



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HELD AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, LONDON, ON THURSDAY
15 January 2009.**

Present:

Sally Bugden	(Chairman)
Andrew Petrie	(Vice-Chairman)
Michael Hill	(Hon. Treasurer)
John Carter	
Graham Jepson	
Jeff Morris	
Alan Nelson	
Malcolm Oliver	
Martin Pool	
Peter Stocken	
Barry Capal	(General Manager)
Karen Durrell	(Minute taker)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 23rd October 2008

2.1.1 Accuracy

Subject to the grammatical amendments the minutes were signed as a true record.

2.1.2 Matters Arising

3.2 - Election Documentation and circulation

Vice Chairman has reviewed this and suggested that it be deferred to coincide with the constitutional change. The Board agreed.

4.3 - Master Points price increase

The new prices have been implemented. There was no change following the VAT reduction as this less than 1p per certificate and the increase had already been held to a minimum and was well below inflation. The following detailed policy was adopted in respect of the VAT reduction and will appear in the next edition of *English Bridge*.

As a non-profit-making body, the EBU has adopted a practical approach to the recent VAT change. Shop prices have been adjusted to pass on the full VAT reduction. Future competition entry fees will reflect the VAT changes but those for competitions already advertised in the EBU diary will not change.

License fees are under review, so the new rates will take account of the VAT reduction; meanwhile the rates remain unchanged.

New prices for master points were announced in November and will not change. The annual subscription for 2009-10 approved at the October AGM will not change.

5.4 - Simplification of regulations

Simplification of the Orange Book is continuing. Research on how other countries regulate has been delayed due to finding an EBU member to volunteer.

2.1.3 Review of action list

All items on the action list had been completed and are reported in these minutes.

3 FINANCIAL MATTERS

3.1 Treasurer's Report

The figures at the end of November were somewhat below budget but we should still be able to deliver the year on budget. Budgets for next year are near completion; the International budget will be lower than in the 5-year plan because our teams did not qualify for the Bermuda Bowl or Venice Cup.

The Treasurer informed the Board that licence fees have not gone up since 2006 and that we should align County One Day Green Point Events with One Day Events. Andrew Petrie had done a detailed review. The Board agreed to increase the fees but were concerned by such a large increase across the whole of licensing in one year. It was agreed to phase the increase over two years. Agreed fees from the 1 March 2009 below:

	Licence Type	Current Fee	Agreed Fee	%
A	Holiday operators	£3.30	£3.45	4.5% (6.5% taking VAT reduction into account)
B	Swiss Events	£1.65	£1.75	6%
C	Swiss Events – Charity	£1.50	£1.60	7%
D	Non Swiss Events	85p	90p	6%
E	Green Pointed Events	£6.60	£7.25	10% (to align with one day Swiss)
F	One Day Swiss	£7.25	£7.25	0%

The Treasurer to write a letter to be sent to out to holiday operators regarding the increases, VAT and service provided for the licence fee. Aylesbury is to advise counties, clubs and other licensees by e-mail and website.

4 BUSINESS PLANNING TEAM

The BPT will meet usually a week before each Board meeting, and make recommendations to the Board on the implementation of the strategy.

4.1 Business Planning Process

P2P Budget is on going.

The Treasurer reminded the Board that the Board members with budget responsibilities are to liaise with the EBU office regarding the Five Year Plan. The Five Year Plan to be completed by end of March 2009 for review by the Treasurer and the Board and to be updated every three years.

Board Member	Departments
Sally Bugden	English Bridge, Education, Publicity & Marketing
Andrew Petrie	Tournaments, Selection & Licensing
Michael Hill/Barry Capal	Overheads, Master Points & Subscriptions
John Carter	NGS- noted that March input would be only indicative
Graham Jepson	Youth Committee & Club Committee
Malcolm Oliver	Bridge Shop
Martin Pool	Law & Ethics

The attributions of overheads have been separated out in more detail and are now more realistic. The Treasurer's Report for the shareholders will be updated to show the overheads attribution from the start of the new financial year.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for all the hard work that he and the Accounts Manager done.

