

Shareholder's Report

Besides the AGM EBU shareholders meet on one other occasion during the year. This year the meeting was on 16th May. Myself and Phil Jones attended on behalf of Kent. Malcolm was away at the time and sent his apologies.

The following matters were discussed:

1. Finances. These are tight for the next few years and we will no longer be completely financing the England teams in what has been called at various times the Olympiad and the World Bridge Games so it is likely that as has been the case in the Seniors you will be able to buy yourself a place in the England Team.
2. There are two functioning County Working Groups. Their minutes are now on the EBU website. It is not clear how much they achieve. Ourselves, Sussex and Surrey seem to be co-operating well on youth matters is there a case for a more formal arrangement across all aspects of bridge organisation between us?
3. EBED presented a report on part of the academic work being done the benefits of playing bridge. It seems to me that these will be useful in conjunction with much larger studies which it is hoped will show the physical benefits of an active mind to show that bridge is particularly beneficial.
4. Yorkshire Membership Project. The EBU has contributed towards the cost of a project in Yorkshire to increase the membership of the EBU. This has two major prongs to get more teaching of bridge and to get more of those who take bridge classes playing in affiliated clubs. A initiative to roll the best bits out across the country is like to emerge in the next year or so. However I was very struck by the effectiveness of advertising on Facebook which is perhaps something our teachers could consider.
5. Shareholders do consider the minutes of the two standing committees of the Board, the Laws and Ethics Committee and the selection Committee but do not get involved in controversies like that about the selection of the women's team for the European Team Championships.
6. Under AOB the Board floated the idea of getting rid of this meeting of Shareholders leaving only the AGM where the Board would report to Shareholders. The turkeys did not seem inclined to vote for Xmas but I did suggest that they should consider video conferencing.