



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT
BAKER TILLY MANAGEMENT, RUSSELL SQUARE, LONDON ON WEDNESDAY 27TH
OCTOBER 2010**

Present:	Andrew Petrie	Chairman
	Brian Crack	Vice-Chairman
	Max Bavin	Chief Tournament Director
	Sally Bugden	EBU Chairman
	Barry Capal	EBU General Manager
	Margaret Curtis	
	Philip Mason	
	Alan Nelson	
	Addis Page	
	Peter Jordan	Secretary

1. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2010/11

Andrew Petrie was proposed for Chairman by Sally Bugden and seconded by Brian Crack. There being no other nominations, Andrew Petrie was duly elected.

2. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2010/11

Brian Crack was proposed by Andrew Petrie and seconded by Sally Bugden. There being no other nominations, Brian Crack was duly elected.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Paul Hackett and Michael Hill.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (July 6th 2010)

4.1 Accuracy - ok

4.2 Matters arising

3.8 National Pairs Refund: The secretary stated that the individual credits had not yet been added to the members' accounts but said that time would be found to do this before the end of November.

5.2 Masterpoint Review – All other promotions: If and when more space was available in English Bridge for Masterpoint promotions, it was agreed that lower rank promotions would have priority.

6.2 Northern Easter Festival: Phillip Mason reported that Yorkshire would be running this on behalf of the EBU and that the first time would be at the Park Inn Hotel, York in 2012. There would therefore be no Northern Easter Festival in 2011.

7.7 Weekend Duplicate for Club Bridge Players: A suitable venue had not yet been found but Martin Lee was hoping to take this on, on a similar basis to the David Jones Improver Weekends. It was reported that the next Travel Editions weekend run by David Jones was fully booked.

7.8 Bridgemates: Max Bavin said that the 'etiquette' would be updated and would be publicised at events.

10.1 VAT: A notice regarding the increase in entry fees from April 1st is to be displayed on the website from early January 2011.

5. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The following dates were agreed for 2011 -

Tuesday March 29th

Thursday July 7th

Thursday November 3rd

6. UPDATE ON KEY ISSUES

1. Andrew Petrie confirmed that Gordon Rainsford would start his one day a week duties from April 1st.

2. Phillip Mason reported that the relaunch of the Great Northern Swiss Pairs, run by Yorkshire on behalf of the EBU, had been a great success. There had been 57 tables, the best since 2005, and relations with the hotel had been excellent.

7. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY AREAS

A list of duties for individual committee members had been produced by Andrew Petrie. This was accepted and the list of events that members would monitor was amended to suit committee members' individual requirements,

8. EVENT STRATEGY PROJECT

A report on the participation in and expectation of EBU members towards EBU Tournaments had been prepared by Addis Page and Brian Crack. The report analysed the existing situation and outlined proposals for the future.

A list of proposals was discussed and members were asked to consider these and comment on them to Addis so that he and Brian could report to the next meeting in March.

Sally Bugden said that some questions relevant to this discussion could be added to the on-line survey that was being planned and asked for them to be forwarded to Andrew Petrie by November 15th.

9. PROPOSALS ON RANKED MASTERS

A paper addressing the declining attendance at this event was presented by Addis Page. It was agreed to accept the following for 2011.

1. That a National Master can play with a Life Master in the Life Masters pairs.

2. That a Regional Master can play with a National Master in the National Masters pairs.

3. That those achieving a landmark promotion would receive a free entry and could play with a partner from any rank the same as their own or lower.

It was agreed that from 2012 the lowest category would be run as a Portland Pairs style event.

10. UPDATE ON REWARD & RECOGNITION FRAMEWORK

Addis Page said that some kind of certificate/congratulatory note would be made available for promotions other than Landmark promotions.

11. EVENT REVIEW

Max Bavin reported on the recent events.

Complaints had been received about the lighting at the Scarborough Congress and also the general state of the playing cards. Max said that both items had been addressed and that the new playing cards were on the way.

The National Women's Teams had again performed badly and it was decided to offer the event to one or a combination of the counties in the Midlands for 2011. The preferred dates would be first weekend in September or the weekend following the Tollemache Qualifier (end of Nov/early Dec).

Max reported that following the unpopularity of the Autumn Congress venue in Birmingham, the 2011 event would be held at the Holiday Inn at Stratford-upon-Avon. The timings for the event are to be those that had proved popular at the Riviera Congress.

