



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE BAKER TILLY OFFICES, 2 BLOOMSBURY ST, LONDON
ON TUESDAY 09 DECEMBER 2014**

Present:	Ian Payn	Chairman
	Gillian Fawcett	Vice-Chairman
	Jeremy Dhondy	EBU Chairman
	Paul Hackett	
	Philip Mason	
	Andrew Petrie	EBU Treasurer
	Gordon Rainsford	Chief Tournament Director
	Eddie Williams	
	Peter Jordan	Secretary

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Barry Capal, Terry Hewett and Addis Page.

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

2.1 Chairman: Ian Payn was proposed by Phillip Mason, seconded by Gillian Fawcett and elected unopposed.

2.2 Vice-Chairman: Gillian Fawcett was proposed by Paul Hackett, seconded by Eddie Williams and elected unopposed.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

3.1 Accuracy

The secretary reported that he had added a note to the effect that the meeting was not the last for Addis Page as he still had one more year of his term to run.

3.2 Matters Arising:

8.2 The new phone regulations were reported to be working well.

3.3 Action List

3. Research of new venues. Gordon Rainsford reported that the new venues at Peterborough and Birmingham Airport had been successful. It was also stated that the start time on the Saturday for the Autumn Congress and the Seniors Congress would be 11am. See also **5.7** in these minutes.

3A. The Chairman stated that the future of the EBU standing committees (which had remained unchanged since 1947) were now under review by the board. Members were invited to give their views.

4. **Treasurer's report:** The Treasurer presented the actual income compared to budget for events since 1 April 2014. In general these showed that entries were below plan, suggesting that the number of people entering our events is continuing to decline. Extensive efforts continue to attract new competitors through such initiatives as Really Easy events and Blue Point Holidays and early results are encouraging.

5. **Event Review**

5.1 National Pairs: (also 9.4) Gordon Rainsford had been asked to look at the future of this event. His proposal that the club heat level would be discontinued leaving just two levels of regional heats and a national final. It was also proposed that the regional heats would be expanded in number to no more than two in any one region. Regional ranking lists would be produced for the awarding of the respective regional trophies and a national ranking list would be used for the awarding of masterpoints and for qualification to the national final weekend. The committee approved the proposal as a welcome change to regenerate the event. Gordon also said that he would write to Bernard Eddleston thanking him for his thoughts on the event and reporting the new structure that had been adopted.

5.2 Spring Bank Holiday Congress: Gordon Rainsford reported that following the very unsatisfactory situation at Bournemouth the event would move to Stratford upon Avon for 2015.

5.3 Blue Point Holidays: It was reported that although 2 of the 5 proposed events for 2014 had been cancelled due to lack of entries it was felt that the formula was worth trying for a second year. A schedule from Bridge Overseas had been agreed with 4 events for 2015 and introducing one new venue.

5.4 Really Easy Events: The Brighton Congress was well attended and the weekend programme had added a third date for 2015. The recent innovation of a Really Easy afternoon at a national congress was expanded to include satellite clubs playing the same hands on that day. The Autumn Congress had seen the inclusion of Bradford and Richmond bridge clubs. Both clubs would be participating again with the Year End London Congress with the addition of Barleylands at Billericay. It was reported that the competition department were actively looking for clubs to participate in these afternoons.

5.5 Overseas Congresses: Andrew Petrie asked if the Spring Overseas Congress (normally held early February) could be relocated to April/May in order to expand the range of venues available. The secretary was asked to contact Bridge Overseas in order to discuss the possibilities.

5.6 Crockfords Finals: (also 9.5) Following the unsatisfactory reports from the recent finals the venue for 2015 had been moved to Birmingham Airport. It was also agreed to put the finals on BBO as this should greatly raise the profile of the event.

Paul Hackett said that there were potential clashes with important international events for the 2/3 years from 2016. The secretary said that he would be mindful of these events when setting the calendar for those years.

The Chairman said that he would write to Colin Simpson regarding his concerns for the future of the event.

