



## **Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held at West Midlands Bridge Club**

**Tuesday 7 December 2010**

### **Present:**

Darren Evetts (Chairman), Sandra Squires (Secretary and Membership Secretary), Adrian Knight (Match Secretary), Jon Downing (League Secretary), Nicky Cook (Publicity Officer), Colin Lang, Carolyn Fisher, Stephanie Galvin, Peter Nicholds, Jane Hall, Elayne Meakin (Competitions Secretary), Mike Meakin, Nick Woosnam, David Hulston.

### **1) Apologies**

Hylda Townsend, Mike Thorley (Vice-Chairman), Leslie Reece (Treasurer), Myra Scott (Newcomers Development Officer), John Pyner, David Jones, George Cuthbertson.

### **2) Minutes of last meeting (29 September 2010)**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2010 were taken as read with one minor spelling correction in the Apologies from 'Elaine' to 'Elayne'.

The Chairman signed the amended minutes.

### **3) Matters Arising**

- (a) The EBU have decided to leave the qualification criteria for the NICKO and Garden Cities to the clubs.

### **4) EBU Meeting 6 October (John Pyner/Colin Lang)**

**Matters arising** – Stratification software in final development and testing stages. To be released in November to Scorebridge users

**Chairman's report** – Online marketing research survey to take place by end of year. Referred to education initiatives and the need to encourage more volunteers. Thanked key directors and others

**Treasurer's report** – Accounts for year ended 31 March 2010 adopted. Auditors reappointed

**P2P Fee** – A 10% increase to 32p was proposed as it was to cover 4 years inflation. Figures were originally based on 2007/08 figures and a higher player session projection than the actual.

Representatives stated that there is a need to establish long term forecasting of player sessions; the percentage increase was psychologically bad; there is a risk of alienating clubs who voted in favour on a 'wait and see' basis; clubs will bear the costs in some cases.

Some counties (including Cornwall, Middlesex and Leicester) were in favour others suggested no increase. A 31p rate would give the EBU a £19000 shortfall for the year which may need to be recovered next year.

On a show of hands the proposal of 32p was substantially defeated. An alternative proposal of 31p was substantially carried.

P2P for leagues – the board recommends that these and all County events become subject to a 50% stand fee instead of the licence with effect from 1 April 2012. Interim arrangements will remain until then. This will apply to team leagues and team KO competitions. Non EBU members will pay full rate.

**Green Point Licensing** – the proposed reduction of charges from £7.25 to £6.80 from April 2011 with the capping to be dropped at the same date was carried.

**Licences** – awarding points at an enhanced level will require an EBU licence. Counties will no longer be able to issue licences. Counties can organise 2 Simultaneous pairs each year without a licence. If they are for charity the non affiliated clubs can enter, but a licence would be required. This is to be effective from April 2012.

**Shareholders Meetings** – The proposed reduction to 2 was carried. New voting schedule was carried. (No change for Warwickshire.) National grading scheme in advanced stages of trial. Details to be released shortly.

**Treasurer's report** – English Bridge is making big losses. Education initiatives not doing as well as expected.

**Board minutes** – Thanks expressed to Martin Pool for help on County Constitutions. Clubs still to decide if players banned by the EBU can play at their club.

**Laws & Ethics** – TDs told that under Best Behaviour at Bridge it was a requirement not an option to impose penalties. Someone had 5 penalties at Brighton Congress. Deposits to be kept in current form. No interim changes to Orange, White or Tangerine books before 1 August each year.

**Tournament Committee** – NICKO/Garden eligibility to be decided by clubs. New playing cards with white border being produced.

## **5) Treasurer's Report (Darren Evetts)**

- (a) In Leslie Reece's absence Darren Evetts reported that he had had several conversations with Leslie in respect of the P2P fee for 2011/12. A spreadsheet had been produced showing the effect a 1p decrease would have on county finances. If no clubs disaffiliated this would produce a reasonable level of income, however if one of the bigger clubs left the EBU during the period it would have a significant effect on the income. It was therefore proposed that starting with 2010/11 the clubs would receive a percentage rebate of their fees during that year. The exact percentage to be agreed at the AGM with refunds being made shortly thereafter. The P2P fee will remain the same for the future with rebates calculated on an annual basis at a reducing percentage. After discussion it was agreed to keep the P2P fee at 7p with clubs getting a rebate in the summer. The secondary membership fee, direct membership fee and club affiliation fee are all to remain at £5.

It was noted that the county will be paying a P2P fee of 15p per person from 1 April 2012.

- (b) Leslie did not provide a report on the Warwickshire Sims income.

