



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU LAWS & ETHICS COMMITTEE HELD ONLINE ON THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

<b>Present:</b>	Heather Dhondy (HD)	Chairman and Elected Member
	Robin Barker (RB)	Deputy Chief Tournament Director
	Sarah Bell (SB)	Elected member
	David Burn (DB)	Elected member
	Gillian Fawcett (GF)	EBU Vice-Chairman
	Frances Hinden (FH)	Vice-Chairman and Elected Member
	Martin Pool	Elected Member
	Gordon Rainsford (GR)	EBU Chief Executive
	Tim Rees (TR)	Elected Member
	Alan Wilson (AW)	Elected member
	Nick Doe (ND)	Secretary
	Jeremy Dhondy (JD)	Minute taker

### **1 Apologies**

Ian Payn (IP) EBU Chairman

### **2 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were approved.

### **3 Matters arising**

These related to cases and the Blue Book revisions which were not agreed and no publication for August 2020 had happened.

### **4 Disciplinary Matters**

Active cases were discussed.

### **5, 6 and 7**

SB explained the role of the recently set up investigation panel i.e. identifying suspicious activity from sets of hands played over a period of time. Some publicity for this panel will be put on the website (note this has been done). Panel will be named. SB will speak to them before this happens.

Use of software: We will use Jon Cooke's software as the main one based on ease of use and the way it presents to non experts. DB offered to learn how to use it so all the burden does not fall on JC.

We need to consider how clubs and counties should proceed. If it is a case of cheating it is recommended that the EBU be involved as only the EBU can enforce a national sanction.

A suggestion was made to write to all affiliated clubs to encourage them to report cheating cases.

Sentencing guidelines have been produced by a panel headed by Sally Bugden & Geoff Smith. These were discussed. It was agreed that it was appropriate for there to be a discount on sentence for an immediate plea of guilty.

## **8      *When does a ban start?***

The L&E considered a brief paper. A problem arises if a member resigns from the EBU and any affiliated clubs before any sentence starts. There was precedent that the ban started when the member rejoined but the last time this had occurred it was under the previous system of membership. It was the L&E recommendation to the Board that the ban started immediately.

## **9      *Publicity about cases***

In general we don't tell people about the outcome of a case or the detail save for a. any publication in the magazine or on the website. The complainer and accused are informed of any action taken but not other enquirers.

## **10     *Sky Blue Book***

It was confirmed that looking at notes/system when playing online was currently permitted. No current evidence of any significant problem arising from this.

It was acknowledged that in online play some laws & regulations may differ. BBO allows you to look at the previous trick, for example but it was noted that the current trick is automatically quitted when in live play players would be able to continue to study the cards.

There may need to be a clarification to the stop procedure online and Gordon will organise this.

## **11     *Prosecution Panel***

Some additional names were suggested to assist with the current heavy caseload and a recent resignation.

Richard Johnson, Simon Husband and Brian Crack have accepted an invitation. The Secretary will add them to the panel listed on the website. (This has been done).

## **12     *Disciplinary Convenors***

IP has asked Sally Bugden and Geoff Smith to run something for members of the DP to assist with consistency of sentencing.

**13    *Next Meeting***

Date to be fixed via email and meeting to be online.

**14    *AOB***

None