



**MINUTES OF THE SHAREHOLDERS MEETING
HELD AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, LONDON
ON WEDNESDAY 4TH JUNE 2008**

Present:	Peter Stocken	Chairman
	Sally Bugden	Vice Chairman
	Michael Hill	Treasurer
	Barry Capal	General Manager, Company Secretary & North-East Proxy
	John Carter	Board Member
	Graham Jepson	Board Member & Yorkshire Shareholder
	Jeff Morris	Board Member
	Alan Nelson	Board Member & Tournament Committee Chairman
(Apologies)	Malcolm Oliver	Board Member
	Andrew Petrie	Board Member
	Martin Pool	Board Member, Laws & Ethics Committee Chairman
	Steve Eginton	Selection Committee Chairman
	David Harris	EBU Advisor
	John Williams	Vice President
	Gerard Faulkner	Vice President & Norfolk Shareholder
	Elena Jeronimidis	<i>English Bridge</i> Editor
	Max Bavin	EBU Tournament Manager
	Sandra Claridge	Minute Taker & Oxford Shareholder
	Karen Durrell	Reception

Attendees: Heather Dhondy , Jeremy Dhondy, Sue Maxwell.

County	Shareholders: Present	Apologies	Proxy	County	Shareholders: Present	Apologies	Proxy
Avon		Mrs M Harris	P Green	Lincolnshire	Mrs D Brown		
Bedfordshire		Mrs V Lawson	RM Chester	London	S Cochemé		
					Mrs C Duckworth		
					J Smith		
Berks & Bucks	T Garrett			Manchester	Bernard Kaye		
	N Thompson				Michael Newman		
					Jeff Smith		
Camb & Hunts	P Bond	C Jagger	Mrs S Bugden	Merseyside/Cheshire	A Clark	G Endicott	A Clark
Channel Islands	Mrs P Panter			Middlesex	KAR Drane		
					Mrs J Feldman		
					PN Rosen		
Cornwall	JM Booth			Norfolk	R Amey		
					JG Faulkner		
Cumbria		PR Ford	Mrs S Landy	North East		MJ Baker	B Capal
Derbyshire		Mrs J Floutier	RH Northage	Northants	G Hedley		
Devon	T Treeby			Notts	Mrs J Burgess	K Rodgers	Mrs J Burgess
Dorset		Mrs A Sharples	R Heath	Oxford	Mrs AJ Claridge		
					Mrs B Harris		
					P Baxter		
Essex	Mrs M Curtis	D Green	Mrs M Curtis	Somerset		Mrs S Stuttard	J Dilworth
	I Moss						
Gloucestershire	Mrs P Pearce			Staffs & Shrops	PD Hackett		
					J Withers		
Hants & IoW	Mrs M Gale			Suffolk	MR Carey		
Herefordshire	G Harrington			Surrey	PB Bentley		
	R Underhill				MR Curtis		
					Mrs P Griffin		
Hertfordshire	BN Eddleston			Sussex	H Marsen	R Buddery	
	M Hancock				PJ Bates		
	M W Minting				Miss JB Simpson		
Isle of Man	Dr EF Slatcher			Warwicks	C Lang		
					J Pyner		
					L Reece		
Kent	BR Crack			Westmorland		Mrs J Jeffreys	P Hasesenson
	JM Lewis						
Lancashire	B Brelsford			Wiltshire	P Green		
	Mrs J Wright						
Leicestershire	RH Northage			Worcester		Mrs JA Skelton	N Forward
	J Wilcox					P Hammond	R Jephcott

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

See Page 1 for County information

Opening the meeting the Chairman requested a minute's silence in memory of Ian Spoons, who as representative of the North East CBA had always made well-informed, intelligent and witty contributions at Council and Shareholders' meetings. He had been a familiar figure at our major tournaments over many years as a much respected senior Panel Tournament Director of immense experience.

The Chairman announced that in memory of Margaret Hatch (Chairman, Berks & Bucks CBA) and Paul Wickham (Chairman, Somerset CBA), the Board had agreed to distribute proceeds from the Charity Simultaneous Pairs event to two charities of their executors' choice.

The shareholders joined the Chairman in congratulating the England teams who had recently won the Lady Milne Trophy and the Seniors Camrose Trophy, and in expressing thanks to Bernard Teltscher, who had sponsored the latter.

The Chairman thanked Philip Mason, who had recently retired from the Board, for his contribution over the last twelve years. Andrew Petrie had been co-opted in his place, and had attended his first meeting on 28th May.

