



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT AYLESBURY OFFICES ON THURSDAY 4th MAY 2006**

Present:	Alan Nelson	Chairman
	Heather Dhondy	Vice-Chairman
	Max Bavin	Chief Tournament Director
	Brian Crack	
	Margaret Curtis	
	Paul Hackett	
	Philip Mason	EBU Vice-Chairman
	John Neville	EBU Treasurer
	Addis Page	

The Chairman informed the meeting that pressure of work meant that Nick Doe was unable to act as Secretary to the Committee and that Brian Crack had agreed to take the minutes. The Committee expressed its thanks to Nick Doe for all his efforts on the Committee's behalf as its Secretary.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Paul Spencer

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (27th FEBRUARY 2006)

2.1 Accuracy

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

2.2 Urgent matters arising

2.2.1 Mobile phones

The Chairman informed the Committee that at the recent Shareholders' Meeting some concern had been expressed at the Committee's decision not to introduce automatic fines for use of mobile phones in the playing area. The Committee remained of the opinion that the most effective way of ensuring that mobile phones were switched off was for the Tournament Director in charge of an event to remind players at the beginning of each session to switch off their phones.

3. TOURNAMENT PROGRAMME

A paper from the Secretary on the structure of EBU calendars was noted together with other suggestions from Mrs Curtis and Messrs Crack and Page. A wide-ranging discussion took place during which the Committee attempted to define the nature of a successful tournament and to determine which of the current tournaments could be regarded as successful and which not. The Committee recognised that it was necessary to define success and agreed, initially, to restrict the definition to “well-supported and financially beneficial”. It was also agreed that the whole programme was designed to be a service to members and to generate revenue for the Union. The Committee also noted that it was important to have a clear idea of the target market for each tournament. Clearly, some restricted events, such as Ranked Masters, Women’s Teams, Men’s and Women’s Pairs, identified their targets but the general congresses were, in principle, organised for the benefit of the membership as a whole. In this context, the Committee noted that Seniors’ events were, in the main, successful but that a number of other restricted events were quite the opposite and that there appeared to be a significant North/South divide in that some events in the North were showing substantial reductions in entries whereas those in the South were holding up reasonably well. The Committee then discussed various suggestions regarding timing of events, different types of events and the desirability of some formal closure at the end of an event. It was agreed that a number of ideas should be piloted at one or more events to see if they encouraged more members to participate. The pilots would commence as soon as was practicable.

4. PROPOSED PILOTED CHANGES

4.1 Earlier start and finish times on the middle day(s) of a congress

Torquay (already changed)
Autumn Congress
Year End Congress - London
Year end Congress – Blackpool

It was agreed to leave the detailed arrangements to Mr Bavin.

4.2 Stratified Match-Pointed Pairs

This format involves the award of master points and, possibly, prizes to different strata of players within the overall result.

Easter Congress – Blackpool Qualifier
Easter Congress – London
Spring Bank Holiday Congress – Qualifier
Autumn Congress – Qualifier

The Committee recognised the need for additional software and Mr Bavin was asked to arrange this and other details.

4.3 Bracketed Teams

Kent CBA had offered to pilot this format at one of their one-day green point events in 2007 and the Committee accepted this offer. Mr Crack agreed to arrange for Kent to develop the details of the event, including master point levels, for Mr Bavin's approval.

4.4 Hospitality

The Chairman suggested that he should ask the Board for a grant for hospitality at the end of 3 or 4 events next year. The Committee endorsed this suggestion enthusiastically, although Mr Neville requested that he be disassociated from the proposal.

4.5 Imp Pairs at the Ranked Masters

Mr Bavin agreed to consider whether this format could be extended beyond the current ranks to which it applies. He will also examine the possibility of merging some of the ranks in order to improve the movement, but with the ranks stratified for master point and prize purposes.

5. OTHER DECISIONS

5.1 Womens' Teams

The Committee agreed that it was desirable for this event to be moved to September and Mr Bavin was asked to examine the feasibility of so doing as soon as possible.

5.2 Newcomers' Pairs

The Committee decided to try this event again as a stratified pairs competition with a unified entry fee.

5.3 Tournament Directors Announcements

It was agreed that it was desirable to welcome players to all events and for something to be said before the last round (if hospitality was not provided) "to send them away with a smile on their faces". Mr Page undertook to prepare a draft for both occasions.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

13th September at a venue to be agreed.

7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

7.1 Autumn Overseas Congress 2007

The Chairman tabled details of the proposed arrangements for this congress to be held at the Amathus Beach Hotel, Rhodes from 11th –16th October 2007. The Committee approved the proposal.