

Approved



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT BAKER TILLY MANAGEMENT, RUSSELL SQUARE, LONDON ON
TUESDAY MARCH 29TH 2011**

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

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** none.
- 2. Welcome to Gordon Rainsford;** Gordon is taking over some of Max Bavin's role from April 1st and has been asked to attend Tournament Committee meetings. Gordon will be responsible for the EBU panel of Tournament Directors.
- 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
 - 1. Accuracy** – ok.
 - 2. Matters Arising**
 - 11 Event review – National Women's Teams.** Max Bavin reported that Warwickshire had offered to run this event at the West Midlands BC and the Committee agreed that Max should accept the offer. Max was also asked to thank the group of London Women Players that had written to him about being allowed to run the event.
 - 13.4 Playing Cards.** Max Bavin confirmed that all the old style cards had now been withdrawn.
- 4. Update on Various Issues**

Andrew Petrie reported that the EBU would commence the in-house scoring of simultaneous pairs commencing May 2012.

The secretary was asked to publicise, through the various channels on a regular basis, the changes to the National Pairs and the Nicko as these would be implemented for the next competitions starting in the autumn of this year.

It was reported that Hitchin had become the first bridge club to be granted charitable status; this was welcomed as it could only be of benefit to organisations involved in the delivery of duplicate bridge.

The recent membership survey showed that the main barriers to members playing in more events were travelling times and the costs of the event and accommodation if required.

5. Attendance at EBU organised and licensed events.

A paper containing many well researched facts was presented by Brian Crack and Addis Page. The Committee thanked them both for the amount of time and effort that they had put into presenting such an important and well researched document. It was agreed to accept their outline programme in principle and where possible to commence implementing their recommendations at the earliest opportunity. The main points being –

1. Identify extra venues for the Portland Pairs that could be brought in for the March 2012 event.
2. Research venues for the regionalisation of the Masters Pairs for March 2012.
3. Extra venues for the National Pairs regional finals. It was felt that this would be better left until the 2012/13 competition when the effect of this year's changes would be known.
4. The creation of a sub committee to look at possible changes to the calendar; this was agreed as Max Bavin (or Peter Jordan), Addis Page and Paul Hackett.
5. A proposal to identify an event that would have no prize money and therefore reduced entry fees. This required a vote and was carried by 4 votes to 2. Members were asked to let Brian have their ideas for an appropriate event.
6. Liaise with the TDDG to help improve the ambience at events. Gordon Rainsford was asked to do this.

Event owners were asked to liaise with the secretary over any changes and/or additions that they thought would improve the respective event programmes.

6. Masterpoints

1. Review of 2010/11 MP prize awards. The new Club Champions Prize Draw was considered to have been very successful.
2. MP communications. It was reported that English Bridge would do all it could to publicise promotions within the restrictions of space available. The secretary was asked to liaise with Matt Betts at Aylesbury to use Club Focus to help with MP communication.

The Committee then thanked Addis Page for the many hours of work that he put into researching and producing the reports on Masterpoints, the Ranked Masters and other reports jointly with Brian Crack.

The secretary was asked to minute the thanks of the committee to Karen Durrell at Aylesbury for all the help that she had given to Addis Page and her overseeing of all the Masterpoint changes of the last year.

3. Introduction of a new MP award. A well researched paper proposing a new blue point award that would bridge the gap between the black and green awards was presented by Brian Crack. The report was well received by the committee and will now go to the board for further discussion.

7. **Tournament Focus.**

Max Bavin was asked to write a short paper on the decimalisation of green Points for the next Focus and this would also be put on the web site. Paul Hackett said that he was preparing an article for the following edition.

8. **Event Review**

Max Bavin reported on the events from October to date, with the aid of the balanced scorecards, congress return forms and congress host reports. The following events merited further discussion.

1. Autumn Congress. This event has now been moved to The Holiday Inn at Stratford-upon-Avon.

2. Year End Congress, London. The main issues that needed to be addressed from this event were the condition of the toilets and the need to inform delegates about any local parking restrictions during the event.

