



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE BAKER TILLY OFFICES, 2 BLOOMSBURY ST, LONDON ON
WEDNESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2012**

Present:	Ian Payn	Chairman
	Brian Crack	Vice-Chairman
	Sally Bugden	EBU Chairman
	Jeremy Dhondy	EBU Vice Chairman
	Max Bavin	
	Barry Capal	EBU General Manager
	Margaret Curtis	
	Gillian Fawcett	
	Paul Hackett	
	Philip Mason	
	Addis Page	
	Andrew Petrie	EBU Treasurer
	Gordon Rainsford	Chief Tournament Director
	Peter Jordan	Secretary

1. **Apologies for Absence:** None.

2. **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

1. **Chairman:** Ian Payn was proposed by Philip Mason, seconded by Sally Bugden and elected unopposed.

2. **Vice-Chairman:** Brian Crack was proposed by Ian Payn, seconded by Andrew Petrie and elected unopposed.

The Chairman then welcomed Jeremy Dhondy and Gillian Fawcett to the Committee.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

1. **Accuracy**

4.3. Bridge Base Online Proposal to the EBU - The secretary was asked to make it clear that the proposal had previously been approved by the board.

2. **Matters Arising**

5.9 New Events – Gordon Rainsford was asked to produce for the March meeting a model for running a Reisinger-style event at what would in effect be a new National Teams Congress while retaining the existing Swiss Teams for those that wished to start in it and

those that lost in the early rounds of the point a board. This would be with a view to introduce this for January 2014.

3. Action List

2. Addition of Blue Point information to MP handbook. – Andrew Petrie asked for an update on the 2013 L&MPH. Brian Crack reported that he had sent his proposed amendments to Max Bavin on 11 October but, despite several attempts to contact him, had received no reply. Consequently, after discussing the matter with Sally Bugden and Ian Payn, he was now working with Gordon Rainsford to finalise the document. He expected to have the final version within the next few days.

3.4.5. Amendments to Knockout regulations – Max Bavin said that he would have these finished very soon.

With regard to the addition/change of players after time in Crockfords it was agreed that the order of precedence for the decision would be first the Chief TD then the Tournament Committee Chair and then the Vice-chair.

6. New date for Crockfords Finals weekend for 2014 – The committee decided that provisionally this would be relocated to the first weekend in July which is the date for the Eastbourne Seniors Congress. Paul Hackett made an alternative proposal to start the event after Christmas (instead of August) and have the finals weekend in November. This would also help to reduce the congestion of matches that occur during the Autumn. A decision would be made at the March meeting.

Gordon Rainsford was also asked to look at the times with regard to the late finish on the Saturday.

4. Event Review

1. Eastbourne Seniors – Following a lot of criticism of the new timings, Gordon Rainsford was asked to review them and Max Bavin recommended that he consult the paper written on this subject by John Pain.

2. Scarborough Congress – It was agreed to change the Sunday start time to 11am in order to help those travelling by train. It was also agreed that as a general point it was important not to change published times as this can cause problems when non refundable advance train fares have been booked..

3. Brighton Summer Meeting – The Committee accepted the following proposals from the ad hoc Brighton group –

1. Keep the one day swiss teams for both days on the first weekend.
2. Make the same one day format for swiss pairs on both days for the 2nd weekend.
3. Make the evening start time 7.45 on all days.
4. Increase the green point match awards for the 14 match swiss events by 50%.
5. Cease the publication of Brighton focus.
6. Agree to a 2/3 year contract with the Metropole to reduce costs.
7. Set up a booking service to be run by Bridge Overseas.
8. Form a working party at Aylesbury to promote the new events.

4. National Womens Teams – following another poor attendance at the recent event the committee felt that this could no longer be staged as a National event and it was decided to drop this event from the calendar. The committee thanked the efforts of Darren Evetts and Warwickshire, who had worked hard to keep the event going,

5. Guernsey Congress – following a report from the congress chief TD it was agreed to contact Guernsey with regard to bringing the Congress date forward one week.

6. Nicko - a number of reports had been received indicating that the 'strong team' entry criteria was having an adverse effect on entries and was not achieving its objective. The committee decided that the next event would have teams seeded using Gold Points.

It was also agreed to introduce a flat rate entrance fee.

7. Seniors Congress – Gordon Rainsford said that he would look at the Friday situation with regard to carry forward and qualification and report to the next meeting.

