



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE BAKER TILLY OFFICES, 2 BLOOMSBURY ST, LONDON
ON TUESDAY 11 MARCH 2014**

Present:

Ian Payn	Chairman
Gillian Fawcett	Vice-Chairman
Jeremy Dhondy	EBU Chairman
Barry Capal	EBU General Manager
Paul Hackett	
Terry Hewett	
Philip Mason	
Addis Page	
Andrew Petrie	EBU Treasurer
Gordon Rainsford	Chief Tournament Director
Peter Jordan	Secretary

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Eddie Williams.
- 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
 - 1. Accuracy:** Ok
 - 2. Matters Arising:** no matters arising that were not on the agenda.
 - 3. Action List**
 - 2. New Congress review forms:** A new style form based upon research done by Addis Page was approved by the committee and with a few amendments will be used for the next event.
 - 4. New regulations for online matches in the Gerard Faulkner Salver:** Gordon Rainsford said that these were now ready and would be posted with the publication of the event entry forms.
- 3. Treasurer's Report:** Andrew Petrie reported that although the competition budget had met its targets there were a number of events that were underperforming.
A discussion followed on the need to find new attractive venues in order to revitalise the tournament calendar and Gordon Rainsford and Peter Jordan were asked to actively seek such venues.
- 4. Blue Point Review :** Following a report from Gordon Rainsford it was agreed that Counties would be allowed to Blue Point single session events that were part of a Congress weekend. It was also agreed that for the purpose of the scheme a mixed pairs would not be considered a restricted event. GR would update the guidelines and also the Master Point handbook for implementation from 01 September 2014.

5. **Changing the EBU model.** A paper from Addis Page looked at the aims that were stated three years ago in order to make the competition programme more fit for purpose in the changing world; assessed the progress made so far and gave some guide lines for the future.

During a lengthy discussion on the ways and means forward the following were thought to be important components for the future -

1. The development of new members especially those approaching retirement.
2. New affordable events and also venues with attractive aspects, at the seaside, by golf courses etc..
3. Marketing in partnership with the counties.
4. Incentive programmes for newcomers and the use of NGS as a stimulus
5. Encouraging juniors to develop a social side to the larger events and spread the word abroad with leaflets in order to get the juniors from other countries to our events.
6. Standardising starting times where possible.
7. Inviting players with certain achievements to have access to selected events.
8. The need to clarify to the playing public why the National events are at a different level of entry fee to county events.
9. Addis reported that an analysis from Michael Clark showed that of 28000 new members since P2P started, 2100 had won Green Points of which >900 had won more than 1GP. Therefore we need to understand the reason for these surprising statistics.

Addis closed by saying that this would be his last year on the committee.

Secretary's note; it was subsequently realised that Addis had one more year to run of his present term on the committee.

6. **Event review**

1. National Teams Congress: Gordon Rainsford reported that the introduction of a Point a Board competition had been well received and the weekend started with 31 teams in each competition.

2. York Congress: Gordon also reported on the York Congress, with the encouraging news of increased attendance, it was a successful weekend.

7. **Laws & Ethics report:** Jeremy Dhondy reported that the L&E had a new chairman as from January: Tim Rees

At the last meeting the committee did two appeals to the National Authority, both of which were dismissed

There had been two cases which might be of concern to the TC. They both involved walking out of events before the end impacting on completely innocent pairs. One player had pleaded guilty and been fined £50. The other person had resigned his membership.

New Rubber Bridge Laws are due to come into force in April (the first since 1993). Gordon, John Pain and Jeremy had given advice to the Portland Club to assist with this. The EBU shop will hold copies of the laws for sale.

8. **Various Issues**

1. Victor Ludorum: It was resolved that Gordon Rainsford would prepare a paper outlining a Player of the Year Award along the lines put forward by the committee.

2. Phone Regulations for events with screens: The Committee agreed with a proposal by Gordon Rainsford, based on a suggestion from Paul Hackett, stating that mobile phones should not be taken away from players but that they would be required to leave them on the table when leaving the

playing area. It was hoped that the idea might also be tried by the Selection Committee therefore standardising procedure throughout EBU events.

3. Midland Counties: A request for an extra green point day in 2015 in order to pilot a formula that might ensure the future of the Congress was agreed by the committee providing that it was understood that it was for one year only and also that the event did not clash with the Manchester Congress.

4. Appeals Consultants: The committee agreed to move to a format where Appeals consultants would be rewarded for the amount of work done rather than the existing retainer system.

5. GFS Repechage: The format of this event was discussed but as this new format had only been in place for one year it was decided to run one more year along the same lines.

6. On Line Games: The disappointing take up of the on line games was discussed and it was proposed to introduce some 12 board matches to see if that would encourage greater participation.

The TC also agreed to facilitate this by changing the wording in the masterpoint & Licensing handbook 3.1.2 to say "No Masterpoints will be awarded for an event unless all competitors **are scheduled** to play at least 12 boards."

7. Improver Sessions: A proposal to run single session events for newer players alongside the opening session of selected weekends was agreed. The first events were to be at the Easter, Spring Bank and Autumn Congresses. It was hoped that satellite sessions could be run at larger bridge clubs that were not in the vicinity of the congress in question.

9. Issues raised by members

1. Nicko Teams: A letter about the make up of some Nicko teams which appeared not to be "in the spirit of the competition" was received from Brian Ransley. The committee had some sympathy with his views but as all the changes that had been tried in recent years had not improved the situation there was no action recommended.

10. AOB

1. Dates of meeting for 2014: The next meeting was set for Tuesday 11 November.

2. Easter Saturday start time: A request that this time should be put back by 15 minutes to assist with the use of parking meters was agreed.

Peter Jordan 18.03.2014

Signed Ian Payn 09.12.14