

Awaiting approval



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT YOUNG CHELSEA BC, 54 GOLDHAWK ROAD, LONDON W12 8HA
ON TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2016**

Present:

Ian Payn	Chairman
Terry Hewett	Vice Chairman
Jeremy Dhondy	EBU Chairman
Paul Hackett	
Philip Mason	
Gordon Rainsford	Chief Tournament Director
Peter Jordan	Secretary

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Barry Capal, Jerry Cope and Eddie Williams.
2. **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**
 - 2.1 **Chairman:** Ian Payn was proposed by Paul Hackett, seconded by Philip Mason and elected unopposed.
 - 2.2 **Vice-Chairman:** Terry Hewett was proposed by Ian Payn, seconded by Paul Hackett and elected unopposed.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**
 - 3.1 **Accuracy:** agreed.
 - 3.2 **Matters Arising:** there were no matters arising.
 - 3.3 **Action List:** The only item to report on was the now extended provision of BBO coverage for the Schapiro Spring Foursomes. Gordon Rainsford said that as much coverage as possible would take place on the Monday.
4. **Terms of reference:** it was agreed that -
 1. Although the setting of entry fees is now done by Gordon Rainsford based upon guidelines from the Treasurer, the Committee would keep them in its remit from a supervisory standpoint.
 2. An amendment would be added enabling the Chairman to suspend or remove a member of the Tournament Committee should that member have behaved, in the Chairman's opinion, inappropriately. The Terms of Reference will be submitted to the Board for ratification.
5. **Event News:**
 - 5.1 **Northern Mid-Week Congress:** Gordon reported that the Dunkenhalgh venue would no longer be available because of the under use of the residential facilities. A new venue in the North of England was being sought. (*Secretary's note – Cedar Court Hotel, Wakefield, August 9-11.*)

5.2 Autumn Congress: Gordon reported that there was a similar problem of under usage of the residential facilities at Peterborough and a move to Stevenage was under consideration.
(Secretary's note – no change for 2016.)

5.3 Northern Year End Congress: Gordon reported that the move from Dunkenhalgh gave the opportunity of a return to Blackpool and that the Hilton was the likely venue.

5.4 National Teams Congress: It was generally agreed that the time was right to run the PAB teams as a separate event and for the Swiss Teams Congress to be reinstated.

The proposal that the PAB teams event would continue on the January weekend and be held at one of the major London Clubs and that the Swiss Teams Congress would move to a weekend later in the year was approved by the committee.

(Secretary's note – PAB teams at Young Chelsea BC on Jan 21-22; Swiss Teams Congress at West Midlands BC on May 13-14.)

5.5.Masters Pairs: It was agreed that the increased entry for the Masters Pairs would make stratification a positive move so it was agreed for the forthcoming event.

6. Green Point one day events/ County Congresses: the secretary reported that all approved events for 2017 were on the EBU calendar.

7. Laws & Ethics report: Jeremy Dhondy reported that -

1. The L&E had approved regulations for leagues. These were optional and intended to resolve situations where there were either no regulations or inadequate ones.

2. NGS: There had been some problems with games that were exempted and the Chief TD had written to a number of clubs. The positions has improved.

3. The new blue book from August 2016 will no longer have reference to EBU20A as an acceptable system card

4. There had been some discussion concerning deposits for appeals but no decision yet. It would be on the agenda for the next L&E meeting

In addition (not L&E) Jeremy said that from August 1st 2016 gold points would only be available in English events. The SBU and WBU had been informed of this. Other than this change master points will continue to be accepted from Scottish and Welsh events as at present. A formal announcement to members would be made in the June magazine.

8. Issues raised by members

8.1 Blue points for club events: A request from Richmond BC for larger clubs to be granted two more blue pointed events annually was discussed by the committee. It was agreed that a club could apply for permission to hold one/two additional blue point events in any one competition year

8.2 Pachabo Cup: Jeremy Willans (Kent) was concerned at the drop in numbers for the 2015 event and was also critical of the venue. The secretary reported that the entries were closely monitored and that there did not appear to any detrimental pattern developing. Gordon Rainsford added that the venue was being changed for 2016.

8.3 KO competitions: Both Brian Senior and Robert Covill (Bristol BC) wrote proposing that successful teams should be rewarded with being seeded for the following year. The committee decided that the finalists of the Nicko, Hubert Phillips Bowl and the Gerard Faulkner Salver would be seeded in the respective competitions for the following year. A request from Chis Jagger from Cambridge that

there should be changes to the process of requesting half-way venues in favour of the home team were rejected by the committee who considered the present regulations to be fair and working well.

8.4 Simultaneous Pairs: A proposal that a 'fairer' weighted scoring system should be introduced to give a higher value to scores obtained when a larger number of boards were played was received from Peter Griffin from Sussex.

The committee saw the merit in this proposal but decided against introducing such a system as it would add a further level of complexity to what was basically a fun competition.

8.5 Summer Meeting KO teams: Michael Byrne from Manchester proposed a new format in order to encourage more entries and also to make a fairer and more interesting competition. The committee liked the new structure and agreed that parts of it would be used as was appropriate to the hoped for increased entry.

9. Any other business

9.1 The Chairman said that he had written to Jim Proctor (who had recently announced his retirement) to thank him for his long and valued service to bridge as one of the EBU's best tournament Directors and wished him well for the future. The committee endorsed the words of the Chairman.

9.2 The date of the next meeting was set for Wednesday 28 September at the Young Chelsea BC.

Peter Jordan 23.02.16