Following reports of expensive coffee and tea at the event, Gordon Rainsford agreed to contact the hotel straight away as this was contrary to our agreement with them.

Secretary's note – Gordon was successful in this with the coffee at the Tollemache being reduced in price.

5. Midweek Congresses – The secretary reported that the following arrangements had been made.

1. The event scheduled for Cheltenham in 2013 would now be at the Oxford Belfry Hotel from 28-30 May and also booked for 27-29 May 2014.

2. A second Midweek Congress had been arranged at The Hotel & Golf Resort, Telford, Shropshire for 27-29 August 2013 and 26-28 August 2014.

The secretary also reported that Bridge Overseas would be managing the non bridge element of these two events and would have a representative on site during the event.

Bridge Overseas would also provide an accommodation booking service for these events and also for selected other events including Brighton 2013.

6. Green Point One Day Events

The committee approved the following –

1. **Cambs & Hunts** to join with **Norfolk** and **Suffolk** in order to run six green pointed days in the region during 2013 and also 2014.

2. **Essex** to continue with the joint weekend with Herts for September 2014 which was first agreed for 2013.

3. **Kent** to hold a new ODGP event on Sunday 9 March 2014, this was allowed if it was pairs so as not to clash with the **London** teams on the same day.

4. **Cumbria** to move its GPday from June to September in 2014 so as to create a new joint weekend with **Westmorland**.

5. **Manchester University** asked if they would be able to run a green point event. The secretary was asked to reply explaining why they could not do so but pointing out that as an EBU affiliated club they would be eligible to run up to two blue point events a year with the blessing of their county association.

The committee decided that it was time that the green point awards at county events were brought in line with those at national events. Ian Payn undertook to write to the county chairmen to say that this would be introduced from October 1 2013.

7. Various Issues

1. **Event Management Proposal** – a paper from the Chairman outlined the 'proposed terms of reference for EBU event owners'. A large number of the events was then allocated to committee members and the chairman said that he would write soon to clarify the tasks to be undertaken.

2. **On-line competition** – Andrew Petrie asked at what stage we were with the Bridge Base on-line proposal. Barry Capal reported that dialogue was proceeding but taking time.

Barry and Gordon Rainsford agreed to advise on an on-line event that could be the first such EBU venture.

3. Repeat Attendance Patterns – Andrew Petrie then circulated a short paper on repeat attendance at EBU Congresses which the committee agreed would be very useful to go with the other analyses which we get from respective events.

4. L& E matters – Jeremy Dhondy reported the following from the L & E committee.

1. Details of the new WBF victory point scale were given and the committee said that a decision over its implementation and to which events it would apply would be taken at the March meeting.

2. It was also reported that a major review of the White and Orange books were underway which would result in a slimmer Orange book and the end of the Tangerine book.

3. That there would be a review of alerting and announcing regulations.

8. Issues raised by Members.

1. a. Blue Points for County Events – Brian Crack was asked to would reply to Worcestershire confirming that the Committee felt that the current proposals for the blue point scheme were sufficiently generous to counties and that there was no scope for extending them to special competitions.

As a general point it was agreed that clubs could allow casual visitors to play in blue-pointed championship pairs and teams if that was the wish of their members.

1. b. Blue Points for Holiday Companies – following an enquiry from Martin Holcombe the committee discussed his request for holiday companies to hold blue point events. There was not enough time to explore the matter fully and it will be re-visited at the next meeting.

2. Gerard Faulkner Salver – Bob Pitts had contacted the committee to express his views that the entry fee was too large for the potential bridge to be played which is only one match for approx half the entrants. The committee agreed that with the present entry level a plate competition was impractical so the Secretary was asked to investigate a format for the event that would give at least two matches to all unseeded teams.

3. Simultaneous Pairs Prizes – following a number of enquiries on this subject the Secretary reported that there was a prize fund of £10,000 per annum and at the present rate of attendance the cost of purchasing and sending pens to all heat winners would come to a projected figure of approx £7,500. It was agreed to look at the possibility of some monetary awards in addition.

4. Spring Foursomes – additional event – the committee felt that the Hamilton Cup on the Monday was already the most viable addition to the main event.

9. Any Other Business

Dates of meetings for 2013.

The following dates were agreed

Tuesday 12 March

Wednesday 19 June

Tuesday 12 November

As there was no other business the meeting closed at 4.55 pm.

Peter Jordan 15.11.12

