



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION LIMITED
HELD AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, LONDON,
ON WEDNESDAY 26th November 2014**

Present:	Jeremy Dhondy	Chairman & Avon/Derbyshire proxy
	Ian Payn	Vice Chairman and Tournament Committee Chairman
	Andrew Petrie	Treasurer
	Barry Capal	General Manager
	Jerry Cope	Board Member
	Heather Dhondy	Board Member
	Darren Evetts	Board Member
	Anthony Golding	Board Member
	Rob Lawy	Board Member
	Ron Millet	Board Member
	Andy Bowles	Selection Committee Chairman
	Tim Rees	Laws & Ethics Committee Chairman
	Margaret Curtis	Vice President & Essex Shareholder
	Bill Pencharz	Vice President
	Tony Parks	Auditor
	John Pain	Minute Taker
	Peter Stockdale	Communications Officer
	Karen Durrell	Reception
	Kay Carter	Reception

County	Shareholders: Present	Apologies	Proxy	County	Shareholders: Present	Apologies	Proxy
Avon		Ms S Lawson	Mr J Dhondy	London	Mrs C Duckworth		
Bedfordshire		Dr M Collins			R Morton		
Berks & Bucks	Mr A Wallen	RC Davey		Manchester	Mr J Smith		
Cambs & Hunts				Merseyside/Cheshire	Mr S Travers	Mr M Newman	Mr J Morris
Channel Islands	Mrs P Panter			Middlesex	Mr C Merill		
Cornwall					Mr P Roberts		
Cumbria	Mr JM Booth	Mrs KM Cooper		Norfolk	Mr P Hasenson		
Derbyshire		Mr T Ward	Mr J Dhondy	North East	Mr SJ Panchamia	Mr R Hillman	
Devon	Dr M Hamon	Mr J Parker	Dr M Hamon	Northants	Mr R Amey	Mrs S Page	Miss S Caygill
		Mr R Andrews		Notts	Mrs S Gill	Mrs N Bainbridge	
Dorset		Mr T Treeby	Dr M Hamon			Mrs C Batten	
		Mr T Dunsby	Mr B Capal	Oxford	Mrs S Nicholson	Mr K Rodgers	
		Mr R Heath	Mr B Capal		Mr A Wilson	Mrs S Claridge	Mrs S Nicholson
Essex	Mrs M Curtis			Somerset	Mrs G Howard		
		Mr J Hartley		Staffs & Shrops	Mr P Hackett	Mr J Withers	Mr P Hackett
		Mr K Thompson					
Gloucestershire	Mr J Simons			Suffolk	Mr M Carey	Prof R Hanley	
Hants & IoW	Mr R Ray	Mrs M Gale	Mr R Ray	Surrey	Mr P Bentley	Mr S Foster	
		Mrs L Lewis	Mr R Ray		Mr R Millard		
Herefordshire	Mr C Chowney	Mr R Underhill	Mr C Chowney		Miss S Pritchard		
Hertfordshire	Mr B Eddleston			Sussex	Mr P Bates	Mr R Wheeler	Mrs J Mayall
	Mr M Minting				Mrs J Mayall		
	Mr R Teesdale						
Isle of Man				Warwicks	Mr C Lang	Mr J Pyner	
Kent	Mr B Crack				Mr L Reece		

	Mr P Jones						
	Mr M Lewis		Westmorland		Mr M Rothwell		
Lancashire	Mr B Brelsford		Wiltshire	Mr P Green	Miss K Hodgson	Mr P Green	
	Mrs J Wright						
Leicestershire	Mr R Northage		Worcester	Mr P Hammond	Mr D Thomas	Mr P Hammond	
		Mr J Wilcox	Mr R Smith	Yorkshire	Mr P Mason	Mrs J Latham	Mr N Woolven
Lincolnshire					Mrs L Millet		
					Ms J Staniforth		

The following people were also present: Sally Bugden, Mike Hill, Graham & Pat Jepson, David & Jenny Price, Simon & Tanya Cochemé

Apologies were received from JG Faulkner (Vice President).

Jeremy Dhondy, Chairman, opened the meeting by welcoming all those present. He was delighted to report on the international success of English teams in Croatia in June. The Open Team had taken the bronze medal and the Women's team the silver medal. The Seniors Team, who had won the World Championships in 2009 took the gold medal in Croatia. Representatives of the team were present – David Price, Paul Hackett and Simon Cochemé (NPC). All three teams will be representing England in Chennai next September/October and he expected them to perform with distinction. The meeting applauded their success.

1 Apologies for absence

See Page 1 for County information.

2 Announcement of Awards

DIMMIE FLEMING AWARDS

JD reminded the meeting that the Dimmie Fleming award is named after a former Secretary of the EBU and who also played at the highest international level. The award is given in recognition of a valued and sustained contribution to the game of Bridge at county level.

Three members had elected to have their awards presented locally:

Jim Barker (Cornwall)

Jim was a founder member of the CCBA committee when the Devon & Cornwall Bridge Association separated into two bodies in 1984. He became Vice Chairman in 1987, and began his first three-year term as Chairman in 1990. He was continuously either Vice Chairman or Chairman (three times in total) until he stood down from the county committee in 2006.

Jim became a county director in the 1990s and today he still directs about 50% of county events, as well as jointly running the annual three day Cornwall Congress and the one-day Green-Pointed Swiss Teams.

Jim continues to chair the CCBA Law & Ethics sub-committee, now renamed the Conduct Committee. Jim is a full member of EBUTA, and as recently as June this year, ran an EBU Club Teacher Training course in Cornwall.

Following 22 years at the very heart of the CCBA, even when he retired from committee to let others take over, Jim continues to play a significant role in the running of county bridge through his directing, teaching and general advice.

Away from county bridge, Jim is still secretary and club director at St. Ives BC, a club he founded in the late 1970s. He also runs a beginners' class every Monday afternoon.

This is a man who has dedicated much of his spare time in the last 30 years to the game he loves so much.

Mike Mollart-Rogerson (*Hants & IOW*)

Mike first started playing bridge 50 years ago. After playing in various clubs in the County he started teaching the game in schools. In 1976 he attended the EBUTA Teacher's Course and took the 'A' Level Practical and Theoretical examinations and was awarded the EBU's Gold Teaching Diploma.

By 1990 more than 300 learners from his classes had moved on to play in local clubs and leagues. Mike has a very simple aim: "To provide places to play competitive bridge in a comfortable and friendly and environment for as many as possible and as cheaply as possible".

For the past 20 years he has been involved in County matters as a member of its Committee and one of its Tournament Directors. Before the move to electronic communications he produced "The Kibitzer" – the County's regular newsletter and still produces HIWCBA's Annual Handbook.

During this time he has organised the Kidney Research Simultaneous Pairs competition held in about 80 clubs in GB which raised over £6000 this year. It has also been his job to administer the County's "Charity of the Year" programme since its inception when John Carter was Chairman. This year that raised £1750 for the Hampshire Air Ambulance.

