



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT AYLESBURY OFFICES ON WEDNESDAY 8TH JUNE 2005**

Present:	Margaret Curtis	Chairman
	Alan Nelson	Vice-Chairman
	Max Bavin	Chief Tournament Director
	Heather Dhondy	
	Philip Mason	EBU Vice-Chairman
	Malcolm Oliver	
	Paul Spencer	
	John Neville	Board Member and Acting Treasurer
	Terry Collier	General Manager
	Nick Doe	Secretary

1. Resignation of a Committee member

Mrs Curtis paid tribute to the contribution made over many years by Mr Bradley, who had resigned all his EBU posts on 17th May due to ill health and died ten days later. The Committee echoed her comments. Mrs Curtis welcomed Mr Neville, who had been appointed Acting Treasurer, to the meeting.

Mrs Curtis also informed the Committee that there appeared to have been a misunderstanding with Ms Hamilton, who apparently believed that she had resigned as a member of the Committee some months ago. On behalf of the Committee she thanked Ms Hamilton for her work during her time on the Committee.

2. Apologies for Absence Addis Page
Denis Robson EBU Chairman

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (8th March)

3.1 Accuracy

It was agreed that, whilst Mr Oliver's name had been mentioned as a possible member of the Master Points Sub-Committee (item 6.2), it had eventually been agreed that the Committee should comprise just Messrs Mason, Bavin and Nelson. Mr Oliver (who had not been present at the previous meeting) confirmed that he was happy with that decision.

Subject to this correction, the minutes were agreed to be a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3.2 Matters arising

3.2.1 Draw Policy for Knock-out events (item 2.2.2)

The Committee noted that there was nothing further to report concerning new draw software.

3.2.2 English Riviera Congress (item 2.2.5)

Mr Bavin reported that the date of the first congress was not ideal from the point of view of the venue, a termtime date being preferable for the availability of accommodation. At the same time, the hotel in which the Shrewsbury Congress is held have put up their prices to an unacceptable extent. Mr Bavin recommended that the Shrewsbury Congress be discontinued after the 2005 event, and that the English Riviera Congress be moved to the date at the end of June thereby released. He confirmed that the English Riviera Centre was available, and he had in fact made a provisional booking.

The Committee accepted the recommendation. Although the clash with Scarborough had seemed a positive advantage in some ways, it was not essential now that an alternative date was available.

Mr Collier reported that the EBU was currently working on a membership drive in conjunction with the County Associations of Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, with participation in the congress as an incentive.

3.2.3 Possible Gold Point event (item 2.2.6)

The Committee noted that in the absence of any further interest from potential sponsors, there was currently no basis for proceeding. However, Mr Collier indicated that discussions had been taking place with television companies, which might lead to revival of the proposal.

3.2.4 Possible Seniors Congress in the North (item 2.2.7)

Mr Mason reported that he had not pursued the matter, and questioned the degree of interest in such a congress. With regard to a date, the weekend of the Crockfords Cup final had previously been suggested, but the Committee felt that this was too close to the Seniors event at the Lambourne Festival in Jersey. It was agreed to shelve the proposal for the present, although Mr Bavin was asked to make general enquiries of a possible Tyneside venue suggested by Mr Oliver.

3.2.5 National Women's and Men's Pairs (item 4.5)

Mr Doe reported that this had been included on the agenda in error due to a misunderstanding of the previous minute. There was nothing to discuss.

3.2.6 National Women's Teams (item 4.8)

Mr Bavin reported that the new venue in Basingstoke which he had had in mind for 2006 had been unable to accommodate the event on the correct weekend, and it had not been realistic to change the date. He had therefore re-booked the previous venue in Bromsgrove. This would need appropriate publicity, as the entry in the diary would say "venue to be advised". The Committee agreed to switch to the Basingstoke venue from 2007.

3.2.7 Ranked Masters Pairs (item 4.11)

Mr Doe asked whether the suggestion noted at the previous meeting (to turn the lowest ranked event into a simultaneous pairs type event) was actively being considered. The Committee considered that it was not appropriate to make the change until the success or otherwise of the new format for the National Newcomers Pairs (which is also played in March) has been gauged. The suggestion would therefore be borne in mind for the future but would not be actively pursued at present.

3.2.8 Tollemache Cup (item 7)

Mr Bavin reported that no contact had yet been made with Lord Tollemache. Mr Collier suggested the possibility of inviting him to open this year's qualifier (the first event to be held at the Kettering Conference Centre). The Committee was happy that this should be done.

The Committee noted that a member of the Board had put forward some ideas for improvements to scoring at the qualifier, and would await details with interest.

3.2.9 Tournament Publicity in English Bridge (item 9.5)

Mrs Curtis reported that she was very happy with what had appeared in the June issue, although, as it happened, she had not seen the copy in advance. The Committee was pleased with the improvement, but thought that the copy should be shown in advance to the Chairman, as had been agreed.

3.2.10 Afternoon simultaneous pairs (item 9.6)

The Committee noted that the request for feedback had been sent out with the results from the most recent simultaneous pairs, so it was too early to have received any meaningful response. It felt that circulation limited to clubs who had played in the last event risked not reaching the clubs most likely to be interested, so it was agreed to repeat the consultation when entries were solicited for the next simultaneous pairs, as that mailshot would go to all affiliated clubs.

