



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU LAWS & ETHICS COMMITTEE
HELD AT YOUNG CHELSEA BRIDGE CLUB, 21-23 DALLING ROAD, LONDON W6
ON MONDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2021**

Present:	Heather Dhondy (HD) Chairman & Elected Member
	Robin Barker (RB) Deputy Chief TD Sarah Bell (SB) Elected Member David Burn (DB) Elected Member Frances Hinden (FH) Vice Chairman & Elected Member Ian Payn EBU Chairman Gordon Rainsford (GR) EBU Chief Executive Tim Rees (TR) Elected Member
	Jeremy Dhondy (JD) Deputy Secretary Heather Sanderson (HS) Secretary

Apologies for Absence:

Gillian Fawcett	EBU Vice Chairman
Alan Wilson	Elected Member
William Clennell	Appointed Member

1. Minutes of the previous meeting and accuracy

1.1 Accuracy

The minutes of the meeting of 19th July 2021 were approved and signed. There were no points of accuracy.

1.2 Matters arising

The Committee noted that Alan Wilson's term was coming to an end and that he would not be standing for re-election. HD wished to thank AW on the record for his service to the Committee.

HD asked about matters actioned in the July 2021 minutes. It was noted that the prosecution manual had not been updated but should be updated based on old minutes.

It was agreed that the committee would aim to have one face to face meeting and three online meetings each year.

2. Appeals to the National Authority

None at this time.

3. Disciplinary Matters

Cases that were discussed in the meeting involved unfair play online, other dishonesty and rude behaviour.

3.1 *Live Cases where the defendant has been charged were discussed*

3.2 *Cases where a charge was to be brought were discussed*

3.3 *Other concluded matters where the defendant was charged*

Player	Nicole COOK BARCLAY (Essex)
Allegation	Abuse of EBU TD login, refusal to reimburse resulting financial loss to the EBU
Plea	Not guilty
Outcome	Guilty
Sanction	Six months membership suspension
Appeal	None

It was noted that tournament directors who are under sanction would be disallowed from directing in any event that required a license from the EBU.

3.4 *Cases not proceeded with*

There were cases which did not move forward after an OEIG investigation.

4. Disciplinary Procedures

Five topics were discussed

4.1 Comments letters

- It was decided to request convention cards and system notes with comments letters.
- In relevant online cases, it was decided to add a link to the web page list of analysts.

4.2 Analysts Anonymity

- Currently, the OEIG page is a news item on the EBU website. Adding a page akin to the prosecution panel and disciplinary panel pages was discussed together with adding the policy of analysts' anonymity to that page.
- Analysts' opinions and grades would be removed from future OEIG reports.

4.3 Defence advice

- Advice provided to defendants and how it might be further improved was discussed

4.4 The hearing

- Recordings from hearings may be shared at the discretion of the Chairman of the EBU.

4.5 Appeals

- It was noted that it was up to the appeals panel how much weight to afford the OEIG report.

- It was unanimously decided that names of members found guilty would not be published until after an unsuccessful appeal or after the time for an appeal had expired.

5. Technical Matters

5.1 Online Regulations and the White Book, Blue Book and Sky Blue Book

- It was noted that the Sky Blue Book was essential when it was drafted but it needed to be assimilated. Merging the following into the Blue Book was discussed:
 1. Guidance for alerting, announcing and explaining online. It was noted that self-alerting on line eliminated different explanations given on different sides of the screen.
 2. Procedures for alerting, announcing, explaining and for asking for clarification, follow-up questions and replies
 3. Procedures for requesting UNDOs in the auction
 4. Procedures for claims.
- Merging online regulations such as how to rule on UNDO requests (25A) and online claims (Laws 68-71) were also discussed.

5.2 Interpreting the WBF Alerting Policy

- It was noted that TDs found the WBF policy outlined in Appendix 3 (Adopted July 1977, revised August 2002) difficult to apply because several terms such as *conventional* and *special meaning* were not defined. It was decided that the EBU policy would be adopted in the meantime but that GR would write to the WBF seeking clarification.

6.3 Extending announcements was discussed with a plan to consider and adopt changes for the annual rules update in 2022

6. Applications for new permitted methods

None at this time

7. Reports from Tournament Directors

Two appeals were discussed, one face to face and one online.

7.1 The Blue Book threshold for *potentially unexpected* was discussed and it was noted that something that is disclosable is not necessarily alterable. The TD at a face-to-face tournament was unsure about the ruling given at the table and decided to lodge an appeal unbeknownst to the players. This was not correct. The TD cannot appeal their own ruling.

7.2 There is no equivalent law to L25 for the play period and consequently our regulations do not allow undos at that stage. However, two appeals have been heard about this matter, both of which concluded that it was the software that had caused the problem rather than player error: in one case it was held that the board was unplayable and an artificial score awarded; in the other, the situation was held to be analogous to a card accidentally dropped and was deemed to be a penalty card subject to Law 50. It was noted that on RealBridge Pass and 7L bids were close together on the screen, although this should not affect the likelihood of a misclick, just the extreme nature of its outcome.

8. Date of next meeting

To be decided. It was agreed that the next meeting would be held online sometime in either late January or early February.