4.2 BUMP

4.2.1 – Play to Play Regulations (Draft)

Deferred to March Meeting as awaiting review from Club Committee and final review by BUMP

4.2.2 – Club Contract (Draft)

Deferred to March Meeting as awaiting review from Club Committee and final review by BUMP

4.2.3 – Scams and Avoidances

The following recommendation for the Board:

The contract should include reference to action being taken against those operating scams. The Board should have the power to warn and penalise clubs if they try to operate scams and also if they pay late.

There should be a sustained communications campaign against scammers in that they are cheating their fellow members. The Bye Laws will need to be changed to reflect these issues. Approval will be sought at the October AGM along with the other facilitating bye law changes.

The Chairman thanked Malcolm Oliver, Megan Taft and Angus Clark for their recommendations.

4.3 Club Committee

4.3.1 – Scorebridge and Bridgewebs offer to clubs pre 2010

Margaret Eddleston, our Club Committee representative for Essex, Herts and Bedfordshire, put forward the written proposal that if clubs purchase Scorebridge after 1 February 2009 they will get a refund on one licence for Scorebridge, if they retain their affiliation when Pay to Play is implemented. Equally if they purchase Bridgewebs we will refund the first year's subscription if they retain their affiliation when Pay to Play is implemented.

We would supply the refund as a credit on first invoice.

The Board approved the above offer and thanked Margaret Eddleston for putting it forward.

General Manager reported that a data capture report has been created by Stephen Bligh and tested. This will assist clubs greatly when they upload their membership data for universal membership.

4.4 Sponsorship and fundraising

Information packs for sponsorship and fundraising have been created.

4.5 Charity Registration update

Draft constitution to be looked at in the July meeting along with the Charity Registration. Please email any ideas for constitutional changes to the Vice Chairman.

4.6 Bye Law Change update

Martin Pool and Barry Capal are continuing to work on the facilitating bye law changes for universal membership to be approved at the October AGM. One of the changes will be the removal of bye law 5.1.

4.7 Education Strategy

We are currently re-writing text supplied by Fred Gitelman to produce an Acobl version of the ACBL learning program.

Rob Lawy is on target to deliver his education review. Rob will be visiting the EBU office on the 30 January 2009.

The Chairman is investigating the subsidy of partner teacher courses for clubs who are affiliated after pay to play is implemented. Jeff Morris agreed that this was a good idea, that it would help clubs develop.

5 NATIONAL RATING/GRADING SCHEME

The Chairman thanked John Carter and his working party for all their hard work. John Carter informed the Board that a Q&A will be done to help members understand the NGS.

Whilst on holiday in Australia the General Manager met with Keith McDonald of the ABF. He also had a meeting at one of the Australian non affiliated clubs, where they are using a rating system.

A discussion ensued on the merits of both systems, John Carter to take feedback to NGS working party and to report back to the Board at the March meeting.

6 CONSTITUTIONS

6.1 Yorkshire Constitution

After much consultation with Yorkshire, Martin Pool and Gerard Faulkner could not agree with Yorkshire regarding their new draft constitution. After much discussion the Board agreed that the constitution could not be accepted in its current form. The General Manager in his capacity as Company Secretary is to inform the county of this in writing. Therefore their current constitution is at this time the original one dated 30th November 2001.

6.2 Surrey Constitution

Surrey Constitution minor changes have been agreed by Martin Pool and Gerard Faulkner. The General Manager in his capacity as Company Secretary is to inform Surrey that their constitution has been accepted and for a copy to be lodged at Aylesbury.

The draft model County constitution is nearly complete. Counties should note if they want to raise money by the P2P fee they may need to change their constitutions and this will be clarified in a mailing to the counties before the end of January.

New disciplinary schedule can be incorporated in their constitutions if they want to but they might want to delay this if we go to a registered charity.

7 EBU OFFICE

The IT system requirement for P2P is proceeding and should be ready by the end of the month.

It is hoped that, transfer to remote desk tops will be complete by the end of the month.

We have been fielding a lot of questions on VAT which have been referred to the Treasurer.

8 REPORTS ON MEETINGS

8.1 Tournament Committee – 22 October 2008

The Tournament Chairman and Max Bavin are working on the Five Year Plan.

The Board agreed that entry fees to tournaments, prize monies and staffing costs need to be reviewed, that a balance need to be struck.