Bob Warrender (*Somerset*) (*To be presented at the Somerset AGM June 2015*)

Bob has worked hard for the benefit of County Bridge for over 30 years. He first served on the Somerset committee in the days when Somerset was a much larger association, incorporating what is now Avon CBA. After the separation from Avon occurred, he soon became appointed to the posts of Tournament Secretary and Master points Secretary, and has served in these posts for over 20 years.

As Tournament Secretary, Bob has worked hard behind the scenes to make sure that all of the SCBA events run smoothly. He has been responsible for arranging event directors, liaising with caterers, receiving entries, planning movements, booking venues, and a host of other arrangements regarding boards, tables, bidding boxes and stationery. He always arrives at venues early, to set up the room and greet the director.

In addition, Bob has been responsible for managing the County Teams event. He still manages the master points for our league events, where manual interaction is necessary at the end of the season to get the information to the EBU.

Bob is also very involved with the running of his local bridge club at Yeovil.

Bob is unflappable by nature, and popular with all of our members. He always has a smile on his face, and seems to very much enjoy his bridge. A few years ago, he was awarded Life Membership of SCBA in recognition of all of his hard work. He retired from the Somerset CBA committee this season, and we will miss him at Committee meetings, because of his wealth of knowledge, experience, and common sense approach to issues, and also because of his sunny personality.

Two members were present to receive their awards at the meeting:

Robert Northage (*Leicestershire*)

Robert has just stood down after a period of 20 years as General Secretary of the Association. In this time he has expanded the role of the General Secretary so that it is at the heart of bridge activities in the county. Robert has taken on an enormous workload on behalf of the Association and we remain in his debt. In addition to his support for our various sub-committees he has developed a particular interest in laws and ethics, which he intends to continue with, along with continuing to be Competition Controller of some of our county bridge competitions.

Robert trained as a county level director in 1995 and has been one of a select panel who directs county pairs and teams events consistently since then. This is a role he intends to continue with in the future.

The fact the Leicestershire runs a Green Point weekend featuring pairs and teams events is due to Robert's efforts in resurrecting and organising the events. That this is a successful venture is due largely to Robert's efforts.

Robert has also been an EBU Shareholder on behalf of the county. He has taken his duties conscientiously, plays an active role in Shareholder meetings and will continue to do so.

Joy Mayall (Sussex)

Joy Mayall has served the Sussex County Contract Bridge Association for many years in multiple roles, particularly: Membership of the Management Committee 2011-2014, including taking the Chair 2012-2014. Membership of the Conduct Committee 2006-2012, including taking the Chair 2007-2012. Membership of the Selectors' Committee 2012-2014. Membership of the Tournament Committee 2012-2014. Tournament Organiser for annual county events 2012 to date.

Joy's membership and, latterly chairmanship, of the Management Committee has been characterised by her unbounded commitment to address and resolve the challenges presented. Her key focus on education, particularly for the youngsters, resulted in an important partnership with the local authority to bring bridge education to secondary schools throughout the county. She also led the procurement and deployment of portable display equipment to advertise bridge opportunities to adults in libraries and other key community locations. She has also driven the development and approval of a modernised constitution, based on the EBU model.

Joy has provided mature and statesmanlike leadership at a time when a small vocal minority sought to change radically the strategic direction of the Association. Her strength of purpose, measured direction and calmness under pressure not only resisted that challenge, through the use of disciplined democratic processes, but also resulted in a stronger Management Committee with a clearer focus on its priorities for the future.

Joy's tenure as Chair of the County Conduct Committee was one of complete success. Her experience as a Magistrate was important but, even more important, were her personal qualities of fairness, even-handedness and attention to detail. All parties were quickly assured that they would receive a fair hearing and that justice would be done.

Joy has also contributed significantly to other county committees and activities. The introduction of a county year book and the development of processes and procedures for on-line competition entries are examples of initiatives which she has proactively encouraged.

SILVER AWARD

This award, given in recognition of long service and outstanding contribution to the Administration of the game of Bridge at County and National level, will go to:

Brian Crack (Kent)

Brian joined the Kent committee in 1983, and became Secretary in 1986. He then became Chairman in 1989, a post in which he continued for four years until forced to stand down from the committee because of business commitments. He continued to arrange events for Kent including their first Green-Pointed event, and their first Stratified Swiss Teams (indeed, the first such event in the country).

Brian returned to the Kent committee in 2002 as Secretary, and served for another seven years. Throughout this time he has been active at his local club, serving on committees.

A shareholder since 2002, he served for seven years on the Tournament Committee, six of those as Vice-Chairman, providing invaluable support for two successive Chairmen. Among his achievements were the introduction of Blue Points, and his interest in the field of Master Points was of great importance at both national and county level.

There is no sphere of bridge administration with which Brian has not been involved, at local, county or national level for a period of over thirty-years.

Mike Hill (London)

Mike has been involved in Bridge Administration for thirty years. His contribution at club level (BP; London Business Houses) has been considerable. At county level he has edited the London newsletter and served as Chairman not once, but twice, the second time filling the post when nobody else was prepared to. His work behind the scenes in the county was second to none, but in 2006 he made his mark on the national scene.

He was co-opted onto the board “in training” in 2006 because the post of Treasurer was to become vacant. After a year he took the role on, and there followed the most difficult and complex financial period in the EBU’s history, as Universal Membership was introduced.

His diligence and guidance ensured that the transition period ran smoothly, and his support was invaluable.

Graham Jepson (Yorkshire)

During his time on the EBU Board, Graham acted as an important influence. His positive and forward-thinking outlook was always centred on the players. His record at local and county level confirms this, and without his contribution bridge in Sheffield, Yorkshire and the North would have been all the poorer.

He has been Vice-Chairman of the Yorkshire Board of Management since 2001, and on the Board for almost twenty years before that. His inception of the Northern Bridge League, and the National Final for the five Inter-Counties Leagues were successes, and with his steadfast wife Pat beside him he has been running the Yorkshire Congress for the last three years, amongst many other activities.

His encouragement of new players is well-known, and everything that he does, including, in 1984, starting up a new club, has been geared up to making sure that the game continues, recognising that without incomers, there is no future.

Renowned not just as a player of some quality and a dedicated administrator, Graham enjoys the highest reputation at the table as a gentleman, and a pleasure to play against.

GOLD AWARD - This award, given in recognition of an exceptional contribution to the Development, Administration and Management of all aspects of the game of Bridge, will go to:

Sally Bugden (Sussex)

Sally has given great service to the EBU as a board member from 2004, having previously been on her county management committee, vice chairman of the board for two years and then as chairman for five years before retiring from the post in 2013. She has the distinction of being the first woman to hold that office.

Sally has given countless hours in the service of the EBU. Amongst her great successes was the introduction of Universal Membership in 2010, which changed the whole basis of membership and secured the future of the union and its members for many years to come.