3.2.11 Camrose match schedule (item 9.10)

Mr Neville reported that when the number of Camrose weekends had been reduced from five to two, the decision to use the January and March weekends had seemed an obvious one, and was unlikely to be changed. Mr Doe informed the Committee that the clash had arisen because the Camrose date had moved earlier and earlier in March, and he understood that this was a deliberate move on the part of BGB to accommodate the wish of the two Irish Unions for the event not to be too close to St Patrick's Day. He thought that the clash could be avoided in the majority of years. The Committee was not inclined to pursue the matter further.

4. Tournament Accounts

Mr Neville reported that the figures for 2004/05 were close to being finalised, and it appeared that competitions had done better than budgeted, largely as a result of successful control of costs. The budget for 2005/06 assumed that this successful outcome would be repeated.

Mr Neville agreed that it was appropriate for the Committee to see detailed tournament accounts. It was agreed that these would be presented in future by the Treasurer, and that Messrs Bavin, Collier and Neville would have a discussion to arrive at a suitable format.

5. Tournament Reports

5.1 One-day events (March)

The numbers of tables in play were as follows (Swiss Teams unless otherwise specified):-

Saturday

Kent	47	
Merseyside & Cheshire	39	Swiss Pairs
Nottinghamshire	44	Swiss Pairs

Sunday

Bedfordshire	64	
Channel Islands	21	Swiss Pairs
Leicestershire	38	
London	48	
Manchester	27	
Wiltshire	51	

There had been some problems with the quality of venues, notably major difficulties arising from lack of heating and a general sense of a run-down building at the Risley venue for the Merseyside and Manchester events. The venue had agreed to a partial refund, and it had been agreed with all

concerned to offer a £5 per player credit voucher to all players involved on the Sunday (when the cold weather meant that the problems were worse). The voucher would be valid against entry fees for a future One-day event at the same venue either this year or next. The three North-Western Counties collectively would stand the shortfall, as (despite the fact that only Merseyside and Manchester were nominally involved), those counties plus Lancashire have an arrangement to share the financial results of all their One-day events equally. In addition the EBU has agreed to waive its relatively modest share of the profits from this day.

5.2 *Golfprint National Final*

There had been no problems.

5.3 *National Pairs Regional Finals*

The total numbers of tables in play had been 161½, with heat sizes varying between 23½ and 44½ tables. There had been no problems.

5.4 *National Newcomers Pairs*

138½ tables were in play over 18 heats. Scoring was completed with no more than minor difficulties. One or two County Associations have commented that it seems an over-elaborate operation for such a small tournament, and this problem may be exacerbated when the event will be played in two flights from next year. The Committee was concerned over the need for a level playing field if some venues but not others wished to amalgamate the two flights.

It was also concerned that publicity could be improved – there had been problems with some Counties not providing details of their heats in good time.

The Committee agreed that a major stock-taking would be necessary following next year's event.

5.5 *Easter Festival (London)*

The average number of tables per session was 84½, which was satisfactory, but the numbers in the lowest flights were very low. The B flight Swiss Teams attracted only 10 teams, in comparison with 94 in the A flight, and the C flight Swiss Pairs had to be cancelled and the pairs concerned transferred to the B flight (the pairs had been matched against one another as often as possible and a category prize awarded). Nonetheless, the Committee did not think it appropriate to discontinue the lower-flighted events. The overall entry for the Swiss Pairs was completely full at 121 tables, although no pairs were turned away on the day.

5.6 *Easter Festival (Blackpool)*

The average was 45 tables per session, which was slightly disappointing. There had been no other problems.

5.7 *Portland Pairs*

180½ tables were in play over 11 venues. The heats in six venues were very small (9-12 tables) and there was one somewhat larger (15½ tables). Only Richmond, Solihull, Tunbridge Wells and Welwyn Garden City attracted reasonable numbers (around 25 tables). The WBU (who run two of the smaller heats) have advised Mr Bavin informally that they will continue to support the event for one more year, and will then review the situation, and Mr Bavin recommended that the Committee review the future of the event at the same time.

The Committee noted that there had been some difficulties in scoring the event due to the fact that none of the software is designed for a two-session event scored via the internet.

5.8 *National Pairs Final*

There were no problems to report.

5.9 *Lambourne Festival and Seniors Congress (Jersey)*

The numbers of tables in play were 59 (first weekend), 43 (second weekend), 25 (average for the Seniors events) and 33 (average for the other midweek events). The second weekend figures were a little disappointing.

The Committee noted correspondence from the hotel regarding arrangements for next year, and whilst the proposed allocation of priorities for accommodation bookings was not ideal, the Committee did not consider that it could be realistically objected to.

Only during this year's congress did the EBU become aware that the Channel Islands Association and the hotel wished to move from the date which has been published in draft calendars, and is about to be published in the 2005/06 diary. This date has been in the calendars for some considerable time and of course County Associations do receive copies on a regular basis. Whilst the Committee understood the reasons for not wishing to clash with the Bank Holiday, such a clash had occurred in the past without apparent problems, and it was disappointing that the matter had not been raised much earlier. Given that entries are taken by the local Association and that there is a special brochure / entry form on which the change can be highlighted, the Committee was prepared to accept the change of date requested.

