



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU LAWS & ETHICS COMMITTEE
HELD AT 2 BLOOMSBURY STREET, LONDON WC1B 3ST ON
WEDNESDAY MARCH 27TH 2013**

Present:	Jeremy Dhondy (JD)	Chairman and Elected Member
	Mike Amos (MA)	Elected Member
	Frances Hinden (FH)	Elected Member
	Neil Morley (NM)	Elected Member
	Gordon Rainsford (GR)	Chief Tournament Director
	Tim Rees (TR)	Vice Chairman and Elected Member
	Gerard Faulkner (GF)	Vice-President
	Robin Barker (RB)	Invited member
	John Pain (JP)	Secretary

1A The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Robin Barker. Robin was attending to provide input into the restructuring of the White Book.

GF noted with sadness the recent death of Terry Udall. Terry had been a long standing member of the Laws and Ethics Committee serving from October 1976 to September 1997. He was often seen by others outside the committee as the ordinary member from a bridge club but he was a keen member of the committee and more knowledgeable than he gave himself credit for.

1B	Apologies for Absence	Sally Bugden (SB)	EBU Chairman
		David Burn (DB)	Elected Member
		Barry Capal (BC)	EBU General Manager
		Grattan Endicott (GE)	Vice-President
		Martin Pool (MP)	Elected Member

2

2.1/2 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of January 23rd were approved and signed.
There were no matters of accuracy.

2.3 **Matters arising**

2.3.1 (5.6) GR put forward proposals to resolve the current inconsistencies regarding the time limit for rulings in Knock Out matches played privately. The conditions of contest referred to the time limit expiring once the official result slip had been signed by both sides, but this rarely happened these days where results were sent electronically to Aylesbury. Instead GR proposed that the time limit for seeking rulings should expire 20 minutes after the end of the match. It was also proposed that this time limit should replace the current regulation for all matches played in stanzas, whether played privately or not.

There was some concern that this might allow contestants to raise matters that should have been raised earlier in the match. GR explained that all the rest of the conditions regarding rulings in matches played privately remained in place and players who should have sought redress at the time should still do so.

The proposal was passed nem con.

Action: Conditions of contest for matches played privately and White Book to be amended. Chairman of Selection Committee to be advised regarding the Premier League.

Action: JP, GR

2.3.2 *Bidding Record of a pair of members*

The Committee considered a number of reports involving a particular pair. The secretary was instructed to write to the pair drawing attention to matters of disclosure arising from the methods in use.

Action JP

2.3.3 *New WBF Victory Point Scales*

The Tournament Committee had considered the new scales promulgated by the WBF. They had agreed to use the new whole number scales from September 1st in all teams events. The continuous scales would be used in the Premier League only. The new whole number scales are attached to these minutes (Appendix A).

The new scales are based on a 20-0 scale. Some work still needs to be done to produce scales for triple matches in Swiss Teams scored on a 10-0 scale. GR would contact the WBF programmer to devise a scale or ask Ian Mitchell in the office to produce them.

Action: White Book to be amended; Swiss Teams assignments cards to be amended; counties and others running teams events to be informed.

Action: GR, RB

2.3.4 *E-book versions of the Orange and White Books*

There had been no progress in making the books available in the various formats. It was agreed to put the work on hold until the new books are ready. In the meantime the secretary was asked to talk to Matt Betts in the office about recent developments in technology to make the transfer possible.

Action: JP to Matt Betts

2.3.5 *Standard Penalties*

A standard penalty for making a board unplayable through overhearing would be added to the list in the White Book.

Action: MA

2.3.6 *Inter county regulations*

MP had indicated his willingness to produce some guidelines for those organising inter county events (such as the Midland Counties league) where the Regulating Authority / Tournament Organizer was outside the normal set up of club/county/EBU.

Action: MP

2.3.7 *Introductory document for new Referees*

GR said that the document for new referees had been produced and sent to all existing referees as well.

2.3.8 (5.1) *New addition to the referees panel*

It was agreed to Max Bavin to the panel with immediate effect.

3 Appeals to the National Authority

None this time.

4 Disciplinary Cases

Not considered this time.

5 Technical Matters

The meeting considered the developments in the production of the new Handbook of EBU Permitted Agreements.

