

Awaiting Approval



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE BAKER TILLY OFFICES, 2 BLOOMSBURY ST, LONDON
ON TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2013**

Present:	Ian Payn	Chairman
	Brian Crack	Vice-Chairman
	Jeremy Dhondy	EBU Vice Chairman
	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:** Sally Bugden.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

1. **Accuracy:** Ok

2. **Matters Arising**

8.1b Blue Points for Holiday Companies – Following the last meeting the Board subsequently decided that Blue Points would not be made available to Holiday Companies.

3. **Action List**

9. Review of Sims prize structure – It was reported that the status quo would remain until the end of the calendar year. Jeremy Dhondy said that he was keeping the SBU and WBU informed of the situation.

3. **Finance Report**

In terms of Competitions, the Treasurer described the year as somewhat disappointing overall with Brighton particularly so. Next year is likely to be challenging as the budget is setting a significantly higher surplus than we managed to achieve this year. All event managers were asked to support their events and interface with Gordon to see what help he needed.

4. Event Review

2. Year End Congress London – The Secretary was asked to enquire if any parking concessions could be obtained for events at the Royal National.

3. Blackpool Year End Congress – Gordon Rainsford reported that a new venue had been arranged for December 2014 at Dunkenhalgh Nr. Blackburn. The interim venue for 2013 is the Imperial Hotel Blackpool.

4. Swiss Teams Congress – changes to this event are reported at 5.2.

6. Harrogate Spring Congress – the hotel was very unsatisfactory and a new venue is being sought for 2014.

8. Masters Pairs – Gordon Rainsford was pleased to report that there had been an increase of over 50% on last year's attendance.

5. Event Issues.

1. Crockfords Finals – it was agreed that the new date would be in September and the event would run over approximately 11 months instead of the current 9 months therefore easing the pressure on play by dates.

Secretary's note: Because of need to find a new venue for this event for 2014 the finals have been arranged for the first weekend in September.

2. Point a Board – The committee adopted a report that had been commissioned from Gordon Rainsford as follows.

The National Swiss Teams Congress to be renamed as the National Teams Congress and to feature a point a board teams as the premier event.

Players would elect to play in the new event or the old swiss teams that would continue alongside. Teams eliminated from the point a board competition would take a carry forward score into the swiss. A taster point a board teams has been arranged for the Friday afternoon prior to the teams weekend at Brighton.

Gordon Rainsford and Brian Crack were deputed to agree the masterpoint awards for the point a board at the National Teams Congress

3. Seniors Knockout Teams – a proposed new format from Philip Mason that would give all non seeded teams at least two matches was adopted with immediate effect for the competition starting in June 2013.

4. Eastbourne Timings – Gordon Rainsford had made some changes to the break times to reflect the views of the players and these would be posted on the web site under diary changes.

5. Seniors Congress Qualification – following complaints at the event last November the Chief TD had made some changes to the qualification process to reflect the wishes of the players.

6. Laws & Ethics report.

Jeremy Dhondy reported that -

1. The work on the revised orange and white books was on schedule to be completed by August 1st.

2. A decision on the implementation of the new Victory Point Scale was needed because a) counties and clubs would be using them from September if they applied and b) they appear in the diary which is due to go to press next month. The committee decided to use the discrete system.

7. Replies to 'The Experiment' by Ian Payn

The committee discussed the replies from the members and would like to thank Peter Bushby, Jonathan Chapman, Michael Kaltz, Stewart Pye, Geoffrey Wolfarth and Nigel Wolfendale for their carefully considered views.

It was decided to withdraw the proposal to play Seniors KO and the Nicko on line for the time being and that Barry Capal and Gordon Rainsford would make plans for a trial on line KO teams event to commence in the Autumn.

8. Various Issues.

1. **BBO games** – It was decided that master points would be given at club scale.

2. **NPS Regional Finals** – it was confirmed that blue points would be awarded as advertised.

3. **Memorandum of Understanding with Bridge Overseas** – Andrew Petrie confirmed that this was in place and that there would be 4/5 Blue Pointed UK Bridge Holidays in 2014. The events would be organised by Bridge Overseas but the bridge would be run and staffed by the EBU.

4. **List of Venues for 2014** - Gordon Rainsford produced a list of new venues that have been sought for 2014 and the Committee commended him on his work.

5. **Event Management** - The chairman outlined his views on what he wanted from the respective committee members with this responsibility.

9. Issues raised by members

1. **Year End Congress** - Dan Crofts has written to the Committee urging them to poll members at the Easter event re the Year End Congress sessions and timings on the first two days. The Committee thought that the recent changes that were disliked by the correspondent had in general been well received and successful. The request to hold a vote was not agreed to.

2. **National Pairs** - Ian Pagan had written asking that a pair scoring over 60% in a NPS heat would automatically qualify irrespective of their finishing position. The Committee did not want to change the qualification process and the Secretary was asked to write to all clubs to encourage them to run heats with only the minimum of players not competing. It was felt that with the new reduced entry fee this could be achieved and so the situation that had prompted the request would be much less likely to occur in the future.

The meeting closed at 5 pm.

Peter Jordan 13.03.13.