5.10 Portland Bowl Finals

Everything had gone well.

5.11 Schapiro Spring Foursomes

There had been 43 teams – up on last year, but still not the 48 teams for which the format is designed. Nonetheless it remains a successful tournament held in an attractive venue. The semi-finals and final were transmitted live on the internet via Bridge Base Online for the first time, which had proved a great success. The suggestion that the event lacks atmosphere on the Tuesday was noted. Whilst this is undoubtedly true, the Committee thought the current format preferable to the obvious alternative (an earlier start on Friday and a Monday finish) for two reasons. First, the hotel is not interested in accommodating Friday afternoon play. Second, the need to take a day off on Tuesday affects just four teams; an afternoon start on Friday would affect all entrants.

5.12 Crockfords Cup Final

There had been no problems.

5.13 Spring Simultaneous Pairs

There had been 627 tables in 68 clubs on the Wednesday and 993 tables in 111 clubs on the Thursday. This was an average of about 9 tables per club, and the overall figures were about 10% down on last year.

The Committee noted that Ecats will be taking over the operation in its entirety as from Autumn this year.

5.14 One-day events (May)

The numbers of tables in play were as follows (Swiss Teams unless otherwise specified):-

Saturday

Merseyside & Cheshire	43	Swiss Pairs
-----------------------	----	-------------

Northamptonshire	46	Swiss Pairs
------------------	----	-------------

Sunday

Bedfordshire	71	
--------------	----	--

Devon	44	
-------	----	--

Hampshire & IOW	93	Flighted – 66 A, 27 B
-----------------	----	-----------------------

Lancashire	37	
------------	----	--

Warwickshire	39	
--------------	----	--

There were again problems with one of the venues (Hampshire), although thankfully not as severe as at Risley in March. There was also a minor duplimating problem at the same event, which affected hand records but not security.

5.15 Garden Cities Regional Finals

33 Counties had been represented. All went well.

5.16 Spring Bank Holiday Congress

There was an average of 92 tables per session. From the bridge point of view, all went well, but yet another change of hotel management had led to some problems with catering. There had been some complaints about the hotel.

5.17 Corwen Trophy

56 tables had been in play. There were no problems to report.

5.18 Hubert Phillips Bowl Final

There have been some difficulties agreeing a date, but it may be possible to play the final in early July.

6. National Bridge Centre

6.1 Progress and timetable

Mr Collier tabled a paper and reported that there was still some way to go before a final recommendation to proceed with the project would be made. In particular it was noted that there were two schools of thought as to whether the full project could proceed unless or until hotel accommodation was available on site. It was the Committee's view that whilst a hotel would be a great advantage, previous proposals to locate in Solihull and Milton Keynes did not have this advantage.

In the meantime events to be played at Kettering would be publicised as taking place at the Kettering Conference Centre.

6.2 Events to be played at the Kettering Conference Centre in 2005/06

The list of events to be moved to Kettering in 2005/06 is as follows:-

- Tollemache Qualifier
- Swiss Teams Congress
- National Men's & Women's Pairs
- Tollemache Final
- GolfPrint Regional Final
- Ranked Masters
- Portland Pairs (Heat)
- Golfprint National Final
- National Newcomers (Heat) and National Pairs Regional Final
- National Pairs National Final
- Crockfords Final
- Garden Cities Regional Final
- Corwen Trophy
- Pachabo Cup
- Garden Cities National Final

The Committee noted that it was also assumed that all trials would also be held there with effect from 2006/07.

It was not easy to do an accurate comparison of the costs, but the indications were that there would be a small saving in comparison with the use of existing venues.

The Committee noted that it was proposed to introduce an additional charge of £3.50 per head to cover the provision of unlimited tea, coffee, water and biscuits throughout each event. This would have to be publicised as it had come too late for inclusion in the diary.

6.3 Any other issues

The Committee noted that the Board wished to ensure that the first event to be held in Kettering was first rate, and to this end are considering the provision of special services including “play, accommodation and meal” packages and transport to and from hotels. The Committee agreed that it was crucial that all relevant information was available as a matter of course from Aylesbury, and as far in advance as possible. It did not consider that the take-up of packages was likely to be very great, and doubted the effectiveness of the EBU attempting to provide such services. In particular, with regard to transport and hotel booking, the Committee did not think that it was appropriate for the EBU to do more than be in a position to pass on details of local taxi firms and hotels.

7. One-day Joint Ventures and Green-pointed County Congresses

7.1 Changes to existing schedules

Mr Doe reported that he had two matters to sort out, and the Committee was happy for this to be dealt with by Aylesbury in consultation with Mrs Curtis as Chairman.

7.2 Financial Structure

The Committee reviewed the present state of the proposals. It had decided that a licence fee system should be introduced, initially from 2006, although it was accepted that it was now too late to make any change prior to 2007. Although Council had approved the relevant minutes, the matter had been discussed again at the last Shareholders’ meeting and a further discussion was due to take place at the next Shareholders’ meeting. It appeared that there was a danger of the decision-making process becoming completely bogged down.