Similarly, as Chairman of the Editorial Board for several years she set in motion changes which will keep the printed magazine, a service many members value, going for many more years.

Sally was the Chairman of the Youth and Education Trust which raised funds for Junior Bridge, and was also one of the key players in the setting up of English Bridge Education and Development, the new charity which came into being in 2013 of which she was, briefly, the first Chairman. Education is a topic that has long interested her and she was quick to realise its importance in gaining the EBU the lifeblood of new members.

Her work in gaining Bridge a higher profile from cajoling the press to report on the successes of our international teams to liaising with the All Party Parliamentary Group was also both noteworthy and successful.

In the light of the preceding, the Board is unanimous in awarding Sally its Gold Award, the highest honour it can bestow.

All award recipients were applauded by the delegates.

Sally thanked the members and the board for the honour. She said she had led the EBU through great change but that had only been possible as she was surrounded by a hard working group of people including the board and the Aylesbury staff. In particular she thanked Barry Capal and Andrew Petrie.

3 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2nd October 2013

The minutes were a matter of note, having been formally accepted at the Shareholders' Meeting on 16th April 2014.

4 Minutes of the Shareholders' Meeting on 16th April 2014

The minutes were signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Malcolm Carey and seconded by Robert Northage. Carried *nem con*.

5 EBU Annual report 2012/2013

JD introduced the third annual report, which had been circulated in advance, which replaced the Chairman's and Treasurer's annual statements. It is attached to these minutes.

Appendix A.

Matters arising from the report:

Over the year of the report the membership had grown. The current figure was c.56000. JD thanked all volunteers at club, county and national level and also the permanent staff at Aylesbury for their assistance in having a successful year.

6/7 Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2014 including management accounts and statement on reserves. The Treasurer reported as follows:

The EBU had another solid year in terms of financial performance, resulting in a £66.6K surplus. We beat budget by £69.4K which may seem a large difference but is in fact less than 4% of Turnover. As stated previously in these meetings, as a not-for-profit members' organisation, the Directors believe we should always budget cautiously so that any differences are positive. Most areas beat their budget and on behalf of the Directors, Shareholders, Clubs and Player Members I would like to thank all the staff at Aylesbury and the volunteers on our Board and Committees for helping to deliver this performance. Of particular note was:

- The development of an online shop, produced in house by Michael Clark at little or no cost to the membership and saving thousands of pounds.
- The launch of our associated charity English Bridge Education & Development with a donation of £45K cash and Bridge for All books to the value of around £11K

At the end of 2009/10, just before the introduction of Universal Membership, cash reserves stood at £448K, around 28% of Turnover i.e. around 4 months of operations and membership had fallen to around 23000 - down from a high of more than 30000. Membership subscriptions looked likely to have to climb well in excess of inflation. The introduction of Universal Membership has transformed this dire situation and it might not be inappropriate to say it saved the Union. We now have cash reserves of £607K and a membership of over 50000 and the Membership subscription has gone up overall by less than inflation since it was set at 29p based on the 2006/7 financials. This all puts us in a strong position to tackle a number of significant challenges that will face us over the next few years.

The accounts were approved at the Board Meeting on September 17th 2014.

There were no questions.

7.1 Number of members by county 31/3/14

The published list is attached to these minutes. - **Appendix B**

The published numbers determine the number of delegates for shareholders and also the number of qualifying pairs for the Corwen trophy. Members were interested in the UM1 figure – did this mean players who played 1 to 11 times or 0 to 11 times. It was confirmed that the figure included club members who had played no UM sessions during the year. Points raised included:

- Members were concerned that this inflated the total figure and suggesting a membership of 56000 when trying to make a good case to promote bridge as a sport might be undermined.
- Members should only include those who played at least one session. But what about the long term sick or those who worked and found playing impossible but nevertheless remained as members.
- The figure included members who had moved away, resigned or died.
- Many clubs had not updated their membership databases since 2010.
- Could there be a further column (UM0) which showed how many were in this category.
- Members could be members of more than one club but perhaps only played in one. (Answer: each member has only one record so would only be counted once).
- Could a block be put on clubs uploading their results until their database had been cleaned.

Andrew Petrie said that under the EBU constitution you only had to be a member of a club to be counted for membership purposes – there was no requirement to play. The upper limit for UM1 was set at 11 as it had been agreed with both EBL and WBF that our subscription contribution to those bodies was set at those who played 12 times or more during a year.

Barry Capal said that the matter would be given consideration by the Board, but a decision could not be taken at the meeting. But he recommended that clubs take active steps to clean their membership databases to remove members who no longer should be included. The EBU would consider how best to persuade club membership secretaries to perform this task.

A member asked how many player sessions had there been during the year to March 2014. The confirmed figures are :

Overall – 2.13 million (includes all EBU events, licensed events); 1.91 million (club sessions).

A member noted the reduction in *Bridge for All* members being registered. It was suggested this might be due to discontinuation of the teachers incentive scheme but that had not taken effect until April 1st 2014, so that was not the reason for the decline. AP noted the sale of BFA books was £15k above budget.

8 Re-appointment of Auditors for the year 2014/2015

A proposal by Jeremy Dhondy, seconded by Robert Northage that Beacons be re-appointed was carried *nem con*. The Treasurer thanked Tony Parks for his contribution over a number of years.

9 Membership subscriptions for 2015/2016

AP presented the proposals for subscription rates for 2015/16. He said:

Because of the commitments detailed above, we are currently forecasting a significant loss for 2015/16, even if our prices go up in line with inflation. Despite this and because of the strength of our cash reserves

and our past over achievement against budget, we are recommending to shareholders an increase of only 1p (2.86%) in the UMS. (NB This is slightly less than the current BoE forecast for RPI of 3.3% for Q4 2015).

The Board and management of the EBU has made significant efficiency savings since the inception of Universal Membership so that:

- The cost of joining the EBU and paying for Masterpoints has reduced from an average of around £25 per member pre-UM to around £13 in 2012/13
- The EBU's total running costs have reduced from £67 per member in 2009/10 (pre-UM) to £32 per member in 2012/13 (post-UM) - i.e. they more than halved, during which time we have significantly extended our services:-
 - Introduced electronic transmission of results' awards from club to Aylesbury
 - Continued to support International representation with great success
 - Introduced a National Grading System
 - Introduced a new colour of Masterpoint (Blue) to assist members at lower levels of the scheme
 - Developed an in-house capability for Simultaneous Pairs
 - Implemented a new improved Website
 - Introduced a series of UK Bridge holidays, less competitive in nature than EBU Congresses and aimed at the average club player
 - Launched a new charity – English Bridge Education and Development and made a significant donation to help with the start up.
 - Introduced an online shop

I can assure members that the Board and management of the EBU will continue to seek every opportunity to continue this excellent progress.