Change of colour: The Chairman explained that the Orange Book had been in existence since 1993 with successive revisions in 1998 and 2006. Since 2006 there have been annual revisions published on the EBU website but no mass produced hard copy editions. It was not uncommon to find people who were using the 2006 edition unamended or, even worse, the earlier editions. With such a major change taking place this time it had been suggested a revised name and a new colour.

New title: Handbook of EBU Permitted Agreements – the Blue Book.

Time frame for the Blue Book:

May: final review meeting

June: finalizing of the Blue Book, including contents and indexing

July: publish

August 1st: implementation date

Alerting and Announcing

The committee considered a number of suggestions to improve the draft version produced after the January meeting. The extension to announcements agreed in January was confirmed.

Announcing 2 of a suit openings

It was agreed to modify the regulation for a natural 2 of a suit opening as announceable to be at least a 5-card suit. There is a tendency amongst a small number of players to agree to open weak 2s on a 4-card suit and this would become alertable, citing the 'natural but potentially unexpected meaning' clause.

Alerting calls above 3NT

The committee agreed that artificial suit bids above 3NT made including the first bid and the next three calls would be alertable. E.g. 1♠ pass 4♣ (splinter) or pass pass 1♠ pass 4♣ (splinter). In both cases 4♣ would be alerted.

The committee agreed that this applied only to suit bids. There was no desire to bring NT calls above 3NT back into the alertable category. E.g. 1♠ pass 4NT (Blackwood) is to remain unalertable.

It was also agreed to revise the wording regarding lead directing doubles and redoubles. The regulation currently specifies 'lead of suit' and there was a desire to include doubles of NT contracts.

Action JD

Doubles on extremely light hands

There is a tendency in some circles for doubles of 1-level openings to be made on extremely light values. It was agreed to make such doubles alertable, citing the 'natural but potentially unexpected meaning' clause.

Specific alerting cases

The Committee considered whether to remove the list of specific alerting / non-alerting cases from the Blue Book. It was agreed it was a useful list and it was decided to keep it there.

Permitted methods

Level 3

The meeting considered the future of Level 3. There are no EBU events where Level 3 is the permitted level and whilst it was acknowledged that clubs still use Level 3 there were many clubs where there was, in fact, no policy at all. The committee noted that the differences between Level 3 and 4 were actually quite small. It was agreed that the time had come to abandon Level 3, but to produce a short list of items that clubs might wish to consider excluding from Level 4 if they previously played at Level 3.

The meeting was reminded of the fact that clubs are free to make their own regulation regarding permitted methods (Law 80B2(f) gives Tournament Organizers the right to specify, so a club might, for example allow Level 4 but specifically exclude Multi 2♦).

Names of levels

The committee considered whether it was time to revise the headings for levels given the proposed situation:

- Level 1: title already dropped in favour of Simple System
- Level 2: still in place
- Level 3: to be discontinued
- Level 4: still in place
- Level 5: still in place.

No decision was reached, although any change would need to be made before the diary goes to press.
Note: Diary goes to press in April

Level 4

FH presented her proposals for amendments to currently permitted methods. She had gone through the present book and found numerous anomalies. The committee considered the methods under various headings;

a) Meaning for a first action 'pass'

The committee agreed to keep the present regulation for an opening pass. i.e. if pass is your first call it must not promise values.

b) After the first round of the auction

The committee agreed to keep the present regulation where any action is permitted.

c) Responder's first action

The committee agreed to keep the present regulation where any action is permitted.

d) Fourth seat's first action

FH said the current regulations were a mess. The only restrictions are on suit bids (and on pass) after a natural non-forcing opening bid of 1 of a suit and a natural non-game forcing response or pass. Since there are no restrictions on responder's first action she thought it would be consistent not to have any restrictions on fourth seat.

The committee agreed. In fourth seat any action will be permitted.

e) Opening 3NT and higher bids

It was agreed to change the current regulations which laid down specific types of hand that could be opened 3NT or higher and to allow any action for an opening bid of 3NT and for higher bids

f) Second seat actions

The committee next looked at actions by the player in second seat following an opening. FH noted that our regulations are rather more inclusive than WBF regulations, in that the EBU allows a number of Brown Sticker treatments not permitted by the WBF. There was no desire to become more restrictive but the committee did not wish to move to an 'any action is permitted' scenario.