The Committee noted a suggestion from Mrs Curtis that the basic financial structure should continue to be profit-sharing, but that Counties running smaller events could be offered the alternative of paying a licence fee. Mr Neville expressed surprise that it would suit Counties with smaller events to operate under a licence fee basis. He considered that the present arrangements worked reasonably well, but that if a change was introduced, it should be across the board, as it would be divisive to offer an alternative to some but not to others.

After further discussion a proposal from Mr Oliver, seconded by Mr Mason, that a licence fee structure should be introduced with effect from 2007, with the level of the fee as previously proposed, and all services hitherto provided free of charge by Aylesbury continuing to be provided free of charge, was carried by 4 votes to 3.

7.3 Future scheduling – 2007 and 2008

Mr Doe drew attention to the fact that some Counties were becoming anxious that scheduling for 2007 should not be further delayed, and the Committee decided that applications for both 2007 and 2008 should be invited on the basis of the two possible financial structures, i.e. licence fee or profit-sharing.

8. Seniors events

8.1 Age qualification for 2005/06 events

The Committee considered a paper from Mr Doe setting out the position in more detail than had previously been considered. It was agreed that it was desirable to follow the international bodies’ lead in gradually increasing the qualifying age to 60, but that lagging a period behind the international bodies in implementation was not a problem. It was also agreed that the new rules should ensure that nobody who had ever qualified as a senior for any past EBU event should fail to qualify as a senior for any future event.

It was therefore agreed that with effect from the start of the 2005/06 playing season (i.e. 1st September 2005) the age qualification for seniors should be birth before 1st January 1952. This is tantamount to a requirement to reach the relevant age during the calendar year concerned, the relevant age being:-

Year of event	Relevant age
2005	54
2006	55
...	
2011 and later	60

This new policy would mean that there would be a two-year time lag behind the international bodies' schedule (as that was currently understood). It would mean that a number of new seniors would qualify with effect from 1st September 2005, after which no new seniors would qualify until 1st January 2012.

This decision would require suitable publicity, as it differed from what was to be published in the diary.

Note – it is assumed that:-

- (a) where a person who has not reached the age of 55 is eligible to play, the previous rule that the combined ages of the two players on the first day of the event must total at least 110 still applies; and
- (b) as the closing date for the 2005/06 Gerard Faulkner Salver is prior to 1st September, and the qualification (at least 55 on the closing date) was announced in the 2004/05 diary, this will not be changed.

8.2 Use of Gerard Faulkner Salver as trial for international Seniors events

The Committee noted that the Selection Committee wished to use the Gerard Faulkner Salver to qualify teams for international selection. It was understood that the Selection Committee was happy that the age qualification did not match that of the international bodies, any teams who were eligible under EBU but not international rules being excluded from the Selection Committee's consideration. On that basis the Committee had no objections to the proposal.

9. Master Points

Mr Mason reported that the Master Points Sub-Committee had met earlier in the day, and had made a number of recommendations. As the Committee had not had notice of these, it was agreed that it was not appropriate to consider formal approval of them at the current meeting. Instead Mr Mason would prepare a written record of the recommendations, to be circulated with these minutes. Committee members would be invited to comment (via Mr Doe as Secretary) so that comments could be circulated in advance of the next meeting, when final decisions would be made.

[Secretary's note – a paper from Mr Mason is attached as Appendix A to these minutes.]

The Committee noted that the principal recommendations were along the following lines:-

- The introduction of a new rank with a Green Point requirement below that of Regional Master. The proposed qualification was 5000 Master Points, including 10 Green Points, and the proposed title for the new rank was "Premier Master".
- The introduction of a new rank for the very top-ranked Grand Masters. The proposed qualification was 1500 Green Points, without any Local Point requirement, and the proposed title for the new rank was "Premier Grand Master".
- The reduction of Local Points for overall ranking in simultaneous pairs from District scale to Club scale.
- The introduction of a Green-pointed simultaneous pairs event.
- A slight reduction in the Green Point awards for the National Newcomers Pairs, and a rationalisation of the Green Point awards for a number of knock-out competitions

The Sub-Committee had not considered that any changes were needed to the awards at EBU Congresses.

The Committee noted that the Sub-Committee had envisaged that the proposed Green-pointed simultaneous pairs event should be a wholly new event. Doubt was expressed as to whether this was appropriate, as there is a widely-held view that there are already too many simultaneous pairs events in the calendar. The view was also expressed that to reduce the Local Point awards for existing simultaneous pairs events would be an extremely bad public relations move.

Other suggestions noted were:-

- the abandonment of the award of pens for achieving promotion to a new rank, perhaps in favour of improved certificates; and
- the nomination of a simultaneous pairs event to fund a particular area of the Union's activities (merely as a matter of presentation, i.e. without any suggestion of new money being involved).

10. Prize distribution policy

The Committee considered a paper from Mr Nelson. He had found what he regarded as perhaps a surprising level of general approval of the existing policy amongst the players to whom he had spoken, but had concluded that there were some changes which could sensibly be made. His proposals would entail some shift from ranking prizes to category and "fun" prizes, and some reduction in the number of ranking prizes coupled with an increase in their amount.

Some cautious reactions were noted, in particular that of Mr Neville to any suggestion that the use of EBU vouchers might be reduced (given their positive contribution to the Union's cash flow).