It was asked whether the board envisaged a year when the UM rate would not be increased. AP said it was always possible, but he thought unlikely. It was suggested that EBU costs were not going up year on year and that a rise in the UM charge was not necessary. A proposal to accept the proposed rates by Robert Northage, seconded by Peter Bentley was carried overwhelmingly with five against.

	(for info) 2011/2012	(for info) 2012/2013	(for info) 2013/2014	(for info) 2014/2015	Proposed 2015/2016
Universal Membership Subscription	0.31	0.33	0.34	0.35	0.36
Direct Members					
UK	24.00	25.00	26.00	27.00	28.00
Overseas	26.00	27.00	28.00	30.00	31.00
EBUTA Members					
Existing or new members joining bef 31 October 2014	15.00	16.00	16.00	17.00	17.00
Joining between 1 November 2014 a 31 March 2015	7.50	8.00	8.00	8.50	8.50

Affiliations

Club	30.00	32.00	33.00	34.00	35.00
University	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Schools	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

10 EBED update

Jerry Cope (Chairman of the EBED trustees) spoke about the setting up of the charity and its operation in the first six months since April 2014:

- Thank you to Sally and Andrew for all the hard work in setting up the charity
- 2 reasons for setting up the charity: cost-effective fund-raising and greater focus
- 3 things I have learnt in the 6 months or so EBED has been properly operational: Chicken and egg problem of fund-raising without a fully worked through project and the lack of funds to work up a full project plan; getting sponsors on board takes longer than you hope; but perseverance does produce results.
- So we are 1) polishing a persuasive case for funding EBED 2) working on three projects each with a lead trustee - a roll out of schools co-ordinators (Bernard Eddleston) - development of a quicker way to learn bridge (Gary Ames) - a research study into the beneficial value of bridge, both mental and social inclusion (Caroline Small). Meanwhile we are continuing to run and improve business-as-usual.

The Charity number had been published and circulated to delegates.

11 Election of Directors

There were two nominations for two places. Rob Lawy and Ian Payn were declared elected. Jeremy said that Malcolm Oliver had retired as a board member after many years. He had led the investigation into the possibility of selling the Aylesbury building which had finally decided against the idea, together with numerous other projects. He thanked him for his service to the EBU. Anthony Golding had been one of the two appointed board members and it was open to the board to appoint another in due course.

12 Appointment of Company Secretary for the year 2014/2015

Barry Capal was formally appointed for the year 2014/2015.

13 Election of 2 members to the Laws & Ethics Committee for the year 2014/2015

There were two nominations for two places. David Burn and Martin Pool were declared elected.

14 Election of 2 members of the Tournament Committee for the year 2014/2015

There were two nominations for two places. Paul Hackett and Ian Payn were declared elected.

15 Election of 4 members of the Selection Committee for the year 2014/2015

Four nominations had been received for four positions. However an election was necessary to fill one position for 2 years and the other 3 for 3 years.

David Price (57 votes), Tom Townsend (51) and Gillian Fawcett (47) were elected for 3 years. Nick Smith (36) was elected for 2 years.

Additional Item

As previously announced the draw took place for the prize winners in the Simultaneous Pairs competitions. Every pair-heat winner of ~~who had entered~~ an EBU or BGB Simultaneous Pairs and every club who had run a heat were entered into the draw. The leading prize winners were:

Leading pairs:

1st Prize - £1000 per pair Reg Underwood & David Cairns Horsham Bridge Club

2nd Prize - £500 per pair Trish Davis & Pam Roxburgh Granttown on Spey Bridge Club

3rd Prize - £200 per pair Ann Edwards & Sandy Anderson Peebles Bridge Club

Leading Clubs:

1st Prize - £1000 West Sussex Bridge Club Sussex

2nd Prize - £500 Wimbledon Bridge Club Surrey

3rd Prize - £200 Island Bridge Club Hants & IOW

16 Special resolution to change the Articles of Association

Anthony Golding introduced two changes to the bye-laws. One was to do with the provision for Online Bridge Clubs and the other to modify the Disciplinary Rules regarding publication of sanctions.

Bye-Law addition 2.8

2.8 Online Bridge Clubs

Online Bridge Clubs, because of their particular circumstances, are neither suitable for affiliation under 2.2 nor for a single event licence. These organisations may affiliate by applying for a special licence and paying the standard annual affiliation fee. The terms of such a licence will depend on the circumstances of the organisation but will:

- a) Allow the organisation to issue EBU Master Points in line with the terms of the licence
- b) At the discretion of the sponsoring organisation, may require each participant in a session or event to expressly submit themselves to the Company's Disciplinary Rules (whether or not he is a paid up Player Member of the Company).

Such licensed affiliation will not bring with it any other club or player benefits available under Bye-Laws 2.2 and 2.3.

For the avoidance of doubt, membership of a licensed online affiliate will not and cannot give rise to membership of the English Bridge Union; "magazine points" will not accrue and the results will not form part of the EBU's National Grading System.

Modification of the Disciplinary Rules resolution for your approval:-

- 11.5 The L&E Secretary shall promptly notify any Association and any Affiliated Club of which the Defendant is a member **or any club where the member plays which reports its results to the EBU** of the Sanction imposed provided that such notification shall not be made in the case of a Sanction imposed by the Disciplinary Committee until the time for appeal has elapsed. Where the Sanction imposed is expulsion or suspension, upon receipt of notification of the Sanction the Association shall take like action unless the Disciplinary Committee or Appeals Committee specifies otherwise.

- 11.6 ~~The Disciplinary Committee or the Appeals Committee may direct that publication of the whole or such part of the Written Record as it considers appropriate be made in any journal relating to the game of Duplicate Contract Bridge.~~
- Unless in exceptional circumstances the Board decides otherwise, details of disciplinary hearings including the identity of the Defendant (except where the Defendant is under 18), the nature of the offence and the Sanction imposed shall be published in *English Bridge* or such other publication as the Board may decide.
- 11.7 The Disciplinary Committee or the Appeals Committee may provide the complainant with such information relating to its decision as it considers appropriate, on condition that the information is kept strictly confidential to the complainant.
- 11.8 The L&E Secretary shall make such notification of the Sanctions imposed by the Disciplinary Committee or the Appeals Committee as may be required under the terms of the Company's affiliation to the European Bridge League or any other supranational bridge organisation.
- 11.9 The Disciplinary Committee or the Appeals Committee may direct that notification of the Sanctions imposed be made to any other National Bridge Organisation or similar organisation.
- ~~11.10 The Disciplinary Committee or the Appeals Committee may direct that any Affiliated Club of which the Defendant is a member be notified of the Sanction imposed provided that such notification shall not be made in the case of a Sanction imposed by the Disciplinary Committee until the time for appeal has elapsed.~~
- ~~11.11~~ Any Player Member suspended from membership may not play in any Open Competition, during the time in which he is suspended.
- 11.10

Notes

11.5 This is to allow the L&E secretary to inform clubs where a member has had a sanction imposed by a disciplinary committee but who is not a member of that club. The effect is to alert clubs who report their results to the EBU for Master Point and NGS purposes. Whether the club takes its own action is a matter for the club concerned.

