *County Leagues Final*

Graham Jepson reported that arrangements had been made to hold the County Leagues Final at Derby Bridge Centre on Sunday 15th July 2007. It was suggested by Roger Amey that the event should be adopted by the EBU.

8.3.6 *Website Advertising*

In response to a question from Gerard Faulkner as to what tariff had been set for website advertising and what controls would be put in place, Sally Bugden said that discussions were currently taking place with Blue2 in regard to an acceptable tariff, but that in general terms it had been agreed that effective, but muted advertising would be sought.

8.3.7 *EBU Representation at events*

The Chairman said that every effort would be made to have official EBU representation at the final of knock-out competitions.

8.3.8 *Scoring Program*

Barry Capal reported that no decision had yet been taken on a suitable scoring program, but all options were being considered as a matter of priority. In the meantime Scorebridge was recommended.

8.3.9 *Personal Expenses, Allowances, Fees & Charges*

Gerard Faulkner requested that all members of standing Committees be sent details of their entitlement in terms of expenses.

9 **MINUTES OF THE LAWS & ETHICS COMMITTEE OF 25TH OCTOBER 2006 AND 10TH JANUARY 2007**

Presenting the minutes Martin Pool expressed the wish that the membership as a whole should have an insight into the role of the Committee. He was pleased to be able to report that the Committee's procedures for disciplinary hearings had been speeded up by the Chairman having authority to decide how to progress matters, and the possibility of introducing a system of cautions was being considered.

9.1 *Benjamin 2♣ Opening*

Martin said that the Committee would look again at the continuing problems in regard to the regulation for a 2♣ opening, which it had sought to clarify and enforce in the recent Orange Book.

9.2 *Accouncement and Alerting Regulations*

The Committee was aware of the general feeling amongst players at the lower end of the game that the introduction of announcement and the change to the alerting regulations had not been universally successful. The Committee was keen to please the majority of the membership, and as a consequence had agreed to undertake an online survey and thereafter visit a number of clubs so that the extent of the problem could be established. In the meantime it was up to each sponsoring organisation to decide whether or not to adopt the new regulations.

9.3 *Item 2.3.4 of 10th January*

Ian Spoons expressed the view that the wording of the last sentence of the minute could be misinterpreted, and the Chairman agreed that the minute would be amended.

9.4 *"Stop" Rule*

Keith Stanley said that many players, particularly at the lower end of the game, did not understand the "Stop" rule, and that better communication was needed. Peter Stocken felt that the Committee should examine the introduction of simpler regulations for newcomers to the game, and for the less experienced. Sally Bugden said that dealing with bidding boxes and what to expect at a club session should be part of the teaching for bridge students.

10 **MINUTES OF THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE OF 13TH DECEMBER 2006**

10.1 *Role of the Tournament Committee*

Presenting the minutes, Heather Dhondy said that the Committee was very conscious of its responsibility to the membership, and to this end each member of the Committee had been commissioned to write a report on how the Committee could provide a better service for different groups and ability levels of players.

10.2 *Applications from Lancashire & Merseyside*

The Committee had acceded to the requests by Lancashire and Merseyside for each to hold a green-pointed one-day congress for one year only, realising that this might set a dangerous precedent. The Committee felt, however, that the decision was warranted on this occasion to halt a potentially disastrous decline in numbers.

10.3 *Date changes*

Heather apologised that the changes in date for the Autumn Congress, Women's Teams and Seniors had caused problems, and repeated Max Bavin's pledge that the draft calendars would in future be comprehensive.

Janet Latham said that whilst it was very convenient that an additional Seniors event had been included in the North, it only increased an already over-congested calendar and caused a compensating reduction in entries elsewhere.

10.4 *Licence Fees*

Max Bavin reported that no action had been taken in regard to the discrepancy in licence fees for One Day Joint Ventures and County Congresses, but would bear the point in mind at the annual review of entry and licence fees.

10.5 *NICKO Entry Fees*

At the suggestion of John Carter it was agreed that before entry fees for the NICKO were established for the coming season, the number of clubs entering one team only would be investigated.

10.6 *Election of Committee Vice-Chairman*

Gerard Faulkner said he believed that the Chairman of the Tournament Committee's desire to have two Vice-Chairmen was not in fact covered under the existing Bye-laws. The Chairman said he would seek legal advice on the matter

10.7 *Tollemache Cup*

Graham Jepson supported the notions of regionalising and splitting the Tollemache Cup into two divisions, and suggested four groups of teams with two teams being promoted and demoted annually. The existing November weekend could be utilised for the entire competition, and the weekend in February currently used for the Final released for a new top quality competition. Heather Dhondy said that the Committee would consider the suggestions.

10.8 *New tournament venue at Hinckley*

The General Manager reported that following the considerable number of adverse comments about Kettering, it had been a great relief to find the splendid venue in Hinckley which met the stringent standards expected by our tournament players. The Union was committed to one year's bookings, with an outline commitment for a further two years.

John Pyner, TD in charge for the Mens and Ladies Pairs played at Hinckley, reported that the hotel had been very pleased with the weekend, and there had been a very favourable response from the players, particularly in regard to the playing conditions. The only downside had been large queues at reception and at mealtimes, but the hotel had taken this on board and would improve their arrangements in future.

Robert Northage was disappointed to note that, as with Kettering, a considerable number of events had been booked into the Hinckley venue. In general players preferred variety, and feared that this arrangement would impact on entries.

11 PREFERRED METHOD OF DISTRIBUTING AGENDAS AND PAPERS

The Chairman said the he was requesting Aylesbury to discover how many shareholders would prefer to receive documents electronically and how many would prefer to continue to receive them through the post.

12 HOSTING OF CORN CAIRDIS IN 2008

The Chairman asked for applications from any county that wanted to host the Corn Cairdis in 2008.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 *Best Behaviour at Bridge*

Peter Baxter noted that in the USA Best Behaviour at Bridge was well received by the players, and enforced, and that everything possible should be done to encourage English clubs to adopt the code. The General Manager concurred and said that it was every player's duty to call the Tournament Director if their opponent's behaviour was affecting their enjoyment of the game. Offenders should be ejected, and Tournament Directors from club level upwards trained to take appropriate action.

**Next meeting:
12.30 pm, Wednesday 6th June 2007
Imperial Hotel, London**