It was agreed to invite Committee members to comment (via Mr Doe as Secretary) so that the comments could be circulated in advance of the next meeting, when a further discussion would take place leading to final decisions on the proposals.

[Secretary's note – the paper from Mr Nelson is attached as Appendix B to these minutes.]

11. Hubert Phillips Bowl

11.1 Entries for 2005/06

The Committee was pleased to note entries slightly up at 109 teams.

11.2 Seeding

The Committee noted that some anomalies had arisen in implementing the decision to seed the event by Gold Points. In particular, the holders for three out of the last four years would not have been seeded on Gold Points, and the Chairman had authorised an exception to be made in their case, a decision of which the Committee approved.

It was decided that in future the seeding by virtue of Gold Points would be decided, in the case of teams of more than four players, by reference to the Gold Point holdings of the four team members with the most Gold Points. The Committee also decided to reserve the right to depart from seeding by virtue of Gold Points in the case of obvious anomalies arising. It would normally be sufficient for any such anomalies to be referred to the Committee Chairman for a decision.

12. Possible National Business Houses competition

Mr Mason reported that he had spoken to a number of people in connection with this idea, and that Baker Tilly were keen to sponsor an event. The likely format comprised a number of regional qualifying rounds followed by a national final. An item would be included in *English Bridge* inviting expressions of interest.

The principal difficulty foreseen by the Committee was devising a suitable definition of “business house”, and dealing with other eligibility issues (for example, whether spouses not involved in the business concerned would be eligible to play). Mr Collier suggested that it would be helpful to obtain the views of the proposed sponsors on such matters, and the Committee agreed.

13. Calendars

13.1 2006/07 – third draft

13.2 2007/08 – second draft

The Committee considered and approved further drafts, although any Committee members who had any queries or concerns were still welcome to raise them with Mr Doe. The drafts are attached to these minutes as Appendices C and D. The Committee urged County Associations to look at the drafts and raise any queries or problems with Aylesbury.

14. Any other business

14.1 Overseas Congress

Mr Nelson drew the Committee’s attention to the fact that he had attended an event in Eilat (Israel) as a prize for winning the EBU/EBL Brighton Seniors event. He considered that Eilat would make an excellent venue for a future Overseas Congress. In particular he did not believe that there were significant security problems in that part of Israel.

14.2 Clocks

Mrs Dhondy asked about the possibility of using display clocks for timing rounds in EBU events. Mr Bavin responded that we do own two such clocks and they are used in some EBU events. Whilst he did not think that there was a particular problem with keeping EBU events to time, he was sure that the use of such devices would tend to increase.

14.3 Isle of Man Congress

The Committee noted that disappointment had been expressed by the Manx Bridge Union at the last Shareholders’ meeting at the withdrawal of the EBU support for the Isle of Man Congress. Mr Bavin expressed some surprise at this, because his contacts with the MBU had suggested that they did not have a problem with taking over full responsibility for the event. The Committee hoped and believed that the event would continue and be successful in its new venue, and to support that aim had already agreed that the award of Green Points should be permitted to continue.

14.4 Reference from the Laws & Ethics Committee

Mr Doe informed that Committee that the Laws & Ethics Committee had asked it to consider the possibility of withdrawing reciprocal membership rights from a pair of members of a European NBO, who had failed to respond to correspondence from the Laws & Ethics Committee seeking an explanation of their conduct at an EBU event. The Committee considered that this was a decision which was better taken by the Laws & Ethics Committee – if the Laws & Ethics Committee considered it an appropriate response on behalf of the EBU, it had no objection to such a course being taken.



**RECOMMENDATIONS AGREED AT THE MEETING OF
THE EBU MASTER POINTS SUB-COMMITTEE
HELD AT AYLESBURY OFFICES ON WEDNESDAY 8TH JUNE 2005**

Present: Philip Mason Chairman
Max Bavin
Alan Nelson

1. New rank (1)

(already approved by (what was) Council over a year ago)

To be called "Premier Master".

Qualification – 5000 Master Points including 10 Green Points.

2. New rank (2)

To be called "Premier Grand Master".

Qualification – 1500 Green Points (Local Points irrelevant).

3. Simultaneous Pairs

A new EBU sim pairs week where Green Points will be awarded as follows:-

- Top award – 4 Green Points
- Awards to the top 10% of the field (finishing at 1/4 Green Point)

Note – if a new week cannot be found, one of the two existing weeks to be used.

4. National Newcomers Pairs

Top award 4 Green Points (currently 6) to reflect the fact that this is now a one plus session sim pairs event.

5. Knock-out competitions

Modification of the awards in the early rounds of all National knock-out competitions. A rounding up of existing awards to eliminate fractional Green Points (except in the Plate competitions).

6. Pens

Terminate the award of pens when achieving promotion from one rank to another. Instead award certificates (A5 size) which are sent to clubs to present (if they wish) to the recipient.

7. Congresses

No change to awards at EBU Congresses.

8. Midweek events at Brighton

Green Point awards for the midweek evening sessions. For the Mixed Pairs (which is the largest event), top award – 2 Green Points with a reducing scale. For other evening events Green points to be in proportion to the Mixed Pairs entry (Max to devise scales).