11.6 Propose to change Rule 11.6, in accordance with advice previously given by David Harris regarding Human Rights Convention obligations. The proposed revised rule would read as above.

11.10 This clause contradicts 11.5 and so should be deleted.

11.11 renumbered as 11.10. There was some discussion that 'Open Competition' should be more fully defined. In section 1.1 of the General Bye Laws, the definitions cover it as follows:

"Open Competition" shall mean any Duplicate Contract Bridge competition other than one held at the premises of a club or other organisation for its members or employees and their bona fide guests only.

Both proposals were carried *nem con*.

17 Notes of County Chairman's conference July 2nd 2014

The meeting accepted the minutes of the County Chairman's conference. There were no questions.

18 Treasurer's report for the current year

Finances to end September look generally in line with expectations, apart from a disappointing Brighton. Indeed our 4 year plan shows that if we take into account all the overheads (as would a Commercial

company), rather than just some of them, then Competitions would only about break even. This despite savings of around £20K in venue hire brought about through our partnership with Bridge Overseas. I believe over the next few years we will have to work hard to restore our Competitions finances and this may result in changes that will not be universally popular. Luckily our cash reserves provide us with some breathing space, however if we win our VAT appeal, some of the savings will likely have to be used to help remove the subsidy.

On a more positive note, going forward we will see the impact of the savings in postage due to the change in size of English Bridge. This should amount to around £25K annually and is another great example of a Committee working very hard to save the members money.

Outlook 2015/16 and beyond

During 2015/16 we have to replace our Enterprise Membership Management IT system which is at the centre of nearly every transaction undertaken at Aylesbury. Unfortunately the old system will no longer be developed or supported by its suppliers. Our current estimate is that this replacement could cost up to £50K to implement, although there is a hope that this investment will lead to savings in on-costs. Other significant commitments in the near future are, the 2015 World Championships in Chennai; organising the European Champions Cup in England in 2015; changes to the Pension provisions brought about by changes to legislation and a need for continued investment in IT.

19 Minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors

19.1 17th June 2014

19.2 17th September 2014.

There were a number of points on the two sets of minutes:

Members were pleased with the new size format of *English Bridge* but were disappointed with the way County News had been dealt with. JD confirmed that the Editorial Board would be meeting shortly to look at the impact of the new format.

JD reported on a meeting with Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP). The EBU case is that bridge is treated badly in terms of definition of a sport / mind sport according to the definition used by UK Sport and that it should be changed to bring it in line with other possible definitions. The feeling was that the meeting had been useful and, although no response had yet been received, it was worth pursuing in three-or four weeks time with the minister's civil service team. AP said also that the EBU was mounting a type 2 appeal against the HMRC decision regarding VAT on entry fees and this would be heard in July 2015. If that also failed then a judicial review was a further possible avenue to consider.

EBU officials had recently met with their opposite numbers in the British Chess Federation and although there was some common ground they did not have the same problem with VAT on entry fees as the EBU.

There was concern in certain quarters about the EBU's intention to host the Champion's Cup in 2015. In the June minutes it was stated that the venture would proceed if suitable sponsors could be found. In September that condition appeared to have been removed. JD said that in order to host an international championships a decision to proceed needed to be made so that advance preparations (such as venue) could be put in place. Discussions with possible sponsors were still ongoing although not confirmed. England as the host country would have a second team and a sponsor might require involvement with that team. It was noted that the holding of a European championship in England was a part of the five year plan 2013-2018

Members noted that in 1987 when the EBU hosted the European Championships special events were run to raise funds which could happen again. JD also reported that when Ireland hosted an event recently (after Greece dropped out during the economic downturn) they had managed to run it on a quite slim budget.

Members were interested to have an update on ScoreBridge. JD reported that following a meeting he had had in August with Stephen Bligh, changes had been made to the software to allow teams games to be scored using ScoreBridge for NGS purposes – so the matter had been resolved. It was noted, however, that Swiss Teams cannot be handled on ScoreBridge for NGS purposes. SwissTeams Scorer, a part of the Jeff Smith suite of programs is free and does deal with this.

20 Minutes of the Meeting of the Laws & Ethics Committee

20.1 14th May 2014

Tim Rees presented the minutes and said that the May meeting was the annual meeting where changes to the Blue Book and White Book were considered and also decisions on changes to permitted methods. There had been seven applications for new agreements but all had been rejected as they all involved methods which did not identify an anchor suit.

Asked about the Extended Rule of 25 and whether hands meeting Rule of 24 might be permitted for 'strong' bids, TR said that the Committee had resisted any change. He wondered where it would end – if you allow Rule of 24, players will want to stretch to Rule of 23 in a year's time.

20.2 1st October 2014

Time Rees said this meeting had included an appeal to the national authority concerning the application of the laws on claims and concessions. Advice had been sought from senior TDs in Europe including Max Bavin as it had been felt the claim laws were not ideally written.

There were no other questions.

21 Minutes of the meeting of the Selection Committee on 22nd April and 16th September

Andy Bowles presented the minutes.

He said it had been a very successful year for all the representative teams and next year would be very busy and be a heavy burden on costs. All the players and officials at international level were acutely aware of the costs involved and were grateful for the continued support of members.

There were no questions.

22 Dates for Shareholders' meetings for the year 2014/2015

Wednesday 13th May	Shareholders' Meeting
Wednesday 1st July	County Chairmen's Conference
Wednesday 25th November	Annual General Meeting

All meetings would start at 1pm The shareholders Meeting would be held at the Royal National Hotel and the other meetings be held in the Tudor Room, Imperial Hotel, London.

23 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked Shareholders for their attendance at what had been a very productive meeting. The meeting closed at 3.35pm.

**Date of the Next Meeting is 1.00pm Wednesday May 13th 2015
at the Royal National Hotel , London**

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION

1 APRIL 2013- 31 MARCH 2014

The English Bridge Union is the governing body for duplicate bridge in England representing communities of bridge players at club, county and national level. It is funded by members for members and provides the infrastructure and development of the game in England. All monies are re-invested into our national game.

We are in the first full year of our new five year plan which can be viewed on our website. One significant change is the creation of the new Charity (English Bridge Education and Development) from 1 April 2014. The period of this report saw the development and set up of the charity to commence its activities.

This annual report, the third one produced, provides an insight in to the work that we do to support our clubs, counties and members and will be of interest to those individuals and organisations that, in turn, provide us with support to develop the game.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers that make up our national team - the Directors of the Board and all the members of its standing and sub committees. And the dedicated team of staff under our General Manager, Barry Capal, at Aylesbury.

A full list of national volunteers and staff appears at the end of this report.

The statutory annual report and accounts will be able to be viewed on our website www.ebu.co.uk shortly after the EBU's Annual General Meeting on 26th November 2014.

