



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EBU LIMITED
AT CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS,
12 BLOOMSBURY SQUARE, LONDON, WC1A 2LP
ON WEDNESDAY 11th MARCH 2015**

Present: Jeremy Dhondy (Chairman) (JD)
Ian Payn (Vice Chairman) (IP)
Andrew Petrie (Treasurer) (AP)
Jerry Cope (JC)
Heather Dhondy (HD)
Darren Evetts (DE)
Anthony Golding (AG)
Robert Lawy (RL)
Ron Millet (RM)
Barry Capal (General Manager) (BC)

Peter Stockdale (Minuting the meeting) (PS)

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Minutes of the meeting of 14th January 2015

2.1 Accuracy

The minutes were approved as accurate.

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2 / 4.1 – JD reported that GR had communicated with Mr Skoularikis. Some updates would be required to the current software in order to take the matter further, so GR was working on this with Jeff Smith.

4.3 / 2 – AP reiterated that ideas should be put forward for discussion at the June meeting with regard to how some of the surplus in the reserves could be invested. He reminded the Board of the current reserves policy, and that the figure was currently exceeded. The possibility of making an accrual on the balance sheet against future costs was discussed. **Action: All**

4.5 – JD reported that he had contacted Sajid Javid's office in mid-January to enquire if they had made any progress on the matter. He had not yet received a reply so would contact them again. The election might preclude a prompt reply. **Action: JD**

5. It was agreed that a draft proposal regarding the future of standing committees would be put forward at the Shareholders and County Chairmen's meetings for consultation. Following those meetings BC and AG would modify the proposal, where necessary, ahead of it being put to a vote at

the AGM (a change to the articles will be needed). AP noted that the proposed new structure was in line with that which is recommended by the Charity Commission, and this is apt as the EBU more closely reflects a charity than it does other organisations. JD noted that at the beginning of his chairmanship he had said to shareholders that he would undertake a programme of modernisation for the by laws and articles and this was one piece of the reform

3. Financial Matters

3.1 Treasurer's Report/Commentary

3.2 Forecast 2014/15

AP highlighted the significant difference between the forecasted deficit in the 2014/15 budget and the anticipated surplus for the year, and outlined the reasons for this strong financial performance. He stated his belief that it had been correct to be conservative during the budgeting process. In particular he expressed his thanks to the members of staff in the Aylesbury office who had taken on additional work to cover the maternity leave of their colleague.

AP advised that the figures for 2014/15 presented to the board included the costs associated with the donation of playing cards to all affiliated clubs. BC added that the donation had been very well received, and that most clubs had claimed their cards – the remainder would be contacted in the near future. He would present a full report on the matter at the next meeting. **Action: BC**

3.2 Budget 2015/16

AP highlighted the particular factors which meant that the 2015/16 budget forecast showed a deficit, but noted that if these figures were ultimately accurate then the EBU would have broken even over the period 2013/14 to 2015/16.

He highlighted the donations which were made to EBED, and raised the question as to whether EBED would be left to spend the money however it saw fit, or whether an EBU board member could oversee its use.

It was agreed that the activities of EBUTA would be moved to the EBED accounts, however RM expressed his dissent and opposed the change.

AP reiterated his earlier comment regarding the need for appropriate projects on which to spend the accumulated cash reserves. Possible projects would be discussed at the June meeting.

The Board formally approved the budget based on AP's recommendation, and gave its thanks to AP and Gail Nancarrow for their work producing it.

3.3 Balance Sheet

There were no matters arising from the balance sheet.

3.4 Revised 4 Year Financial Plan

JD enquired about the forecasted costs for international events and World Championships. AP would check how this figure had been reached, and report back in due course. He would also look at the presentation of how 'overheads' were reported and allocated. **Action: AP**

4. Education Matters

As agreed in agenda item 3.2, the activities of EBUTA would appear in the EBED accounts, however for the immediate future the EBU would continue to act as EBED's agents for the collection of payments. It was unknown whether there would be any VAT advantage if EBED were to collect the subscriptions in future – BC would try to find out. **Action: BC**

RL outlined areas of the relationship between the EBU, EBED, and education activities (including EBUTA and Bridge for All), which he believed needed to be recognised or addressed. It was agreed that if certain education activities, such as EBUTA, were to be overseen by EBED then there should be an impartial link between EBED and the EBU board to ensure that the EBU donation to EBED was spent appropriately towards these aims. RL agreed to fulfil this role, and JC, speaking on behalf of EBED, accepted this proposal. It was agreed that at present there would be no formal structure in place for ensuring that RL received the information he required, however if deemed necessary then one would be introduced in future.

It was recognised that the issue of nomenclature would need to be addressed as, for example, EBUTA might not be an appropriate name if it was no longer overseen by the EBU.