1 Minutes of the meeting of 5th March 2008

The minutes were signed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

The Chairman reported as follows:

2008 Laws of Bridge

The Chairman reported that the new Laws had now been published and an amicable agreement had been reached with the Portland Club that royalties would remain on the same basis as the 1997 Laws, i.e. one-third of the selling price.

Charity Status

It was agreed by the Board that no further action would be taken until the final part of Government's legislation had gone through Parliament as to whether an application for charitable status for the EBU would be made in autumn 2009.

TV Pilot Bridge Programme

A TV pilot programme had been filmed in early May, and full details would shortly be available on the EBU website, and possibly on YouTube.

Youth Trust

The Trustees had sought to broaden the base of the Trust and had invited Clive Owen and Christine Duckworth to join them, which they had accepted. While funds were being donated gradually, anyone wishing to invest in youth should contact Barry Capal. Under the terms of the Trust Deed funds must be spent on development in youth, and guidelines would be produced on how this could best be achieved. Sally Bugden confirmed that publicity in *English Bridge* was already planned, outlining how people could donate to the Trust.

Strategy Proposals

The Chairman confirmed the intention that contractual arrangements with clubs should be for one year, extendable at the end of each year, on a 3-month termination basis.

2 Treasurers Report

The Treasurer reported that the audited accounts to 31st March were close to completion, and showed a slightly larger than anticipated surplus. The formula for allocation overheads was noted to be out-of-date and unsatisfactory, and whilst the apportionment was complicated, it would be a matter for urgent review. The Treasurer confirmed that £10K bank interest was currently included in Overheads Income, but would be more clearly defined in the Statutory Accounts.

Asked whether the likely cost implications of implementing the Pay to Play strategy were included in the budget for the current year, the Treasurer said that most of the cost would be borne in the year to 31st March 2010, but if the Strategy was approved, a set of figures would be produced for the Annual General Meeting in October.

Sally Bugden confirmed that income of £18K from *English Bridge* represented advertising revenue. The Union's contract with Blue2, previously somewhat convoluted, had been renegotiated and simplified.

3 Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors on 6th March

Item 4.2

The final line of the first paragraph was amended to read..."of the 50p increase in the subscription."

Meeting with the Ian Fleming Society

The Chairman said that the meeting had been postponed and would be rearranged shortly. The EBU would make it clear that it did not have the resources to assist with a large charity event in London, but would suggest a Simultaneous Pairs event in aid of the British Heart Foundation.

Bridge Great Britain

It was noted by the Manchester Association that the Match Manager's report on the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer Trophies contained implied criticisms of the staging of the event. The Chairman assured Manchester that their Association was totally exonerated, and that their contribution had been magnificent. It was agreed to ensure that in future the dress code for the final dinner was clearly defined.

Youth Committee

Graham Jepson pointed out that the reference to discounted or free membership for juniors related to under-25s in full-time education.

Minutes of the meeting on 28th May

The Chairman said that the 28th May Board Meeting minutes would be publicised on the website as soon as possible, and would be reviewed at the next Shareholders' meeting.

4 Minutes of the Laws & Ethics meeting on 24th April 2008

Disciplinary decisions

Martin Pool said that it was now available to the Committee to publicise details of disciplinary cases.

2008 Laws

The new Laws were now available in hardback at a cost of £10 per copy, and could be downloaded from the EBU website free of charge.

Max Bavin reported that he recently visited Turin on a training programme for Tournament Directors, and that training courses on the new Laws would be held for Club and panel Tournament Directors shortly.

Changes to the Orange Book, which would come into force on 1st August, would be decided at the L&E meeting on 5th June, and publicised thereafter.

5 Minutes of the Selection Committee meeting on 15th April 2008

Premier League

Steve Eginton announced that the 2008 Premier League would be played over three weekends. The first two weekends would comprise a round robin, and on the third weekend the teams would be split into two divisions, based on the results of the round robin. The format reflected the majority view of the teams and the status of the event in terms of an international trial. Late entries from two teams would be accepted on the basis that they would compete in the third weekend only.

Jeremy Dhondy said that the Premier League as run by the BBL was a very successful event, and its reintroduction was a popular decision. However, it was billed as a trial for the Camrose Trophy in 2009, and he was concerned to note that entries included a Welsh team, and other players who were ineligible to play for England, who might be in a position to influence who qualified to play in the Camrose. The leading two teams would qualify as of right for the Camrose in 2009, when England, as hosts, would be fielding two teams in each match, and teams that included players ineligible for the Camrose would lose their automatic rights of selection.