Jeremy Dhondy
Chairman
English Bridge Union

The Board

The Board is made up of ten directors, eight elected by the shareholders - who are the representatives of our counties - and two appointed by the Board. The directors receive no remuneration for the work they undertake. They have legal and financial responsibilities as set out in the Company's Act 2006.

Each director takes responsibility for one or more aspects of the EBU's business. This responsibility includes budgetary control, delivering strategic objectives and regular reporting on the work of the department and committee associated with it. For the year 2013-14 the responsibilities were as follows:

Chairman: Jeremy Dhondy from 02/10/2013

Chairman: Sally Bugden until 02/10/2013

Vice Chairman: Jeremy Dhondy until 02/10/2013

Vice-Chairman: Ian Payn from 02/10/2013

Treasurer: Andrew Petrie

Tournament Committee Chairman: Ian Payn

Selection Committee Chairman: Heather Dhondy until 20/01/2014

Laws and Ethics Committee Chairman: Jeremy Dhondy until 29/01/2014

Board Director responsible for Charity Conversion – Andrew Petrie

Board Director responsible for Education – Sally Bugden until 31/12/2013

Board Director responsible for facilitating the strategic plan – Jerry Cope

Board Director responsible for premises and retail – Malcolm Oliver re-appointed 02/10/2013

Board Director responsible for staff development – Jerry Cope

Board Director Responsible for the County Working Group: Darren Evetts

Editorial Board Chairman: Sally Bugden until 02/10/2013

Editorial Board Chairman: Jeremy Dhondy from 02/10/2013

Tournament Directors Development Group Chairman: Heather Dhondy

Board Director responsible for Bridge Great Britain: Jeremy Dhondy

Board Director responsible for European and World duplicate bridge affairs: Sally Bugden until 02/10/2013

Board Director responsible for European and World duplicate bridge affairs: Jeremy Dhondy from 02/10/2013

Board Director responsible for Awards – Ron Millet

Board Director Responsible for the All Party Parliamentary Group: Sally Bugden until 02/10/2013

Board Director Responsible for the All Party Parliamentary Group: Ron Millet from 02/10/2013

We made an appeal to HMRC concerning the payment of VAT on competition entry fees. We lost but our second appeal will be heard in July 2015. We are grateful to David Ewart for his great assistance in representing us on a pro bono basis.

We have continued our programme to update our bye laws and articles. Our five year plan is now being followed and, for example, a number of improvements are being made to tournaments

We have reviewed our awards system under the guidance of board member Ron Millet and intend to make some improvements to existing awards and introduce some new awards in the coming year.

Finance

We have had a very satisfactory year from a financial viewpoint. We have managed to turn a budgeted loss of about £5K into a surplus of around £64K. This may seem a large amount but it is in fact less than 4% of Turnover. Much of this improvement was due to the hard work of staff and volunteers to ensure that the finances were managed for the best possible outcomes. The annual accounts provide a detailed financial picture for all the EBU's activities and these will be available online shortly after the Annual General Meeting. We have also managed in the 13/14 year to make a cash donation of £45K to our sister charity English Bridge Education and Development, which will set them on a firm financial footing to achieve their objective of developing duplicate bridge in England.

Club Services

18 clubs affiliated during the period April 13 –March 2014 and the Club Liaison Officer visited a number of clubs across the country. Club website pages have been redesigned for easier access

and a partnership with the Charity Commission to provide an approved Governing document has been made enabling us to assist those who wish to apply for charitable status as around a dozen clubs already have.

Education and development

Club teacher courses –These continue to be successful and in the coming year will be organised and run by our new charity.

We have trained nearly 300 tournament directors in the year. This course is popular and the move of its organisation to EBED may provide opportunities for new people to participate.

Three Really Easy congresses also took place; in Derby in the spring, Brighton in the summer and Wroxton near Banbury in the autumn. All of these events take place to try to encourage newcomers to try tournament play.

We also ran a successful Next Step Congress in Brighton for those players who are interested in tournament bridge but need to build their confidence before they play in a full EBU congress. Really Easy duplicates are being introduced at some of our congresses to run alongside the main events to provide a gentle introduction for those who have not yet played at this level.

The All Party Parliamentary Group for Bridge

This group goes from strength to strength under the Chairmanship of Baroness Ruth Henig of Lancaster. Meetings address the development and awareness of the benefits of bridge (particularly for young people and for senior citizens) and the promotion of enjoyment of the game, and bridge events, with the legislatures of other countries. The group hopes to organise a match against the Polish Parliament in the coming year.

This year it was agreed to organise two visits from schools that play Minibridge. These outings are great fun and the school pupils and their teachers visit the Lord Speaker in her office, tour the Houses of Parliament and then play bridge in the River Room and are treated to tea at the end of a long afternoon. The children demonstrate without doubt the benefits of playing Minibridge at school.

We will continue to work on encouraging many more schools to take part in learning Minibridge through EBED we will also continue to work on raising the profile of this game with the Minister for Education.

International Success

England's representation in international duplicate bridge competitions is an important part of the EBU's activities as a national bridge organisation. Successes at international level help to raise public awareness of English bridge and to attract new players to the game. Our participation in international events provides us with an international profile in the bridge world and it also brings more influence within the European Bridge League (EBL) and the World Bridge Federation (WBF).

The Selection Committee, made up of seven elected and two ex officio members and chaired by Andy Bowles, is responsible for selecting the teams to represent us internationally. It has been a good year for England at international level, with one World Championship medal and wins in three of the five Home Internationals:

• **Open**

The Open team qualified for the Bermuda Bowl and reached the quarter finals. They also won the Camrose.

• **Women**

The Women's team continued their run of medal-winning performances with a Silver Medal in the Venice Cup in Bali.

• **Juniors**

The Juniors again won both the Junior Camrose and the Peggy Bayer trophies. The U25 team won the Channel Trophy in Ostend in December

Junior squads

The Selection Committee is also responsible for the junior squads which provide training for young players. Through the hard work of squad leaders Alan Shillitoe and Michael Byrne, supported by a number of top players who provide coaching and mentoring, the junior squad system continues to bring young players into the game and to prepare successive generations of players for national and international competition.

Regulation

The Laws and Ethics Committee (L&E), made up of seven elected individual members of the EBU under the chairmanship of Tim Rees, is responsible for the regulation of the game in England.

Updated regulations were published in August 2013, including a revised White Book and a new Blue Book. These are smaller than their predecessors and written in plainer English. Both publications are available electronically, free, from the website and will be updated annually.

The L&E hears cases of both a technical and disciplinary nature. During the last year, there have been three appeals to the National Authority, which is the final step for appealing a Director's ruling. One of these cases was rejected due to lack of merit, and the deposit retained. The other two cases were heard, with one being successful.