The online tournament survey will go live on the 1st February 2009.

One day joint ventures are to be reviewed at the March Board meeting.

8.2 Editorial Board – 9th December 2008

English Bridge will be reduced to 56 pages after the February 09 issue. A close eye is being kept on advertising income.

Elena Jeronimidis will be attending the Club Committee meeting on 19th January to discuss the magazine with the representatives.

8.3 Law & Ethics – 11th November 2008

Honorary Counsel David Harris has informed the EBU Chairman that if we suspend or expel a member we must inform the EBL.

The Club Committee have asked for the possibility of producing simplified infractions guide, to be discussed at the next L&E meeting.

8.4 Selection Committee – 18th November 2008

Selection Committee produced a comprehensive response to the Peter Stocken paper; a meeting has been arranged for the EBU Chairman and Vice Chairman to meet with the Selection Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Conditions of Contest have been agreed for the Premier League.

The question was asked why Trials are held in London. Could they be held somewhere else in the country to perhaps help with costs? This will be investigated into.

Discussion took place on the BGB meeting which decided that a sixth team would be invited to take place in the Lady Milne. It was suggested that the EBU should follow the example of the other home unions and invite teams to apply for this on the understanding that they pay their own expenses. The Selection Committee

would then decide which team should represent the EBU in the competition. It was also suggested that this method should be followed when we are able to enter the sixth team for the Camrose.

8.5 Youth Committee – 19th November 2008

The Board welcomed the report from the Youth Committee Chairman, Clive Owen, and are pleased with the way that matters are progressing.

Some discussion took place on the allocation of costs of the “free” entry of the juniors in EBU tournaments. Mike Hill, Graham Jepson and Clive Owen to determine a way forward.

Graham Jepson reported that the Mini Bridge teaching programme is well on its way.

Minibridge funding is £20,000 for this year; we must make more impact in schools. We must try to get the school teachers more involved in the bridge sessions; this should help keep Minibridge in schools when bridge volunteers retire.

9 BGB MATTERS

A policy was determined where the agenda and supplementary documentation would be circulated to the Officers of the Board, all the Chairmen of the Standing Committees and Malcolm Oliver in good time before the meeting. This would allow discussion and consultation on any items that need to be addressed on the agenda. These views could then be provided to Malcolm so that he could speak on behalf of those concerned.

10 EBL AND WBF MATTERS

The Chairman reported that she had written to Jose Damiani, President of the WBF, as requested by the Board and had circulated his response and her further letter to them all. She now regards the correspondence as complete.

The EBU office has received an email from the WBF regarding WBF Annual Dues. The Board is concerned about the amount of monies we have to pay now and in the future. The Honorary Counsel David Harris to be asked for his views on the legal aspects of the financial requests made by the WBF and the General Manager to find out more information regarding completing the form. To be reviewed at next Board meeting.

The Chairman reported that she had also written to Gianarrigo Rona, President of the EBL, to request information on the proposed subscription charges from the EBL as well as some of their activities. She had not received a response and hoped that the General Manager and the Treasurer would be able to deal with this matter at the biennial seminar meeting to be held in Rome in February 2009 for the NBO members of the EBL.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman reported that she was working with Baroness Henig of Lancaster to set up a Parliamentary group to highlight bridge's benefits to society and seek support for development of initiatives that demonstrate this. It is hoped that the first meeting will be held in early March.

Alan Nelson suggested a county chairman conference to be scheduled later this year. The Chairman asked Alan to draft an agenda for this meeting discussion at the next Board meeting.

Graham Jepson reports that he has withdrawn as a shareholder for Yorkshire. The share has now been passed to Philip Mason.

Jeff Morris has nominated the English Women's Team who won the Gold at Beijing for the Sunday Times Award given for sports women of the year. Also no bridge player has been nominated for the New Years Honours' so Jeff Morris intends to nominate our bridge players from Beijing. The Chairman thanked Jeff for his efforts on behalf of the Board and the teams concerned.

Sally Barker from the CCPR would like to visit the EBU office, Jeff Morris to arrange with General Manager.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 5 March 2009 at 12.30 pm.
Imperial Hotel, Russell Square.