In response, Steve said a team acting as a “spoiler” was a possibility, but a very unlikely intention. Asked by Neil Rosen whether other international teams would be invited to enter if the event proved successful, Steve said that the league had been reintroduced as a serious inclusive event to give as much valuable experience as possible to would-be international players, and this would be achieved by competing against top-class teams. 2008 was seen as an experimental year, and the League would be reviewed thereafter in consultation with the participants. Steve mentioned that in the case of trials in Sweden, the leading ten pairs at the end of the trials process then competed against other international pairs to aid the final selection.

Policy and Procedures

Steve reported that the Committee had produced a document detailing its policies and procedures, which was intended to give a wider understanding of how the Committee worked. It had also expanded its Terms of Reference, and created defined cabinet responsibilities for its members.

2008 European Championships

Steve encouraged support for the English teams in the forthcoming European Championships in Pau, and announced that there would be a pairs event at the Championships, open to all.

Sports Psychologist

It was confirmed that the Sports Psychologist would not be accompanying English teams to international competitions in the foreseeable future, but would be employed on a casual basis, at a cost of £300 per day.

6 Minutes of the Tournament Committee on 29th May 2008

Alan Nelson reported on recent decisions, as follows:

Northern Easter Festival

The Palace Hotel at Buxton would be the new venue for the 2009 Easter Festival, and it was hoped that there would be increased support for a tournament in serious decline.

Review of tournaments

Alan said that as a result of the review undertaken by Paul Hackett a year ago, some progress had been made in seeking to halt the decline of failing tournaments by stepping up publicity, but, as part of an ongoing review, it was inevitable that some events would be eliminated. On the positive side it was encouraging to report a 20% increase in entries for the Spring Foursomes and for the pairs event at the Spring Bank Holiday Congress in Bournemouth. The Committee was keen to introduce new formats to offer more variety, and, as an example, the Great Northern Swiss Pairs would be Butler scored, with stratification.

Concern was expressed by a number of Shareholders at the cancellation for one year of the National Newcomers Pairs, and the total demise of the Golfprint Trophy. In response Alan said that the Committee planned to reintroduce a reformatted National Newcomers Pairs in 2010. Unfortunately the many attempts to promote interest in the Golfprint Trophy had failed.

In answer to a plea for continuous encouragement for newcomers, Barry Capal said that Gill and John Pain were assuming responsibility for Newcomers events in 2008, organising a weekend in Derby and a Really Easy Bridge Congress at the Summer Meeting. It was hoped that this could be extended to the introduction of a final for the lowest category in the Ranked Masters Pairs. In addition, Gill and John would be happy to assist counties in running their own Newcomers competitions.

Alan thanked committee members for their excellent work in establishing the criteria for evaluating tournaments, and their canvassing of tournament players. The information would be helpful as a diagnostic tool in discussions with Max Bavin.

Tournament Calendars

Max Bavin confirmed that calendars with full details of the current and future years' events were published on the EBU website, and could be provided by email, on request.

Jersey Congress

Brian Crack was pleased to announce that the Channel Islands management committee had managed to relocate the Congress, one of the EBU's most successful events, to the Hotel de France, at no appreciable increase in cost.

In conclusion, Alan encouraged as many people as possible to attend the Brighton Summer Meeting

The Chairman agreed that the minutes would be formally reviewed at the Annual General Meeting

7 Any other business

Youth Committee

On answer to a question from Robert Northage, Peter Stocken said that the Youth Committee was a sub-committee of the Board. The minutes of its meeting on 16th April were available on the EBU web-site and any questions arising out of them could be brought up at the next Shareholders' meeting.

One of the major tasks of the Committee, chaired by Clive Owen, was to encourage and support County Youth Officers.

Peter went on to say that he had recently presented the Alec Salisbury Award to Richard Croot, a master at Hereford Cathedral School. Not only was Bridge part of the school's curriculum, but over a period of thirteen years Richard had taught over 500 children to play the game. Mike Amos and himself had taken part in the morning's bridge lesson and had been impressed by the interest and involvement of the seventeen pupils there.

Isle of Man Congress

Erika Slatcher reported on a very successful congress in 2007, now run exclusively by the Isle of Man CBA, with 31 tables of pairs and 25 teams. She asked for support for the 2008 event.

National League Final

Graham Jepson announced that final results of the County Leagues were now available, and the winners would be invited to attend an independently organised National Final.

Closing the meeting the Chairman thanked David Harris for his very valuable advice on a number of subjects over the last few years.

<p>Next meeting AGM Thursday 2nd October at 12.30 pm Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, London</p>