Disciplinary problems over the last year have been down on previous years. By coincidence, two cases the L&E prosecuted this year were both caused by players walking out of EBU events without notice having received a Director's ruling with which they disagreed. There have been several other problems raised by individuals relating to club/county bridge, but the L&E encourages these issues to be dealt with at a local level, which has successfully happened in this year's cases. The L&E provides advice on model disciplinary regulations for clubs, counties and jointly run events.

Appeals from tournaments are reviewed by the L&E so that they can offer advice and ensure the consistency of decisions. An annual booklet of the major decisions is published and is available electronically from the EBU website. Appeals are reviewed and comments published in the minutes of their meetings.

There is a panel of referees appointed by the L&E who hear appeals at tournaments and act as telephone referees in knock out events, on a voluntary basis. They are also called upon from time to time to give rulings from club and county events.

Tournaments and Competitions

The Tournament Committee has seven elected members, under the Chairmanship of EBU Vice-Chairman Ian Payn. The committee's commitment to dynamism and response is crystallised by the close working relationship with Chief TD Gordon Rainsford, who presented a paper on Tournaments to the Board in June. One upshot of that is the splintering of the Tournament Committee to focus less on general meetings attended by all, to smaller focus groups concentrating on individual tournaments. Following the on-going work of the Brighton group, the next steps in the tournament-wide review are the three Premium Pairs events and weekends (Two-Stars, Spring Bank Holiday and Seniors) and the National Pairs. Over the course of next year these events will be analysed, and hopefully improved.

Blue-Pointed Holidays have been run, and are a cautious success. We have been advised that holiday-based enterprises need time to mature. Hopefully this will happen and the less competitive player will find that they too can enjoy a game of bridge away from home, but without the pressure, real or imagined, of playing in a "serious" congress. On an associated matter, Bridge Overseas have continued to be of great help, not only in arranging bookings for members who want to use their services, but also at the rough end, helping us deal with hotels, striking deals for competitions. This has not been an easy task, because hotel chains are run in such a way as to discourage loyalty on behalf of individual hotels, but the Bridge Overseas team have so far proved equal to the challenge, occasionally at very short notice.

Feedback continues to be important. No form is ignored, no e-mail unanswered. Even though a lot of events are out of our control (usually those to do with hotels) the membership will still be dealt with courteously, usually by Gordon Rainsford or Peter Jordan, who form the front line.

Tournament Directors Development Group

This subcommittee of the Board deals with the appraisal, promotion, development and management of the EBU's active tournament directors. It is chaired by Board Director, Heather Dhondy. This year has seen the welcome addition of Clive Owen to the group, and the retirement of a couple of long serving tournament directors (Alan Reid and June Booty-Taplin), whom we thank for their work over the years. The group continues its work of recruiting and training new tournament directors to continue the excellent service provided at our national tournaments.

The County Working Group

The EBU County Working Group was set up by the Board to focus on County development, the key objectives of which include communications and relationships with Counties, Clubs, Members, and potential Members. The National County Working Group will explore development opportunities and make recommendations to the Board on ways forward.

The National County Working Group is made up of representatives from the five Regional County Working Groups (Eastern, Metropolitan, Midlands, Northern and Western). Each Regional County Working Group is made up of Counties, based primarily on the Inter-County League Groups. Guernsey, Isle of Man, and Jersey are, for geographical reasons, outside of the Regional Groups, but have each been contacted by the Group Chairman, and invited to send a representative to the National Meetings, or to communicate directly with him on any matters they would like to raise.

The meetings held so far have been very positive, and the indication is that this structure has excellent potential, due in no small part to the support, commitment and dedication of those members who have agreed to represent their County, and Region, in engaging in this process. I hope that as many members as possible will make their views known to their Club, and County, so that we can all participate in shaping the future of Bridge in England

English Bridge

The Editorial Board for English Bridge is a subcommittee of the Board chaired by EBU Board Chairman Jeremy Dhondy. During 2013-14 we have developed the archive of past magazines on our website going back to 1945. We will add to those in the coming year. Our current magazine is available online to members and an increasing number are taking it online only where there is additional content however a majority still want the printed magazine. The Editorial Board have been planning for a revised size of magazine which will allow the printed version to continue and will make significant savings. This will help us address the rising costs of production and specifically postage which have provided challenges to the Editorial Board. We have spent the year working on developments which we hope will enhance the important service that we provide to our members during the coming years.

EBU Headquarters at Aylesbury

We have a full time staff equivalent of around eighteen, serving over 54000 members through the provision of tournaments, education, regulation, international support, club and membership support services including a shop providing bridge books and supplies and communications including Club Management Focus, Events Focus and Appeals Focus. Our numbers have increased this year as we have invested in a small additional resource in bridge education and development within the new charity, English Bridge Education and Development. It has been, as usual, a busy year with the following notable developments:

- ***National Grading Scheme***

We have been working on additions to the NGS, so as to include many team events in the calculations. NGS continues to be very popular with our members; the NGS pages are among the most heavily used on our website. There is a good deal of interest from overseas bridge federations in NGS.

- ***Success in the Media***

During the past year we found ourselves the subject of substantial media interest due to our VAT appeal, which resulted in rejection by the “1st Tier Tribunal”. During this unexpected level of media interest I was involved in a number of radio interviews and our General Manager got interviewed on the BBC Global news programme. In addition there were a reasonable number of articles in the national and local press. We have a date for

our 2nd Tier appeal in July 2015 and look forward, not only to success but some significant media interest.

- **E Shop**

We have developed a new online shop to update the service we offer and make ordering easier than it was before. The shop continues to offer a discount for members, EBUTA members and affiliated clubs.

- **Diary**

The diary has been revised and the content made more appropriate for the majority of our members. The publication date was returned to August following feedback and some economies have been achieved reducing the cost. The printing has been returned to the UK.

General Meetings and Shareholdings

The EBU is a company limited by shares. Our shareholders do not get any financial remuneration, their shareholdings and voting rights are based on the number of members their county has. There are two shareholder meetings a year, one of which is an annual general meeting. This report will be presented to the shareholders for discussion at the Annual General Meeting on 26th November 2014.

For full details of our constitution and structure please see the EBU's Articles and Bye Laws available on the EBU's website www.ebu.co.uk.

