



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU LAWS & ETHICS COMMITTEE
HELD ONLINE (BY ZOOM)
ON WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2023**

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 Grice (PG)	Elected Member
	Peter Hasenson (PH)	Elected Member
	Jane Jensen (JJ)	Elected Member
	Ian Payn (IP)	EBU Chairman
	Gordon Rainsford (GR)	EBU Chief Executive
	Tim Rees (TR)	Elected Member
	Heather Sanderson (HS)	Secretary

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Apologies for absence
Gayle Webb

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting of the 7th December 2022 were approved.
- 2.2 The L&E webpages were cleaned up, removing items that were no longer relevant and adding more current information.
- 2.3 It was reported that there had been discussions with RealBridge about the type of data they collect. It was noted that video and audio files are not stored by RealBridge.

3. APPEAL TO THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY

None

4. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

The status of two ongoing cases were reported.

5. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

5.1 [EDGAR](#) (Electronic Data Gathering and Anti-cheating Radar)

SG reported that he shared BBO data from six pairs with EDGAR. Within 24 hours they shared their conclusions which matched those of the L&EC including not only innocence and guilt but also the likelihood of self-kibitzing and/or collusion.

There was discussion about an ACBL case reported on Bridgewinners. Reading the decision it was apparent that people in the hearing found it difficult to understand what EDGAR was measuring. The pair were convicted on the basis of the suspicious hands. SG noted that EDGAR was a useful tool which may require some training so that people understand it.

DBa mentioned that he has trained as a “wing” for the Institute for Bridge Arbitration ([IBA](#)). He reported that IBA anticipate hearing evidence which includes analysis from EDGAR.

5.2 The **Disciplinary Panel Manual** was updated by the convenor of the Disciplinary Panel, Geoff Smith. Prior to finalising the guidance Mr Smith met with SG, IP and GR. SG reported that it was agreed that sentencing guidelines should include EBU volunteers, and that written abuse should be added with a 50% harsher penalty than verbal abuse. The reasoning was that written abuse required more forethought than verbal outbursts.

5.3 There was a discussion on how the L&EC can improve on the handling of Behavioural cases. JJ met with SG and DBu in January to share her experiences and thoughts on prosecuting these cases. IP suggested training some Prosecution Panel members to deal with such cases.

6 TECHNICAL MATTERS

Blue Book

6.1 SG reported that the Blue Book subgroup met regularly to discuss changes to Two Level Opening Bids, alerting of doubles and adding definitions in a glossary. September 1st, 2023 implementation with two months’ notice was reiterated as the timescale for producing a new Blue Book.

6.2 **White Book**

RB reviewed a list of small issues and offered to write up proposed changes for the next meeting with the aim to produce a new White Book for August/September.

7. APPLICATION FOR NEW PERMITTED METHODS

None at this time

8. REPORTS FROM TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

8.1 TD forms and comments

Appeal *Castner v Stevenson* (National PaB Teams held on RealBridge)

RB ruled that the missing announcement of the NT range was misinformation. The basis of the ruling was not what the player could assume but what would have happened if there had been no infraction. PH shared his view that players who do not announce their 1NT range should be ruled against. GR said that is not the rule. In misinformation cases, it is not enough to claim damage when opponents fail to announce. The onus is on players to protect themselves from missing announcements. Damage is unlikely if the NT range is constant in contrast to the appeal at issue.

DBu offered to review and propose changes to Rule 4A6:

If there is no alert and no announcement, opponents can assume that there is an understanding (explicit or implicit) for the meaning of the call that does not require one.

It was pointed out that TDs often did not understand Point-a-Board weighted scoring despite score calculations in the White Book.

9. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was decided that the next Blue Book subcommittee meeting would be held on Zoom on Wednesday 22 February 2023 at 14:00. And the next meeting of the L&EC would be held in mid-May with venue to be determined. PH remarked that online meetings save money and travel time.

Heather Sanderson
Secretary to the L&E Committee
February 2023