



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE BAKER TILLY OFFICES, 2 BLOOMSBURY ST, LONDON
ON WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE 2013**

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

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Jeremy Dhondy, Gillian Fawcett.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

1. **Accuracy:** 2.8.1b Sally Bugden asked that it was made clear that Blue Points could only be used for holidays run on behalf of the EBU by a Holiday Company.

2. **Matters Arising;** no matters arising that were not on the agenda.

3. **Action List**

5. **On-line Knock Out Trial** – It was agreed to start the trial event in September. There would be no entry fee and no prizes but masterpoints would be awarded. It was thought that 16 teams would be an ideal number.

8. **Harrogate Congress** – Gordon Rainsford said that arrangements were in place to run this event in 2014 at the Park Inn Hotel, York.

9. **MP awards for National Teams Congress** – In the point-a-board competition wins would attract green points at approximately 50% more than the multiple team equivalent and the ranking points would be awarded taking in account the total weekend entry rather than just that for the point-a-board.

3. **Various Issues**

1. **Bidding for the Future** - Ian Payn spoke about the document and reminded the Committee of their role in delivering a successful five year plan.

2. **Simultaneous Pairs Prizes** – The Treasurer presented an outline proposal based on a consultation with TC members at the end of 2012. The proposal had been discussed and approved by the board and was as follows -

- a. National winners would receive a cash prize.
- b. All heat winners would go into an annual prize draw.
- c. Clubs would get 1 ticket in an annual prize draw for each time they staged a heat.

Gordon Rainsford and the Aylesbury team would now take the outline proposal and manage the detailed implementation. TC members were requested to let GR have any views on details of the scheme. The topic would be discussed again at the November meeting.

The Chairman thanked Andrew Petrie for all his work on this proposal.

3. Stratification Regulations – some concerns about these had been raised by Jeremy Dhondy and after a short discussion it was decided that Strat B should not be open to any player of Grand Master rank or above, nor anyone in the Gold Point top 60, nor anyone with an NGS grade of Ace. It was also decided that Junior prizes should only be available to those with scores above 50%.

4. Event Review

The event review prompted discussions on the opening of events, the appointment of hosts and the use of feedback forms. All of these areas are currently being reviewed.

5. Event Issues.

1. Tea Breaks – it was agreed that tea breaks would only continue at Seniors Congresses (other than Brighton) and in the Guernsey, Jersey and Overseas Congresses.

2. Schapiro Spring Foursomes – It was agreed that Bridgemates would be used as from the 2014 event.

3. National Pairs Finals – Because of the difficulty in achieving two 25 table finals with the present qualification regulations it was decided to go for a straight top 50 pairs in the A final and the next 50 in the B final. The B final would be stratified.

4. Portland Pairs – despite having a big turnout for this event that was only prevented from being a record by the weather (snow) problems at two venues, concern was expressed at the poor turnout at Deva. Gordon Rainsford was asked to write to the club to see what help could be given in order to improve the attendance for next year.

8. Blue Points - an article on blue points was to be done for the next Club Management Focus (July) in order to help inform those that were still not clear on the process of arranging blue point events.

9. Seniors Congress Qualification – The Committee approved the changes to the championship pairs qualification process and these will be displayed on the event web page.

6. Laws & Ethics report

Gordon Rainsford reported that the new blue and white books were ready for launch on August 1st. The Secretary said that it was hoped to include discussion on the new books at one of the Brighton seminars.

7. Issues raised by members.

1. Easter London – Dan Crofts had submitted a proposed new format for the Championship pairs. This coincided with a request from Andrew Petrie to look at the future of swiss pairs

events to see whether some attractive alternatives could be used. Gordon Rainsford said he would reply to Mr Crofts and also research other formats for the next meeting.

2. Masterpoint awards – Langport BC had asked if enhanced masterpoints could be awarded for a special invitation event that was planned to mark their 40th anniversary. The Committee felt that as counties had been allowed special awards only for 50th and 75th anniversaries then this should also apply to clubs.

The Chairman would write to the club explaining the committee decision but also encouraging the club to make the event valid for blue point application.

3. Counties and Blue Point events– a comprehensive paper was submitted by Bernard Eddleston on behalf of the Hertfordshire BA asking that certain aspects of the blue point regulation be changed to allow counties more opportunities to run such events.

The Committee decided that as the blue point scheme had been operating for just under six months it was much too early to be thinking of changes. It was agreed to hold a full review when the scheme had been running for a year. The Chairman said that he would be replying to Mr Eddleston.

8. Any Other Business

1. Overseas Congress Levy - The secretary asked that the 50% levy on bridge fees that currently applies to bona fide local residents attending an EBU Overseas Congress be removed.

The committee approved this change and it was also stated that this would only apply if space was available as all players on the EBU package would have priority if the Congress was likely to be full.

The levy of 50% on EBU members staying in their second homes would remain unchanged.

2. Goodbyes – Sally Bugden said that it was her last TC meeting as she was retiring as EBU chairman at the next AGM and she thanked all the members for their help and friendship during her time on the TC committee.

It was then announced by Margaret Curtis and Brian Crack that their terms of office were coming to an end and neither would be standing for re-election.

Sally, Margaret and Brian were all thanked for their great contributions to the committee over many years.

The meeting closed at 4.15 pm.

Peter Jordan 20.06.13.

Minutes approved 12.11.13