Jeremy Dhondy

Chairman

For and on behalf of the Board of the English Bridge Union

Staff Members and National Volunteers 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014

Board

Sally Bugden (until January 2014), Jeremy Dhondy, Andrew Petrie, Jerry Cope, Heather Dhondy, Darren Evetts, Ron Millet, Malcolm Oliver, Ian Payn, Rob Lawy (from March 2014), Anthony Golding (from March 2014)

Laws and Ethics Committee

Jeremy Dhondy (until October 2013), Frances Hinden, Mike Amos, David Burn, Tim Rees, Neil Morley, Martin Pool, Robin Barker (from October 2013)

Selection Committee

Heather Dhondy (until January 2014), Simon Cochemé, Andy Bowles, David Burn, Paul Hackett, Nick Smith, Tom Townsend

Tournament Committee

Ian Payn, Brian Crack (until October 2013), Margaret Curtis (until October 2013), Gillian Fawcett, Paul Hackett, Philip Mason, Addis Page, Terry Hewett (from October 2013), Eddie Williams (from October 2013)

English Bridge Editorial Board

Sally Bugden (until October 2013), Elena Jeronimidis (Editor), Jeremy Dhondy, Chris Danby (Advertising Manager), Barry Capal (General Manager), Peter Stockdale (Minute Taker)

Tournament Directors Development Group

Heather Dhondy, Jeremy Dhondy (until September 2013), Pat Davies, Clive Owen (from September 2013)

National Grading Scheme Working Group

This group has been disbanded but we are grateful for the help that Mike Christie and Barrie Partridge still offer to make the scheme a success

Honorary Counsel David Ewart QC

Pro Bono Advisor Stephen Barnfield

Disciplinary Panel (this group hears and decides on cases that are prosecuted by the Laws & Ethics Committee)

Julie Kennedy, Joy Mayall, Kath Nelson, William Nicolle, Alan Oddie, Jackie Pye, Paul Roberts, Ed Scerri, Paddy Seligman, Geoff Smith, Jeff Smith, Keith Stanley, John Williams.

Awards Panel (this group scrutinises applications from counties for the Dimmie Fleming award and makes recommendations to the EBU Board)

Margaret Curtis, Philip Mason, Jeff Morris

Staff

General Manager	Barry Capal
English Bridge Editor	Elena Jeronimidis
Tournaments Manager/Chief TD	Gordon Rainsford
Tournaments Administrator	Peter Jordan
Tournaments Administrator	Dawn Mertens
Tournaments Assistant	Gill Pain
Accounts Manager	Gail Nancarrow
Communications Officer	Matt Betts (until August 2013)
Communications Officer	Peter Stockdale (from September 2013)
Club Liaison Officer	Andrew Urbanski
Bridge Shop Manager	Sue Humphris
Bridge Shop Assistant	Liz Goodchild
Education Manager	John Pain
Laws & Ethics Secretary	John Pain
Education Assistant	Lisa Miller
Office Manager / Membership	Karen Durrell
Administration Assistant	Kay Carter
Membership/Accounts Assistant	Clare Burnage
Receptionist/Office Assistant	Julie Murray
Support Officer / Webmaster	Michael Clark
IT Support/ Masterpoints	Ian Mitchell
IT Assistant	Adam Lugmayer

AGM Shareholder Meeting
26 November 2014
Agenda Item 7.1

THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION LIMITED**NUMBER OF MEMBERS BY COUNTY AS AT 31ST MARCH 2014**

NB The numbers below include anyone designated as a member on the EBU database as at 31st March 2014.

County	31 March 2014							31 March 2013						
	UM 1	UM 2	Direct	Juniors	Bridge for All	Total	Clubs	UM 1	UM 2	Direct	Juniors	Bridge for All	Total	Clubs
Avon	257	624	18	2	15	916	5	336	603	19	3	18	979	5
Bedfordshire	97	274	23	0	4	398	6	90	271	21	0	4	386	7
Berks & Bucks	997	1866	68	33	51	3015	35	809	1883	65	31	70	2838	34
Camb & Hunts	221	531	13	45	10	820	15	181	519	12	42	8	762	15
Channel Islands	144	221	7	1	7	380	7	122	226	6	1	27	382	7
Cornwall	146	425	8	4	15	598	13	146	424	6	5	0	581	13
Cumbria	142	368	11	0	19	540	5	113	372	9	0	19	513	5
Derbyshire	242	553	1	4	27	827	14	223	565	3	1	36	828	14
Devon	353	1013	27	0	40	1433	21	356	975	28	2	64	1425	19
Dorset	209	428	29	0	0	666	6	165	419	38	0	1	623	6
Essex	634	1383	35	1	96	2149	29	540	1369	42	1	116	2068	28
Gloucestershire	311	587	19	4	8	929	13	340	563	20	1	0	924	14
Hants & Isle of Wight	532	1064	44	1	92	1733	23	481	1039	42	1	90	1653	23
Herefordshire	152	367	8	0	7	534	10	122	373	9	1	7	512	10
Hertfordshire	476	1354	60	2	104	1996	20	486	1330	59	2	156	2033	20
Isle of Man	18	84	8	0	5	115	2	27	85	8	0	28	148	2
Kent	720	1756	50	5	39	2590	31	630	1763	46	5	51	2515	30
Lancashire	441	1385	53	1	40	1920	10	412	1375	60	1	118	1966	10
Leicestershire	235	642	41	4	11	933	12	229	636	47	4	21	937	12
Lincolnshire	254	510	9	0	3	776	11	227	487	8	0	0	722	11
London	656	671	150	34	6	1517	13	591	585	163	36	63	1438	11
Manchester	470	842	74	39	1	1426	10	526	804	85	40	33	1488	10
Merseyside & Cheshire	330	704	28	7	38	1107	8	312	725	30	7	7	1081	8
Middlesex	475	904	123	15	77	1594	14	449	885	136	13	160	1643	12
Norfolk	236	785	12	0	10	1043	20	246	791	18	0	38	1093	20
Northants	288	639	5	1	3	936	11	257	608	6	1	31	903	9
North East	431	1116	17	1	27	1592	24	343	1133	17	2	53	1568	24
Nottinghamshire	145	536	20	3	14	718	10	171	520	20	4	42	737	11
Oxfordshire	414	976	25	69	12	1496	19	434	924	28	56	101	1543	18
Somerset	184	559	29	1	23	796	15	187	573	30	1	51	842	14
Staffordshire/Shropshire	196	723	42	0	13	974	12	186	714	40	1	52	993	12
Suffolk	319	707	15	3	52	1096	19	236	653	20	3	73	985	18
Surrey	1781	3300	106	4	165	5356	46	1615	3305	114	5	294	5333	47
Sussex	719	2186	30	10	28	2973	29	739	2187	31	10	74	3041	29
Warwickshire	860	1728	19	5	118	2730	13	773	1695	18	2	126	2614	13
Westmorland	33	141	5	0	20	199	2	92	140	4	0	37	273	2
Wiltshire	173	617	15	2	35	842	13	140	596	18	2	59	815	13
Worcestershire	150	526	24	0	36	736	14	140	518	23	0	16	697	14
Yorkshire	885	2644	33	25	105	3692	34	1045	2686	33	25	88	3877	34
Non County Members*	64	20	423	18	0	525		49	18	419	18	0	504	
	15390	35759	1727	344	1396	54616		14586	35357	1801	327	2232	54303	
Affiliated Clubs						614							604	

UM 1 denotes members who have played fewer than 12 club sessions in the financial year

UM 2 denotes members who have played 12 or more club sessions in the financial year

* these include direct overseas members and members who have expressed a desire not to be affiliated to a county