The committee agreed to allow any meaning for double and any meaning for a jump cue-bid. A non-jump cue bid would be restricted to be any one of

- a) strong
- b) take out
- c) a balanced hand with a defined range or
- d) a one or 2-suited hand with at least one suit specified.

Discussion on some other, currently-approved, Brown Sticker treatments was deferred until the next meeting.

g) One-level minor suit openings

Detail deferred until the May meeting

h) One-level major suit and 1NT openings

Deferred until the May meeting

i) Opening bids from 2♣ to 3♠

It was agreed to allow any hand to be opened 2♣ through 3♠ subject to the following restrictions:

- An unspecified 2-suiter must be at least 5-5;
- If players play 2-suited hands to show 4-4 or 5-4 then at least one suit must be specified;
- A single suited hand must specify at least a 5-card suit.

Either all these options must have one specified anchor suit OR all the options must deny the suit opened.

The current 3-suited hands with opening values would continue to be permitted.

The above still needs final clarification at the next meeting and a draft regulation will be produced to aid this discussion at the next meeting.

j) Doubles and redoubles

Amend the current wording regarding 2nd seat doubles that must be either 'penalties or takeout'.

White Book progress

RB gave a progress report on how he and MA were approaching the task. They had concluded that there was considerable scope to remove and reorder sections of the book. It was agreed to leave WBF minutes where they were currently still in force but to remove the comments attributed to Ton Kooijman. Where they added to the narrative they would be rewritten.

It was noted that first and foremost this was a book for use by the EBU. If other NBOs wished to make use of it that was fine, but it should not attempt to be an international digest covering all possibilities.

6. Applications for new permitted methods

Consideration deferred to the next meeting, when the implications of the changes above will be considered.

7. Reports from Tournament Directors

Not considered this time.

7.2 Disciplinary forms

Not considered this time.

8 Date of next meeting

Wednesday May 29th 2013 at 1pm. (reverts to usual time)

The agenda will be primarily concerned with the rewrite of the Orange and White Books.

Venue is Baker Tilly offices, 2 Bloomsbury Street (near to Tottenham Court Road tube station).

The meeting closed at 4.55pm.

Appendix A

**New WBF Discrete Victory Point scales.
To be used in EBU teams of 4 events from September 1st 2013
And recommended to other tournament organizers**

VPs	No of Boards									
	6	7	8	9	10	12	14	16	20	32
10 - 10	0	0	0	0	0	0 - 1	0 - 1	0 - 1	0 - 1	0 - 2
11 - 9	1 - 2	1 - 2	1 - 3	1 - 3	1 - 3	2 - 4	2 - 4	2 - 4	2 - 5	3 - 7
12 - 8	3 - 4	3 - 5	4 - 6	4 - 6	4 - 6	5 - 7	5 - 8	5 - 8	6 - 9	8 - 12
13 - 7	5 - 7	6 - 8	7 - 9	7 - 9	7 - 9	8 - 11	9 - 12	9 - 12	10 - 14	13 - 18
14 - 6	8 - 10	9 - 11	10 - 12	10 - 12	10 - 13	12 - 15	13 - 16	13 - 17	15 - 19	19 - 24
15 - 5	11 - 13	12 - 14	13 - 16	13 - 16	14 - 17	16 - 19	17 - 21	18 - 22	20 - 25	25 - 32
16 - 4	14 - 17	15 - 18	17 - 20	17 - 21	18 - 22	20 - 24	22 - 26	23 - 28	26 - 31	33 - 40
17 - 3	18 - 21	19 - 23	21 - 25	22 - 26	23 - 27	25 - 30	27 - 33	29 - 35	32 - 39	41 - 50
18 - 2	22 - 26	24 - 28	26 - 30	27 - 32	28 - 34	31 - 37	34 - 40	36 - 43	40 - 48	51 - 61
19 - 1	27 - 32	29 - 35	31 - 38	33 - 40	35 - 42	38 - 46	41 - 50	44 - 53	49 - 60	62 - 76
20 - 0	33 +	36 +	39 +	41 +	43 +	47 +	51 +	54 +	61 +	77 +