It was recognised that any changes relating to Bridge for All would be dependent on the intellectual property rights work being undertaken by RL. It was agreed that efforts should be made to have such a policy and agreement in place soon.

JC reported on the activities of EBED and advised that whilst work on 'business as usual activities' was going well, it was proving to be time consuming. Trustees were doing part of the work on the main projects, but were finding it time consuming. AP did note, however, that the finances of the charity were good, so there was money available to progress the projects when appropriate.

JC added that he and RL had outlined a possible role for an extra part-time member of staff. This position would be included in the budget, but the position would be given more clearly defined roles before anyone was employed. All were in favour of this course of action.

5. General Manager's Report

BC had circulated his report prior to the meeting, and confirmed the forthcoming changes to the Aylesbury staff.

BC advised that enquiries had been made into auto-enrolment for pensions, and this would be made available when it was ready – probably in six month's time. AP advised that the cost had already been included in the four year plan.

The issues relating to the scoring were discussed, and BC reported on the meeting which had taken place the previous week.

6. Enterprise replacement

BC had circulated a report on the options for replacement software, in which he recommended the Workbooks product. JD added that he had seen the product and believed it to be the best alternative.

The Board approved the proposal that BC should go ahead with Workbooks. They gave their thanks to BC and Michael Clark for their work on the matter. BC said he would be aiming for a start date of 1st October. **Action: BC**

7. Summer Meeting 2016

JD outlined the benefits and drawbacks of the possible locations of the Summer Meeting in 2016 and beyond, including the costs to both the EBU and the players, and reported on the results of the consultation which had been undertaken with the members.

He advised that the Eastbourne venue, which is popular when used for the Summer Seniors Congress, had been visited by Gordon Rainsford and Peter Jordan, and all aspects of the congress could be accommodated.

After consideration of the factors, the Board agreed that the 2016 and 2017 Summer Meetings would be held in Eastbourne, with the intention to hold further meetings there, should the venue prove to be appropriate.

8. County Working Group

DE had circulated a report, including details on the group's 'hot topics', prior to the meeting. He stated that board members who had comments on the 'hot topics' should have input as soon as possible, rather than waiting until the final proposals were put forward.

DE reported that the Northern Group were to hold a Regional Improvers event, and that hopefully it would be successful and could be rolled out across other regions and ultimately lead to a national final.

He advised that he needed to change the terms of reference to reflect changes to the composition of the Southern Group. The Board gave approval that DE could make changes in structure as needed as the groups evolved.

9. Youth Protection Policy update

Thanks were given to John Pain for updating the policy document which was circulated prior to the meeting. It was acknowledged that although it was a 'youth' policy it would apply to any vulnerable persons, including children.

It was noted that the policy would only apply to activities run by the EBU, and that EBED would need to consider whether it would adopt the same policy. Likewise, as clubs and counties run activities which including young or vulnerable people, they too should have something in place. It was therefore agreed that the clubs would be notified that the policy was available, and encouraged to adopt it. It would, however, be noted that the EBU was neither qualified nor expert in this area, and that the clubs should seek appropriate professional or legal advice where they think it is necessary. This would be sent out by email in the coming days, and also included on the website and in the next issue of Club Management Focus.

BC agreed to find out from the current insurers about the protection afforded to counties under the EBU's insurance policy. It would then be mentioned at the County Chairmen's meeting. It would also be necessary to check whether such matters were addressed in the contract between the EBU and clubs which were hired to host EBU events. **Action: BC**

It was understood that teachers who are members of the EBUTA would be responsible for their own insurance and policy on such matters.

10. Bridge as a Sport Update

IP reported that a request for judicial review with Sport England had been lodged, and the necessary procedures were being followed to help ensure that Sport England would be responsible for their own costs. The Board approved a budget for any financial costs which may be incurred in the near future. It was anticipated that a meeting with Sport England may take place soon.

11. EBL/WBF matters including Champions Cup

HD reported that a possible sponsor had been found for the event. It was agreed that HD would discuss the matter further with them. If the sponsorship was confirmed then AG and HD would put together an agreement to cover the sponsorship.

12. County Chairmen's Meeting Agenda July 2015

Topics for the agenda were discussed, and JD stated that he would ask for suggestions for topics from the County Chairmen and liaise with DE on the feedback he received. **Action: JD & DE**

13. Strategy Day (June) Topics

Possible topics for the Strategy Day in June were discussed.

14. Awards (Diamond Award, Tony Priday Award).

JD reported that the Diamond Awards had been presented to Tony Forrester and Nicola Smith, and that both were very appreciative. He advised that possible recipients for 2016 should be considered in the autumn.

It was also recognised that it would be necessary at the September meeting to approve both the teaching award and Dimmie Fleming award recipients, and to decide to whom the Tony Priday award would be given, and whether any Gold and Silver awards were to be presented.

15. Any other business

None