



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE BAKER TILLY OFFICES, 2 BLOOMSBURY ST, LONDON ON
WEDNESDAY 20 JUNE 2012**

Present:	Ian Payn	Chairman
	Brian Crack	Vice-Chairman
	Sally Bugden	EBU Chairman
	Barry Capal	EBU General Manager
	Margaret Curtis	
	Mike Hill	EBU Treasurer
	Philip Mason	
	Alan Nelson	
	Andrew Petrie	
	Gordon Rainsford	Asst. Chief Tournament Director
	Peter Jordan	Secretary

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Max Bavin, Paul Hackett, Addis Page.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

1. **Accuracy** – ok.

2. **Matters Arising**

1. 9 (3) The Secretary was asked to make it clear that the item on Disabilities & Allergies was specifically related to the regulations for Knock Out matches played privately.

All other matters arising were dealt with later.

3. **Action List**

1. Midweek Congress Venues – The secretary reported that a meeting had been arranged by Max Bavin with Bridge Overseas for July 4th.

2. Congress Return Forms - as well as showing the total number of attendees at the event it was agreed to simplify the document so that more specific questions could be asked. It was also decided that the Congress Return summaries should be published on the web site.

3. **Event Review**

1. **Master Pairs** – The secretary reported that it was proposed to move the midlands heat from Daventry to Solihull.

2. Jersey Congress – there were very favourable reports of the new venue at the Westhill Country Hotel.

3. Schapiro Spring Fours – Paul Hackett (via email) had questioned the handling of the last minute change to numbers but after discussion the Committee concluded that the action taken was the best solution under the circumstances.

4. Crockfords Cup – The Committee agreed to ask Max Bavin to look at the timings to see if an earlier finish could be achieved on the Saturday night. Max was also asked to amend the regulations regarding the adding of a player to a team that had already qualified for the final. It was felt that this should be allowed if it did not visibly strengthen the team.

5. EBU 75th Anniversary Sim Pairs – The Committee thanked all those that had been involved in running this successful event, especially the key personnel at Aylesbury and Brian Senior for his excellent research and commentaries.

6. All EBU events - As a general policy it was agreed that running scores should be displayed whenever possible.

4. Update on various issues

1. Blue Points - Brian Crack introduced the paper that he and Andrew Petrie had prepared to establish the rules for club closed events and informed the committee that Max Bavin had pointed out that the document, when agreed, would need to be merged with the original proposals. The Committee approved the rules and Brian agreed to draft a merged document. Barry Capal urged speed as software changes were needed and Brian undertook to have the document ready by the end of the month.

The Committee then considered a paper from Chris Harris, Chairman of the Midland Regional Club Committee and noted that much of what had concerned that body had been addressed with the decision to allow clubs to run closed blue-pointed events. The other issues raised were the level of the blue point awards and their cost. The Committee believed that the proposed level of awards and costs were appropriate and asked Brian to write to Chris to thank him for the input and explain the reasoning.

2. Reciprocity – Brian Crack reported on a meeting that he and Max Bavin had held with the SBU and WBU to discuss our respective master point schemes and the effect on them that the introduction of blue points would have. The meeting had been constructive and the WBU representatives had indicated a desire to adopt a similar system. The SBU were in the process of reviewing their system so the meeting was timely. Since the meeting Brian had been contacted by the new chairman of the SBU masterpoints committee with a view to establishing whether the EBU could assist the SBU in the development of their system. It was agreed that SBU representatives would be invited to visit Aylesbury to explore that possibility.

3. Bridge Base Online Proposal to the EBU – Barry Capal presented a paper that had been discussed by a meeting at Aylesbury. After discussion the proposals received general approval from the Committee with a wish that Barry should proceed with the negotiations.

5. Calendar sub Committee

Ian Payn presented the notes from a meeting held on 6th June; present: Ian Payn, Brian Crack, Andrew Petrie, Addis Page and Max Bavin.

1. Format changes - On-going. Reactions and responses to be monitored.

2. Room Deals with low cost chains - It was decided to pursue this where feasible.

3. One-day events - It was felt that the calendar was reasonably full as it was but that we should be responsive to feedback.

- 4. Distinguishing Top Eight' Competitions** - this idea was shelved for the time being.
 - 5. Congress Review Forms** – These were now being customised when deemed necessary.
 - 6. Venues** - It was hoped to move an event into the 'Basingstoke Triangle' – an area with a very large amount of bridge players but no actual events. It was also hoped that another midweek congress would be added in time for 2013.
 - 7. Start Times** – The morning starts had proved popular and a move to more of these was encouraged.
 - 8. Dates** – The Crockfords Final Weekend to be moved back to July as early as possible.
 - 9. New Events** – A Reisinger-style event was looked at and one suggestion was that it could become part of the Swiss Teams Congress. There had not been much support for the monthly club pairs as suggested by Paul Hackett so this had been left for the time being.
 - 10. County Communication** – It was agreed that more should be done to get Counties to provide access to EBU event information on their respective web sites. Ian Payn said that he would be addressing this matter at the forthcoming Chairman's Meeting.
- Addis Page was thanked for all the ongoing research that he was doing in order to present the Calendar sub Committee with all the relevant facts and figures.

6. Any Other Business

- 1. Event management** – The Chairman stated that at the next meeting Committee members would be asked to take a certain numbers events each in order to monitor their progress.
- 2. Alan Nelson** – was retiring after long service on the Committee as both member and Chairman. He wished to thank all those members past and present for their support and fellowship and wished the Committee well for the future.

Ian Payn thanked Alan for his great service, to the EBU in general and the Committee in particular over the years.
- 3. Andrew Petrie** – also stated that it was his last meeting on the Committee as his term as Vice-Chairman of the EBU finished before the next Committee meeting. Andrew had been Chairman of the Tournament Committee for the three years previous to the current year and had pioneered an immense amount of good work over that time. The members thanked Andrew for all that he had done and said that they hoped that he would be able to serve on the committee again in the future.

As there was no other business the meeting closed at 4.15 pm.

Peter Jordan 10.07.12