9. Further review

A further review of the Master Points system in two years' time, when a new Master Points Handbook will be printed. (It will then be 10 years since the current one was printed).



**TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE
8TH JUNE 2005**

ITEM 10 – REVIEW OF PRIZE DISTRIBUTION POLICY – DISCUSSION PAPER

1. Current Situation

- 1.1 20% of anticipated event income after deduction of VAT allocated to prize fund unless sponsorship money available and specifically earmarked by sponsor to swell prize fund
- 1.2 Principles used in distributing prize fund:
 - (a) 1 session events – 1/16 of field win prizes
2 session events – 1/11 of field win prizes
3 session events – 1/9 of field win prizes
4 session events – 1/8 of field win prizes
 - (b) Minimum prize value £10 per person in 1 session event, £15 in 2 session event & £20 in 3 session events
 - (c) All prizes in EBU vouchers (sponsors' products additional)

2. Comment

The main observations by tournament playing EBU members on the current policy centre on the following issues:

- 2.1 "Insufficient incentive to winning (generally top 3) pairs/teams – Main prizes should be higher"
- 2.2 "Prizes too small in relation to cost of tournament"
- 2.3 "Not enough recognition of achievement by non-expert and non-standard players e.g. veterans, seniors, mixed, youth, junior etc."
- 2.4 "Insufficient *novelty* and *fun* prizes e.g. session, match, ascenders, average etc."
- 2.5 "We would rather have goods than vouchers or at least the option to choose."

However, in general I have been surprised to find that with a few exceptions, our members seem to be generally satisfied with the existing policy – the attraction of less or no prizes in favour of lower entry fees was rejected by most members when they realised the limited scale of the potential saving.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Maintain existing allocation of event income for prize funds.
- 3.2 Seek to supplement event prize funds through sponsorship-cash or products.

3.3 Amend distribution principles to the following:

- (a) 80% of event prize fund allocated for overall achievement
 - 10% for special player categories
 - 10% for *novelty* prizes
- (b) Achievement prizes to be limited to 5% of the field for 1 or 2 session events and 10% of the field for 3+ session events.
- (c) No cash prize/voucher to be less than 50% nor greater than 5 times the cost of entry to the event (except when sponsorship funds or products are provided).
- (d) Consider offering a small range of gifts in lieu of EBU vouchers at major tournaments.
- (e) In the interests of transparency, publicise prize fund guidelines.

Alan Nelson

16 May 2005



EXTRACT FROM EBU DRAFT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Season 2006/07 (August to August)



(as approved by the Tournament Committee on 8th June
2005)

Note – Events are marked in two ways to indicate significant changes from the last draft approved by the Committee:-

A double black bar to the right of the venue column indicates a change of venue.

A double black bar to the left of the details column indicates a change of date or other details.

2006

Aug	11 - 20	Brighton Summer Congress	Brighton
	12 - 26	European Teams Championships	Warsaw
	14 - 16	Really Easy Congress	Brighton
	Sep 1 - 3	Junior Teach-in	Loughborough
	2 - 3	Bedford Congress	Cranfield
	14 - 17	Isle of Man Congress (to be confirmed)	Isle of Man
	16 - 17	Open Trials Stage I	Kettering
	18 - 19	EBU Autumn Sim Pairs	Clubs
	22 - 1 Oct	Guernsey Congress and Seniors Congress	Guernsey
	30	One-day events	Derbyshire, Oxfordshire (provisional), Surrey
Oct	1	One-day events	Avon, Derbyshire, Hertfordshire, Surrey
	5 - 10	EBU Overseas Congress (provisional)	Turkey
	6 - 8	West of England Congress	Weston-super-Mare
	7 - 8	Women's Trials Stage I	Kettering
	7 - 8	Great Northern Swiss Pairs	Warrington
	11 - 12	BGB Autumn Sim Pairs	Clubs
	14 - 15	Open Trials Stage II	Kettering
	20 - 22	Autumn Congress	Bournemouth
	28 - 29	Lederer Memorial Trophy (provisional)	London
	28 - 29	Malvern Congress	Bransford
Nov	3 - 5	Seniors Congress	Daventry
	3 - 5	NEBA Congress	Allensford
	11 - 12	Women's Trials Stage II	Kettering
	18 - 19	Middlesex Congress	Harrow
	23 - 3 Dec	(American Fall Nationals)	Hawaii
	25 - 26	Tollemache Qualifier	Kettering
	27	European Internet Sim Pairs	Clubs
	29	European Internet Sim Pairs	Clubs
Dec	9 - 10	Gold Cup Finals (provisional)	Peebles
	15 - 17	Junior Channel Trophy	France
	27 - 30	Year-End Congress	London
	28 - 30	Year-End Congress	Blackpool
2007			
Jan	5 - 7	Camrose - first weekend	England (TBA)
	5 - 7	Midland Counties Congress	Bewdley
	8 - 10	BGB Winter Sim Pairs	Clubs
	12 - 14	EBU Online Players Congress	Hinckley
	20 - 21	National Swiss Teams	Kettering
	27 - 28	National Women's and Men's Pairs	Kettering
Feb	2 - 8	EBU Overseas Congress (provisional)	Madeira
	10 - 11	Tollemache Cup Final	Kettering
	11	G.W. Arnott-Davidson Trophy Qualifier	London, Sheffield
	16 - 18	National Women's Teams	Bromsgrove
	17 - 18	Junior Camrose weekend	Republic of Ireland
	23 - 25	Spring Congress	Harrogate
	24	Golfprint Regional Finals	Various
Mar	2 - 4	Camrose - final weekend	Scotland
	3 - 4	Ranked Masters Pairs	Kettering