12. GREEN POINT TOP AWARD REPORT

Max presented the review and reported that he was looking at the small number of events where there was a marked difference between the theoretical and actual current tops. He also stated that he was looking at the conversion rate for masterpoints awarded at SBU events.

13. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

1. Guernsey Congress – a letter from Mike Allen (Chairman CICBA Guernsey District) was received again discussing the problems surrounding the second Sunday of the event with the timings of the teams events with regard to the ferry sailings. This had been discussed at the previous two meetings but it was agreed that all parties had to be considered not just those leaving by ferry on the final day and as the ferry timings are liable to change it was a very difficult situation. Max Bavin was asked to look at the event structure to see if the situation could be improved.

2. EBU Stratified Simultaneous Pairs – Peter Langston from Sussex asked if a heat of this event could take place earlier in the day as an increasing number of clubs were running afternoon sessions. The Committee agreed to this request and for it to be extended to the EBU Sims. Max was asked to ensure that clubs were reminded of the importance of the integrity of the event and their responsibility when holding a heat earlier in the day.

3. Brighton Summer Meeting – Stewart Pye had written to ask the EBU to reconsider the staging of the Summer Meeting at Brighton in light of this years 'bad attendance' and in his view the geographical problems with using a seaside venue. The meeting was told that the use of the first weekend in August would not be agreed to again and this was when the problems had occurred. The attendance at the rest of the event was very close to last year and on some days higher. The Committee agreed that in the absence of a viable alternative venue they were in favour of continuing at Brighton which was a favourite venue with a large number of members.

4. Playing cards – Barrie Cavell had written to complain about the state of the cards at the Guernsey Congress. His remarks have been repeated by many players at recent events. The committee was told that new cards were on order and would be in use as soon as possible; there had unfortunately been production problems otherwise the new cards would already have been in use.

5. Masterpoint Promotions – Marcus Laphorn from Oxfordshire has expressed the need for publicity for the promotion to the newer players. Addis Page reiterated that this has been addressed as stated earlier in these minutes.

6. Convention Cards – A plea for the proper production of two identical cards per partnership and the need for this to be enforced by the TDs was received from Bob Dowdeswell. His views were supported in a letter from Jeremy Dhondy. Max Bavin said that TDs would be reminded of their duties in this matter and he would ensure that appropriate announcements would be made at events.

7. Electronic Scoring – Stuart Pye was critical of the scoring of the Garden Cities with particular reference to the fact that the EBU did not appear to be taking full advantage of the newest technology. Max Bavin said that improvements had already been made since the event and that the only restrictions in the future would be those imposed by conditions at some regional venues.

8. National Women's Teams – Helen Thygesen wrote of her experiences at the event with both positive and negative comments. It is to be hoped that the proposal to request a Midlands county or counties to take over the organisation will help to regenerate the event.

9. Corwen Trophy Qualification – Stuart Pye presented a case for a change to the qualification process for the Corwen Trophy. The committee were happy with the present system now that the numbers are being adjusted to maintain the entry status quo.

10. Eastbourne Congress – Philip Watson wrote to congratulate the EBU on the improved timings for the Saturday pairs. He also had constructive suggestions for the teams day and Max Bavin said that these would be considered.

11. Club Congresses – Brian Lippard, the Chairman of Tunbridge Wells Bridge Club, wrote a well reasoned document regarding the future of the larger clubs and the EBU. This included the possibility of a low green point award to club congresses held at a small number (probably less than ten) of the larger affiliated clubs in the union. The committee was not in favour of extending the availability of green point awards to this type of event. It was thought that the use of stratification would be enhancing to many clubs. Mr Lippard raised many good points and the Chairman agreed to write to him with regard to his letter.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Addis Page had been asked by Peter Hasenson if the EBU could improve their results service. Barry Capal said that where it would improve the service the EBU would in future be using Bridge Webs to upload scores as quickly as possible.

2. Max Bavin has received a request from Michael Allen of Guernsey to ask if the Guernsey Congress could go onto a profit sharing basis. The Committee said that it was not in the EBU plans to change any of their Congresses to this basis.

3. Barry Capal said that the 'stratified' software was being currently tested at three clubs and that the National Grading Scheme was also being tested thanks to an excellent team of volunteers.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.40.

Peter Jordan 13.10.10

