



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU LAWS & ETHICS COMMITTEE
HELD ON ZOOM
ON WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2022**

Present:	David Burn (DBu) Chairman & Elected Member
	Steve Green (SG) Vice Chairman & Elected Member
	David Bakhshi (DBa) Elected Member
	Robin Barker (RB) Deputy Chief TD
	Peter Hasenson (PH) Elected Member
	Peter Grice (PG) Elected Member
	Jane Jensen (JJ) Elected Member
	Ian Payn (IP) EBU Chairman
	Gordon Rainsford (GR) EBU Chief Executive
	Tim Rees (TR) Elected Member
	Gayle Webb (GW) Appointed Member
	Heather Sanderson (HS) Secretary

1. Procedural Matters

- 1.1 Apologies for Absence: None
- 1.2 Welcome newly elected and re-elected members, Peter Grice, Jane Jensen and Tim Rees.
- 1.3 David Burn and Steve Green were duly nominated and re-elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting of 6th October 2022 were approved and signed.
- 2.2 SG updated the committee on his policing cheaters poll. The result was 6:3 in favour of maintaining the current policy of reacting to complaints rather than proactively policing cheating. DBu noted that the L&EC is obliged to consider anything that might be a breach of the Byelaws however it comes to its attention. He stated that it was not necessary for the committee to go looking for villains.

2.3 Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda

a. IP asked if the Disciplinary Panel convener, Geoff Smith, had updated guidelines in light of changes to the Byelaws. SG reported that Mr Smith had completed an extensive review and drafted changes.

b. SG noted that the High Court case was going to be uploaded to the EBU website together with a summary of cases in recent years. PH inquired re costs. GR noted that costs had been awarded by the High Court.

2.4 SG requested that Jonathan Lillycrop be asked to join the committee as an observer for his input on technical matters.

3. Technical Matters

3.1 Robin reported on the Blue Book subcommittee discussions. The issues outstanding included the alerting of penalty doubles after value showing redoubles, feedback stemming from Bridgewinners and the date for implementation of changes.

3.2 Discussion regarding timing and dissemination of changes ensued. TR expressed concern that members without computers would not have access to the information. GR said that updates would be sent to counties and clubs. DBu noted that introducing changes at the summer Congress was no longer the best method of reaching people.

GR suggested that changes happened only once a year, noting that September was a sensible time. GR noted that this year was exception because of a backlog and thus thought it would be appropriate to introduce further changes around March. GR said it was unusual to be looking at changes to soon after adapting new rules, but it was right to consider feedback and act on that sooner. TR suggested once a year for tweaking the regulations and every three to five years for changes to alerting and announcing. SG noted that the aim of the upcoming changes would be to tidy up the September 2022 Rules.

It was agreed that this year was an exception and that changes would be made earlier than September and that going forward changes would occur once a year on 1st September.

4. Date of next meeting

It was decided that a meeting will be held in person on Wednesday, 1st February at 1:15 with lunch beforehand. If necessary, the meeting will revert to online.

Heather Sanderson
Secretary to the Laws & Ethics Committee
December 2022