## **6) Competition Secretary's Report (Elayne Meakin)**

**Frank Cup** – This had been successfully held with 16 teams taking part, although there had been some problems with the scoring. The handicap system needs to be re-examined as it was not generous enough. Eight teams qualified for the Goodman. Some matches have

already taken place. Colin Lang's team beat Glyn Preece's team and Roger Bryant's team beat David Hulston's team. The remaining matches are between the teams of Harvey Brown versus Leslie Reece and George Cuthbertson versus Tony Poole.

**Garden Cities** – 4 teams have entered so far, 2 from West Midlands and 2 from Coventry.

**Warwickshire Pairs and Mixed Pairs** – 4 heats of the mixed pairs have been held with 25 pairs qualifying. There are 4 further heats to be held. 3 heats of the Championship pairs have been held with a further 6 to be held.

**Introductory Pairs** – Myra Scott is to give details of numbers to Elayne Meakin.

**Charity Sims Pairs** – Coventry have not yet uploaded their results. Ecats will finalise the event when they do so.

It was agreed that Directors should announce that mobile phones should be turned off at the start of competition. There would be a warning on a first offence and fines would be imposed on any subsequent infringement.

## **7) Membership Report (Sandra Squires)**

The county has 2103 members of affiliated clubs. In addition there are 79 BFA members and 29 members who have joined the EBU as direct members, but who have not yet joined the county. There have been no responses to the letters sent to direct members asking them to join the county.

## **8) Match Secretary's Report (Adrian Knight)**

The Tollemache team was 4<sup>th</sup> in their group, which was a reasonable result, but they did not qualify for the final.

In the county league there have been two matches since the last report. The Dawes teams had 2 losses and lie 4<sup>th</sup> in the table; the Porter team had 1 win and 1 loss and lie 2<sup>nd</sup> in the table, and the Markham team had 2 wins and lie second in the table.

Adrian reported that there had been some concerns raised about the selection of food at Coventry when the Leicester match took place. Stephanie Galvin advised that the club was aware of the problem and would rectify it.

## **9) League Secretary's Report (Jon Downing)**

The first round of the Handicap cup is being played. Matches in the league are taking place, with Divisions II and III being on target. Division 1 is behind schedule. There has been one problem with David Jones's team organising two matches on the same evening. The non offending team has been awarded the match 8 – 0.

## **10) Secretarial**

(a) (i) Darren Evetts received a letter from Moseley Bridge club stating they were concerned about the effect the moving of the WPL league had had on their club night. Darren had looked at the figures and there had been a 2 – 2.5 reduction in the tables on WPL nights. The club night had also been affected at Sutton Coldfield. It was recognised that whichever night the WPL was held it would affect one or more clubs in the county. There are no plans to change the night at the moment as the current venue can only host on a Wednesday. Darren will reply to Moseley.

(ii) The EBU have confirmed the date of the Green point event in 2012 as 20 May.

- (b) Calendar updates – Fledgling pairs – 10 April; Chick of the County – 26 June, and the Coventry Congress – 18-20 March.
- (c) Website usage – There have been 184882 hits on the website, an increase of 11410 since the September meeting.

#### **11) Newcomers Development (Myra Scott)**

The EBU questionnaire has been completed and returned at the beginning of November, and a newsletter to teachers was sent out in late November.

#### **12) Publicity**

Nicky Cooke presented a paper (copy attached to minutes) on her strategic plan for publicity of the county. She outlined the objectives, target audience, and methods and timing of communications and stated that she will need a budget of about £500 for the coming year. The committee thanked Nicky for her work and presentation. The budget was agreed subject to confirmation from the treasurer. Nicky asked the committee to send any comments to her.

#### **13) National Women's (and Men's) team event**

The EBU circulated all the Midland counties asking if they were prepared to host the Women's team event at one of their clubs. Darren Evetts responded that Warwickshire were prepared to host it. This had been the only positive response to the EBU so far.

#### **14) Green Point Swiss Pairs**

Bridgemates scoring will require West Midlands to loan Bridgemates to Coventry for the event. Leaflets for the event were available at the meeting and will be available at the Midland Counties Congress.

Catering – Sandwiches, Soup, Cake and Tea/Coffee will be available at a cost of £7.50 per person.

#### **15) AOB**

Information re magazine points had been circulated and details were in English Bridge.

It was agreed that a data base of players was essential for the county. Its development is to be discussed at a later date.

WPL raised £92 for Children in Need. This was passed to Moseley to add to their collection.

Good luck was wished to the two local teams playing in the Gold Cup Semi finals.

#### **16) Next meeting - Wednesday 9 February 2011 @ 7 pm @ WMBC. Coffee available on arrival.**