



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the English Bridge Union Limited**  
**held at the Imperial Hotel, London,**  
**on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016**

**Present:**

Jeremy Dhondy	Chairman & Isle of Man proxy	Ron Millet	Board Member
Jerry Cope	Treasurer	Graham Smith	Board Member
Ian Payn	Vice Chairman and Tournament Committee Chairman	Margaret Curtis	Vice President & Essex Shareholder
Barry Capal	Company Secretary	Tony Parks	Auditor
Heather Dhondy	Board Member	Peter Stockdale	Minute Taker & Communications Officer
Darren Evetts	Board Member	Kay Carter	Reception
Anthony Golding	Board Member	Karen Durrell	Reception
Rob Lawry	Board Member	Bev Purvis	Club Liaison Officer

Shareholders			Proxy		Shareholders			Proxy
	Present	Apologies			Present	Apologies		
Avon	-			London	Mrs C Duckworth			
Bedfordshire	-				Mrs E Kay			
Berks & Bucks	RC Davey	Mrs JM Baldock	RC Davey	Manchester	Mr J Smith			
Cambs & Hunts	Mr P Grice	Mr A Bowden	Mr P Grice	Mersey/Cheshire	Mr M Newman	Mr R Lighton	Mr M Newman	
Channel Isles	Mrs P Panter			Middlesex	Dr C Raymond	Mr C Merrill	Dr C Raymond	
Cornwall	Mr JM Booth				Mr P Hasenson	Mr H J Schogger	Mr P Hasenson	
Cumbria	-			Norfolk	Mr H Patel			
Derbyshire		Mr J Parker	Mrs C Batten	North East	Dr M J Dennis	Mrs S Gill	Dr M J Dennis	
		Dr A J McCance	Mrs C Batten	Northants		Mrs M Page		
Devon	Mr T Treeby	Mr R Andrews	Mr T Treeby	Nottinghamshire	Mrs N Bainbridge			
		Dr M Hamon	Mr T Treeby	Oxfordshire	Mrs C Batten	Mr K Rodgers	Mrs C Batten	
Dorset	Mr R Heath				Mrs S Claridge	Mrs S Nicholson	Mrs S Claridge	
Essex	Mrs M Curtis			Somerset	Mr A Wilson			
	Mrs J Hartley			Staffs & Shrops	Mrs G Howard			
	Mr K Thompson				Mr P Hackett	Mrs P Booth-Jones	Mr P Hackett	
Gloucs	Mr J Simons			Suffolk	Mr M Carey	Prof R Hanley	Mr M Carey	
Hants & IoW	Mr K C Bennett	Mrs M Gale	Mr K C Bennett	Surrey	Mr J Allerton			
	Mr R Ray				Miss S Pritchard			
Hereford		Mr C Chowney	Mr J Simons	Sussex	Mr R Millard	Mr R Wheeler	Mrs J Mayall	
		Mr D Weller	Mr J Simons		Mr P Bates			
Hertfordshire	Mr G Conrad			Warwickshire	Mrs J Mayall			
	Mr M Minting				Mrs SJ Galvin			
	Mr R Teesdale				Mr L Reece			
Isle of Man		Mr S R A Baggs	Mr J Dhondy	Westmorland	Mr C Lang	Mr M Rothwell		
Kent	Mr P Jones	Mr B Crack	Mr M Lewis	Wiltshire	Mr P Green	Miss K Hodgson	Mr P Green	
	Mr M Lewis			Worcestershire	Mr P Hammond	Mr D Thomas	Mr P Hammond	
Lancashire	Mr B Brelsford	Mrs J Wright	Mr B Brelsford	Yorkshire				
Leicestershire	Mr D Benton				Mrs J Latham			
	Mr RA Smith				Mrs L Millet			
					Ms J Staniforth			
Lincolnshire	-				Mr N Woolven			

Also present: Mike Christie, Andrew Petrie, Martin Pool, Jeff Smith

Jeremy Dhondy, Chairman, opened the meeting by welcoming all those present.

## **1. Apologies for absence**

See Page 1 for County information.

JD informed the shareholders that Bill Pencharz, a Vice President, had given his resignation for personal reasons earlier in the month.

Those present expressed their thanks to John Pain, who had recently retired from the EBU, for taking the minutes at many previous AGMs and Shareholders' Meetings.

## **2. Announcement of Awards**

The following award winners were announced. JD presented the award to the recipient unless otherwise stated.

### **GOLD AWARD**

The Gold Award (EBU's highest award), is given for outstanding contribution to the management/administration of the game at national and/or international level.

Presented to **Andrew Petrie**

Andrew has been involved in giving service to bridge for a number of years. In 2003 he joined his county management committee and was also Lancashire's Tournament Secretary. He was elected to the EBU Tournament Committee in 2007 and became its Chairman in 2008.

He stood, successfully, for the EBU Board in 2007, In 2008 he became Vice Chairman and then Treasurer in 2012 before retiring from the post in 2015. Andrew gave a great deal of time to EBU affairs for which the Union should be and is grateful. He was instrumental in the introduction of Universal Membership in 2010, which changed the whole basis of membership and secured the future of the union and its members for many years to come and later did much of the work to enable the start of the charity, English Bridge Education and Development. He is now the Chairman of EBED and is leading it from strength to strength.

In the light of the preceding, the Board is unanimous in awarding Andrew its Gold Award, the highest honour it can bestow.

### **SILVER AWARDS**

The Silver Award is given for outstanding contribution and recognition of long service as a volunteer at national and/or County level.

**Mike Christie, Middlesex**

Mike was one of the main figures behind the set up of the National Grading Scheme (NGS). He was the project leader and a main figure on the working group of the time. He has maintained and developed it since it was introduced in late 2011.