5.7 Brighton Summer Meeting: Gordon Rainsford had recently visited Telford and also Brighton & Eastbourne (with Barry Capal) in order to look at possible alternative venues for the EBU Summer Meeting for 2016 and beyond; as a reply was expected soon from the management at the Brighton Hilton Metropole the committee would be informed of the latest situation as soon as it was known.

6. Green Point one day events:

6.1 Surrey event 2015: Surrey had applied to have their new event 'Surrey Spring Foursomes' green pointed. As Surrey still wanted to maintain their Green Pointed Weekend they had been informed that they could apply for blue points but no further greens would be allowed.

6.2 London Event 2016: The Chairman declared an interest and therefore left the room for the duration of the discussion and Gillian Fawcett took the chair. London asked if they could move their weekend event for 2016 from the GP Weekend at the beginning of March to a 'free' date in July being the weekend before the scheduled June GP Weekend. This would mean resurrecting the London Congress which had last been held in 1988.

Letters from both Essex and Hertfordshire objecting to the proposal on the grounds that the entries at their GP Weekend (seven days later) and indeed the 'new' London event would all be affected by this relocation had been circulated to the Committee before the meeting. A lengthy discussion followed, Paul Hackett then declared an interest so did not partake in the voting.

Finally a vote was taken and the result was in favour of the event going ahead on the new proposed date.

7. Laws & Ethics report: minute from JD

1. There had been a disciplinary case involving a player whose cheque for a competition had bounced and he had subsequently declined to pay. The money was collected after application through the small claims procedure. He was found guilty of an offence and received a ban. Details were published in the EBU Magazine

2. Two players had been reported to the L&E because of poor behaviour at Brighton.

3. The Bylaws had been updated at the AGM to take account of online clubs and also updating the procedures for reporting to affiliated clubs details of bans

4. It was noted that two German players had been banned as a result of a case of cheating and the ban applied should they seek to play in an English event

5. The recent biennial TD training weekend had been successfully held with 36 TDs attending including visitors from Scotland and Iceland.

8. Various Issues

8.1 Ranked Masters & the NGS: A proposal from Gordon Rainsford that partners be allowed to play up if their NGS rating justified this was approved by the committee and would be posted on the web site as soon as possible.

8.2 BBO online games: Gordon Rainsford confirmed that EBU BBO games would not run for the foreseeable future and we will look with interest at how the new arrangements with BCL work.

9. Issues raised by members

9.1 Sims Prize Structure: a proposal from Mike Craig of Castle Morpeth BC asking that big heats are rewarded with extra 'tickets' in the prize draw was adopted in principal by the committee. Gordon Rainsford and the secretary said that they look at what they considered to be a fair structure to be implemented from January 1st 2015.

9.2 Garden Cities Teams: The concerns of Worcestershire were noted regarding representation in this event. The committee considered that the adjustments made to the regulations about two years ago were working as well as could be expected and no further changes would be made at present

9.3 Nicko Plate: A suggestion from Mike Rothwell that the quarter final of the Nicko Plate should be 32 boards was adopted by the committee. It was also agreed that a 24 or 28 board match could be played if agreed by both captains.

9.4 National Pairs Heats: this had been dealt with under item 5.1

9.5 Crockfords Finals: this had been dealt with under item 5.6

9.6 Pachabo Scoring: a modification of the current scoring system, suggested by Rodney Lighton, was adopted by the committee.

9.7 Seeding Policy for KO events: Phillip Norman suggested that the Nicko seeding should only be used up to round 3 when there would be an open draw. The committee felt that as this was the first year that the new system was in place it was too soon to make any changes. There had been no other comments about the system.

9.8 Blue Points: Alan Boyes had written to the committee with the views of the members of Pershore BC on the blue point scheme. The committee thanked him for his response to their request for feedback.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 Prizes: Gordon Rainsford reported that the board had agreed that there should be medals for the Corwen and Pachabo (first three places) in place of the existing prizes but in other events where prize money was being ended there would be no other trophies as replacement. The need for extra publicity was stated to make members aware of the reduced entry fees that would accompany the withdrawal of prizes.

10.2 Date of the next meeting: this was set for Tuesday 19 May 2015.

Peter Jordan 22.12.14

Ian Payne

19.05.15