Paul Hackett said that he would speak to the hotel regarding the problems with the toilets.

The Secretary was asked to source information regarding local parking and see that this was posted on the web site and available at the venue. He was also asked to see if the hotel would grant a special car parking rate for event delegates.

3. Harrogate & Ranked Masters. The catering at both of these events had not been of the standard required and Andrew Petrie said that he would write to Barcelo on this matter. It was also agreed that Cheryl Duddell (as EBU Host) should be asked to make a pre-congress visit to the Harrogate venue to discuss a number of issues that had arisen this year.

4. Ranked Masters Pairs. It was agreed to keep the existing system of discounted entries for at least one more year. It is mentioned earlier in these minutes that it is proposed to run the 'Masters' event on a regional basis starting in 2012.

A proposal to change the scoring of the Ranked Masters event from Butler scoring to cross IMPs as from 2012 was agreed.

5. National Pairs & Portland Pairs. Changes to these events have been outlined earlier in these minutes.

Paul Hackett was asked to write to the Congress Hosts to thank them for the excellent job that they were doing on behalf of the EBU.

9. **Green Point One Day Events**

1. Essex request for a second day. Following representations from both Essex and Surrey it was decided not to agree to the request.

2. Berks & Bucks request for a second day. This was agreed to as long as the event took place in the south of the area so as to avoid clashing with an existing event in Northants.

3. Middlesex request for additional 75th anniversary day. It was agreed to grant Middlesex an extra Green Point day in April 2012.

4. Sussex request to change dates for 2012. It was agreed to allow the Swiss pairs on June 24th as Dorset and Berks & Bucks had said that they would not object if it was only for one year. The application to move the Swiss teams to July 29th was rejected as the Committee felt that it was very important to keep these events on the designated

weekends so as to protect all the other bridge organisations that would be running local events.

5. Guernsey 2011. Max Bavin reported on the problems that occurred with the scoring and that he was liaising with them regarding the allocation of masterpoints.

10. Issue Raised by Members.

1. Brighton 2012. It was reported that there may be a Mind Sports Event in Manchester in 2012 and that the date may clash with the Brighton Summer Meeting. The committee was very disappointed that the date of this event had still not been fixed and it was decided that discussion would have to wait until the facts were known.

2. Policy for the franchising of events. Following the granting of the running of the Great Northern Swiss pairs and the Northern Easter Festival to Yorkshire and that of the National Women's Teams to Warwickshire, Margaret Curtis asked if there was any EBU policy for this process. There was no stated policy so Andrew Petrie said that he would prepare a draft for the next meeting.

3. Bill Hughes Sim Pairs. A request from David Stevenson to allow English clubs that are not affiliated to the EBU to participate in this licensed event was turned down by the committee, as was the request for green points or other dispensations.

4. National Pairs. Stan Harding (Welwyn Garden City) had written to say that they did not like having to include pairs playing without standing in a National Pairs Heat. The Committee said that this should be an independent decision for the club.

5. Non Expert Prizes. Bridgett Dixon had written to say that after a very competitive and enjoyable swiss teams event at Brighton her novice team had just missed a prize by not quite achieving 50%. They felt that this did not send a good message to all the potential recruits to the tournament circuit. The Committee had sympathy with this view and decided to remove the 50% requirement forthwith.

11. Any Other Business

1. Stratified Pairs. It was confirmed that Max Bavin would write to the prize winners of the Club Stratified Pairs to ask them to nominate the charity that was to receive the prize.

2. EBU 75th anniversary. It was agreed to apply some form of enhancement to the rewards from the 2012 EBU Spring Simultaneous Pairs.

3. Harrogate Trophy. Jim Proctor wrote on behalf of the Scarborough Bridge Club to request if they could donate an Engraved Trophy for the Scarborough Summer Congress Secondary Teams Final in memory of Mike Ingham who passed away in February. The Committee thought that this was a fitting tribute to someone who had served on the EBU board and had been a great servant to bridge in Yorkshire and Scarborough in particular. Max Bavin would contact the Club to thank them on behalf of the EBU.

The meeting closed at 5pm.