



**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 28th OCTOBER 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 16th September 2015

2.1 Accuracy

AP noted that section 3.4 should read "It was agreed that any difference between what was budgeted for use by EBED, and what was spent, would be donated to EBED, rather than going in to EBU reserves."

2.2 Matters Arising

3.1 – RL reported that the EBU Shop was now more prominent on the website. The general topic of the EBU Shop would be revisited in January when more sales figures for the financial year were available.

4 – BC reported that an intern had started working at the Aylesbury office, and she was progressing well.

RM observed that although the number of new members per month reported by BC was good, this should also be considered in relation to those members no longer playing bridge – whether removed from the database in the same period, or now falling in to the UMO category. It was recognised that all aspects of membership statistics should be considered.

3. AGM Matters:

3.1 Draft Agenda

JD reported that there was a 'notified question' in advance of the AGM. The answer had been established, but the member had been asked whether there would likely be a follow-up question so that any further information could be gathered in advance. The necessary details would be circulated to Board Members. **Action: JD**

Some minor amendments were made to the wording and order of the agenda.

It was agreed that the EBED Update would be retitled 'EBED matters', and would be positioned in the agenda alongside the minutes of the Standing Committees. It would be given purely for information purposes. As there would be changes to the staff and trustees it was agreed that JC, as outgoing Chairman, would give the report, however it was agreed that in future the board member with responsibility for liaising with the charity – presently RL – would give the report.

3.2 Special Resolutions at AGM – Standing Committee Reform

Thanks were expressed to AG for his work on this matter. The new wording to the bye-laws were approved, and it was agreed that the shareholders would be given the new wording, along with a briefing note explaining the changes. The wording of the briefing note was agreed. **Action: AG & JD**

It was agreed that each committee would be asked to address their own terms of reference, as one of their first tasks, and their protocols to ensure they were adequate and up to date.

It was agreed that if the designated board member is unable to attend then a substitute board representative may be appointed to attend in their place and they will have voting powers. It was noted that any officer of the board may attend a sub-committee meeting, so there was no necessity to include them as ex-officio members.

3.3. Chairman's Annual Report 2014-15

The Chairman's report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, was approved, with a few minor changes. It was agreed that to avoid any confusion brought about by the omission from the report of events which only occurred in the months between the period in question and the AGM, an additional page of 'key updates' would be provided with subsequent reports. **Action: JD**

3.3. Treasurer's Annual Report 2014-15

The Treasurer suggested minor alteration to his report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. This were approved, along with other minor alterations. **Action: AP**

4. General Manager's Report

BC had circulated his report prior to the meeting. He added that although progress with the migration to Workbooks was progressing well it was unlikely to go live in January as originally hoped. It was more likely to be in February.

5. Financial Matters

5.1 Treasurer's Report & August Management Account

AP had circulated his report prior to the meeting. He noted that the costs of participation in the World Championships had significantly exceeded the amount included in the budget. This was due to the teams' success meaning that they had stayed in Chennai for more days than allowed for when calculating the budget.

AP's report highlighted a fall in entries to EBU Congress events. It was agreed that the matter would be given consideration at the next meeting. JD noted that, by contrast, participation in the most recent Sim Pairs event had shown an increase on previous years. JD would speak to the Tournament Manager to ask for an update on the strategy paper he presented to the board in 2014. **Action: JD**

BC gave a verbal update on figures for the period following that covered by AP's report. This included the shop being up on budget in September, reversing the trend shown in previous months.

5.2 Schedule for 2016/17 Budget Preparation

AP had circulated the schedule for the 2016/17 budget preparation, and asked that all present consider whether anything specific should be included in the budget.

6. Judicial Review Update

Thanks were expressed to JD and IP for their work relating to the Judicial Review.

IP gave an update regarding the ruling, and the possibility of an appeal. He reported on the meeting between the officers and Alex Dos Santos, part of the legal counsel.

Based on the expert opinion which had been received the board voted unanimously to take the necessary steps to seek leave to appeal the decision. This had some urgency as the period to seek leave was 21 days from the handing down of the judgement.

It was agreed that the decision would not be made public until the necessary steps had been taken.

7. EBED Update

JC reported that the current work of the charity was continuing well. Of the three bigger projects, he reported that the one relating to the health benefits of playing bridge was progressing most steadily, and trustee Caroline Small was doing a lot of work with educational institutions to assess its viability. The 'accelerated learning' project was also moving forward, but the 'youth' project was not making significant progress.

JC outlined the forthcoming changes to staff and the need for new trustees to be appointed. The board agreed to appoint AP as the new Chairman of EBED, to appoint Mike Hill as a new EBU appointed trustee, and for him to take over as treasurer. These appointments are for a 3-year term from 25th November 2015 – the date of the EBU AGM.

RL advised that at the next meeting he wished to look at the indicators and measures by which the performance of EBED could be assessed in relation to tasks it carries out for the EBU. He would therefore prepare a paper for circulation ahead of the next meeting. It was also suggested that a representative of EBED may be invited to give a report at the EBU strategy meeting in June. **Action: RL**

8. NGS Exemptions procedure

The possible removal of the NGS exemptions procedure was discussed. A notice would be put in the next Club Management Focus newsletter, the magazine and the website, advising that the exemption policy was to be considered over the next six months, and inviting feedback from anyone who believed it should be retained.

9. EBL/WBF Matters

JD gave an update on the actions being taken by the EBL and/or WBF and/or NBOs against some of those accused of cheating. He reported that he had received a letter from the WBF legal counsel David Harris, giving recommendation of a disciplinary code, and advised that he had replied. In his reply he had stated that the letter had been passed to the Laws & Ethics Committee, and had also expressed his personal misgivings about the recommendations.

HD reported that she would be part of a new WBF committee which would look at video evidence of pairs suspected to be cheating. The first meeting would be taking place soon, and she would report back when there was any further information.

10. 2016 Meetings - Changes

The dates of the meetings which had been changed were confirmed. The next Board Meeting would be 27th January at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, and the Board Meeting and Strategy Day would be 28th & 29th June in Aylesbury.

11. Any other business

A vote of thanks was given to AP for his work as Treasurer, and previously as Vice Chairman.

JD reported that the December issue of English Bridge would be the last issue edited by Elena Jeronimidis, and acknowledged the excellent work which she had done. Her replacement will be Lou Hobhouse, who has already started work on the February issue.