Mar	8 - 18	(American Spring Nationals)	St Louis	
	10	One-day events	Various	
	11	One-day events	Various	
	16 - 18	Cumbria Congress	Bassenthwaite	
	17	Young Bridge Challenge (inc Schools Cup)	Loughborough	
	18	Portland Pairs	Various	
	23 - 25	Cornwall Congress	Newquay	
	24	Golfprint National Final	Kettering	
	25	National Newcomers Pairs	Counties	
	25	National Pairs Regional Finals	Bradford, Bristol, Kettering, Leatherhead, Solihull	
	25 - 26	Isle of Man Congress	Isle of Man	
	30	Lords v Commons (provisional)	London	
Apr	6	G.W. Amott-Davidson Trophy Final	London	
	6 - 7	Under-25 Pairs	London	
	6 - 8	Easter Festival	Blackpool	
	6 - 9	Easter Festival	London	
	7	Under-19 Pairs Final	London	
	11 - 13	BGB Spring Sim Pairs	Clubs	
	13 - 15	Norfolk Congress	King's Lynn	
	13 - 15	Devon Congress	Torquay	
	13 - 15	Lady Milne Trophy	Wales	
	21 - 22	National Pairs Final	Kettering	
27 - 29	Cheltenham Congress	Cheltenham		
27 - 6	May Lambourne Festival and Seniors Congress	Jersey		
28 - 29	Portland Bowl Finals	London		
28 - 29	Telford Congress	Shrewsbury		
May	4 - 8	Schapiro Spring Foursomes	Stratford	
	9 - 10	EBU Spring Sim Pairs	Clubs	
	12	One-day events	Various	
	12 - 13	Crockfords Cup Final	Kettering	
	13	One-day events	Various	
	19	Garden Cities Regional Finals	Bradford, Bristol, Kettering, Richmond	
	26 - 28	Spring Bank Holiday Congress	Bournemouth	
	Jun	1 - 2	Worldwide Sim Pairs	Clubs
		1 - 3	Yorkshire Congress	Harrogate
		2 - 3	Corwen Trophy	Kettering
9 - 10		Pachabo Cup	Kettering	
16		One-day events	Various	
16 - 30		European Open Championships (Pairs and Teams)	Stavanger (Norway)	
17		One-day events	Various	
22 - 24		Oxfordshire Congress (provisional)	Benson	
23		Garden Cities National Final	Kettering	
29 - 1		Jul English Riviera Congress	Torquay	
Jul	6 - 8	Summer Seniors and Veterans Congress	Eastbourne	
	9 - 19	European Youth Championships (assumed dates)	TBA	
	14 - 15	Open Trials Stage I (Pre-qualifying)	Kettering	
	19 - 29	(American Summer Nationals)	Nashville	
	21	One-day events	Various	
	22	One-day events	Various	
	25 - 27	World Junior Individual	Nashville	
	26 - 29	Northern Summer Congress	Scarborough	
	28 - 4	Aug World Junior Camp	TBA	
	30 - 31	BGB Summer Sim Pairs	Clubs	
Aug	10 - 19	Brighton Summer Congress	Brighton	
	13 - 15	Really Easy Congress	Brighton	
	31 - 2	Sep Junior Teach-in	Loughborough	



EXTRACT FROM EBU DRAFT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Season 2007/08 (August to September)

(as approved by the Tournament Committee on 8th June
2005)



Note – Events are marked in two ways to indicate significant changes from the last draft approved by the Committee:-

A double black bar to the right of the venue column indicates a change of venue.

A double black bar to the left of the details column indicates a change of date or other details.

