

## **GCBA's EBU Shareholder Terms of Reference**

The English Bridge Union is the union of its constituent county associations, and is a private company limited by shares. Each county has a number of shares according to how many members it has. Gloucestershire has two shares, and has always had a single shareholder with a single share certificate, who therefore has two votes at meetings. We could, if we chose, have two shareholders with one vote each.

The shareholder's responsibility is to guide the development of the EBU in best interests of the EBU itself, and of the GCBA. Where the EBU is considering or making a significant change (such as, in recent years, the introduction of universal membership, and considering charitable status), the shareholder should aim to become knowledgeable on the subject.

The tasks of the shareholder mainly revolve around meetings – the AGM and, in recent years, one other shareholder meeting per year. The EBU distributes the papers for these meetings a week or two before the meetings. The shareholder should:

1. read the agenda and at least skim all the papers, looking for items where a vote or a discussion is likely;
2. distribute to GCBA committee members and others who play a role in the running of the GCBA the agenda and those papers on which they might want to express an opinion;
3. for items where a vote can be foreseen, establish, by email, whether the committee wishes to:
  - a. mandate the shareholder how to vote;
  - b. advise the shareholder how to vote;
  - c. leave the shareholder to listen to the debate and vote accordingly.
4. at the meeting participate in any debates that take place;
5. after the meeting, report on significant decisions.

From time to time there will be other opportunities, outside the meetings, to engage in discussions with the EBU. The shareholder should take these opportunities, and handle them in a manner similar to agenda items at meetings.