2007

<u>Jul</u>	28	-	4	Aug	World Junior Camp	TBA
<u>Aug</u>	10	-	19		Brighton Summer Congress	Brighton
	13	-	15		Really Easy Congress	Brighton
	31	-	2	Sep	Junior Teach-in	Loughborough
<u>Sep</u>	1	-	2		Bedford Congress	Cranfield
	1	-	2		Open Trials Stage IIA	Kettering
	8	-	9		Women's Trials Stage IA	Kettering
	13	-	16		Isle of Man Congress (to be confirmed)	Isle of Man
	15	-	16		Open Trials Stage IIB	Kettering
	17	-	18		EBU Autumn Sim Pairs	Clubs
	21	-	30		Guernsey Congress and Seniors Congress	Guernsey
	22	-	23		Women's Trials Stage IB	Kettering
	29				One-day events	Various
	30				One-day events	Various
<u>Oct</u>	5	-	7		West of England Congress	Weston-super-Mare
	6	-	7		Great Northern Swiss Pairs	Warrington
	6	-	7		Women's Trials Stage IIA	Kettering
	6	-	7		Open Trials Stage IIIA	Kettering
	10	-	11		BGB Autumn Sim Pairs	Clubs
	13	-	14		Open Trials Stage IIIB	Kettering
	13	-	14		Women's Trials Stage IIB	Kettering
	19	-	21		Autumn Congress	Bournemouth
	20	-	3	Nov	World Championships (Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup) (assumed dates)	TBA
	27	-	28		Malvern Congress	Bransford
<u>Nov</u>	2	-	4		Seniors Congress	Daventry
	9	-	11		NEBA Congress	Allensford
	17	-	18		Middlesex Congress	Harrow
	22	-	2	Dec	(American Fall Nationals)	San Francisco
	24	-	25		Tollemache Cup Qualifier	Kettering
	26				European Internet Sim Pairs	Clubs
	28				European Internet Sim Pairs	Clubs
<u>Dec</u>	8	-	9		Gold Cup Finals (assumed dates)	Peebles
	21	-	23		Junior Channel Trophy	Netherlands
	27	-	30		Year-End Congress	London
	28	-	30		Year-End Congress	Blackpool
<u>2008</u>						
<u>Jan</u>	4	-	6		Midland Counties Congress	Bewdley
	5	-	6		Open Trials Stage IVA (semi-finals)	Kettering
	7	-	9		BGB Winter Sim Pairs	Clubs
	11	-	13		Camrose - first weekend	Northern Ireland
	11	-	13		EBU Online Players Congress	Hinckley
	19	-	20		National Swiss Teams	Kettering
<u>Jan</u>	26	-	27		National Women's and Men's Pairs	Kettering
<u>Feb</u>	3	-	9		EBU Overseas Congress (provisional)	TBA
	9	-	10		Tollemache Cup Final	Kettering
	10				G.W. Arnott-Davidson Trophy Qualifier	London, Sheffield
	15	-	17		National Women's Teams	Bromsgrove

Feb	16 - 17	Junior Camrose Weekend	England	
	22 - 24	Spring Congress	Harrogate	
	23	Golfprint Regional Finals	Various	
Mar	23 - 24	Open Trials Stage IVB (final) (default date)	TBA	
	1 - 2	Ranked Masters Pairs	Kettering	
	6 - 16	(American Spring Nationals)	Detroit	
	7 - 9	Camrose - final weekend	Republic of Ireland	
	8	One-day events	Various	
	9	One-day events	Various	
	14	Lords v Commons (provisional)	London	
	14 - 16	Cumbria Congress	Bassenthwaite	
	15	Young Bridge Challenge (inc Schools Cup)	Loughborough	
	16	National Newcomers Pairs	Counties	
	16	National Pairs Regional Finals	Bradford, Bristol, Kettering, Leatherhead, Solihull	
	21	G.W. Arnott-Davidson Trophy Final	London	
	21 - 22	Under-25 Pairs	London	
	21 - 23	Easter Festival	Blackpool	
	21 - 24	Easter Festival	London	
	22	Under-19 Pairs Final	London	
	28 - 30	Cornwall Congress	Newquay	
29	Golfprint National Final	Kettering		
30	Portland Pairs	Various		
Apr	30 - 31	Isle of Man Congress	Isle of Man	
	9 - 11	BGB Spring Sim Pairs	Clubs	
	11 - 13	Devon Congress	Torquay	
	11 - 13	Lady Milne Trophy	Scotland	
	11 - 13	Norfolk Congress	Kings Lynn	
	19 - 20	National Pairs Final	Kettering	
	25 - 4	May Lambourne Festival and Seniors Congress	Jersey	
	26 - 27	Telford Congress	Shrewsbury	
	26 - 27	Portland Bowl Finals	London	
	May	2 - 4	Cheltenham Congress	Cheltenham
2 - 6		Schapiro Spring Foursomes	Stratford	
10		One-day events	Various	
10 - 11		Crockfords Final	Kettering	
11		One-day events	Various	
14 - 15		EBU Spring Sim Pairs	Clubs	
17		Garden Cities Regional Finals	Bradford, Bristol, Kettering, Richmond	
24 - 26		Spring Bank Holiday Congress	Bournemouth	
Jun		6 - 7	Worldwide Sim Pairs	Clubs
		6 - 8	Yorkshire Congress	Harrogate
	7 - 8	Corwen Trophy	Kettering	
	14 - 15	Pachabo Cup	Kettering	
	21	Garden Cities National Final	Kettering	
	21	One-day events	Various	
	21 - 5	Jul European Teams Championships (assumed dates)	TBA	
	22	One-day events	Various	
	27 - 29	English Riviera Congress	Torquay	
	27 - 29	Oxfordshire Congress (provisional)	Benson	
Jul	4 - 6	Summer Seniors and Veterans Congress	Eastbourne	
	10 - 20	(American Summer Nationals)	Las Vegas	
	19	One-day events	Various	
	20	One-day events	Various	
	24 - 27	Northern Summer Congress	Scarborough	
	28 - 29	BGB Summer Sim Pairs	Clubs	
	Aug	8 - 17	Brighton Summer Congress	Brighton
11 - 13		Really Easy Congress	Brighton	
Sep		5 - 7	Junior Teach-in	Loughborough
	27	One-day events	Various	
	28	One-day events	Various	