**Martin Pool, Sussex**

Martin has been recommended by his county (Sussex). He is their current President and has been involved at committee level for many years. Martin is a current member and past Chairman of the EBU Laws & Ethics Committee. He was elected to the EBU Board in 2005 and served for 5 years until 2010. He was the EBU consultant on Club and county constitutions for a number of years. He has conducted a number of prosecutions in disciplinary cases on behalf of the EBU.

**Roger Amey, Norfolk** [To be presented locally]

Roger has been a Norfolk CBA committee member since 1970. A member & chairman of the Norfolk Tournament sub-committee and Congress sub-committee since 1996. NCBA Vice Chairman 1979-1980 & Chairman 1980-81 and again 1993-1996, and President 1998-99. NCBA Competitions Secretary 1980-1985 and Eastern Counties League Organiser 1988-2015. Roger has been Match Manager of two Corn Cairdis events. Jointly organised the Norfolk/Suffolk Green Pointed weekends 1992-2012 and organised Tournament Director training 1990-2014. He was a member of the EBU Board of Directors 2002-2003, a member of the EBU Selection Committee 2003-2006, and was an EBU County Representative 1982-1985 and again 1993-2015. Roger continues to serve the County and offer help wherever he can.

**DIAMOND AWARDS**

The Diamond Award is given to players in recognition of excellence and success over a sustained period for England's international teams. The nominees are recommended by the EBU Selection Committee.

**Pat Davies** [To be presented locally]

*Major International Appearances*

Women's European Championships: 1977 1981\* 1983 1985 1987 1989 1991 1995 1997\* and 1999\*

Venice Cup: 1981\* 1985\* 1997 and 2000

Women's World Olympiad: 1980 1984 1988 1992 1996

\* = 1st place

Lady Milne Trophy Selections: 1976 1977 1979 1981 1982 1987 1989 1990 and 1991

Gold Cup winner: 1991

Spring Foursomes winner: 1992

National Pairs winner: 1995 and 2002

Hubert Phillips Bowl winner: 1977

**Bob Rowlands** [To be presented in the New Year]

First ventured in to duplicate in 1962.

Member of EBU Laws & Ethics Committee 1979-1983 and the Selection Committee 1984-2005.

*Major International Appearances*

European Championships: 1966

Camrose Trophy Selections: 1970 1971 1974 and 1977

Gold Cup Winner: 2003

Crockfords Winner: 1975 and 1976

Spring Foursomes Winner: 1975 and 1987

National Pairs winner: 1976 2003 2007 2012 and 2014

Hubert Phillips Bowl winner: 1980 and 1982

Brighton Pairs, Harold Poster Cup Winner: 1967

Tollemache Cup winner: 2001

National Teams Congress winner: 1988

The Selection committee also noted that Bob had over the years contribute significantly to helping juniors by being a part of the programme which helped train them, by playing with them, by offering them accommodation when they came to London for trials etc.

In addition Bob was awarded with the John Armstrong Award, an award for those who play bridge in the best spirit. He received the award in 2010.

### **TONY PRIDAY AWARD**

The Award, in memory of Tony Priday, is given for an outstanding contribution to bridge and enhancing the game in all its aspects.

#### **Jeff Smith**

Presented to Jeff for his contribution of his bridge program which has been available without cost to clubs all over the world, is the basis of EBU Score and also is the basis for all of the EBU scoring programs in its own tournaments over many years.

Jeff was on the EBU Laws & Ethics Committee from 2002-2003, is a qualified County TD and a Premier Grand Master.

### **DIMMIE FLEMING AWARDS**

The recipients would have worked hard for bridge as volunteers in administration at county level, typically giving 10/15 years or more service:

#### **Chris Larlham – Cambs & Hunts [Already presented locally]**

Chris has been an integral part of Cambs and Hunts bridge for a quarter of a century, a stalwart of the County Committee and one of its longest serving members.

During this time (from 1992 to April 2016) he was a most efficient organiser of the Eastern Counties League (3 teams of 8), facilitating competition throughout our region and taking responsibility for both the scheduling and running of matches. From 1991 to April 2016 he also organised the Cambs & Hunts Bridge League, a competition for club teams of 4, encouraging local talent to participate and advance. These County roles alone consume more effort than probably any other committee role, and Chris has also fulfilled the role of Team Captain and also performed a legendary role as Tollemache non-playing-captain.

His extraordinary contribution at County level has been accompanied by a prodigious contribution to Saffron Walden Bridge Club. He has also advised the county, clubs and bridge community on a number of legal and disciplinary matters that have arisen over the years.

#### **Ron Heath – Dorset (and formerly Surrey)**

Ron's unpaid work for the bridge world began in 1975 **for Surrey**. He was County tournament director 1975-1982, vice president 1988, president 1989, past president 1990, Chairman 1998 – 2002. EBU shareholder 1977 to 2002. Ron was match manager for Surrey hosting the Camrose match versus Northern Ireland on behalf of the EBU in Farnborough 2002. He initiated and originally ran the Surrey One Day Green event. He was secretary ( i.e. sole organiser ) of the Metropolitan cup 1984 – 1994.

**For Dorset:** Ron has been an EBU county shareholder since 2008 and County Secretary 2010 – 2014. Ron has been a tireless worker for Dorset during his time here. He has directed, help organise including the duplimating of boards for various county events over the years. His knowledge of all things to do with the EBU has been invaluable to the committee particularly when redrafting our constitution. He continues to direct at club level and assists and guides at improver sessions. His reporting back from shareholder meetings is always efficient and informative.

He is always an excellent role model by his exemplary behavior at the table.

Ron was a member of the EBU Laws and Ethics Committee where he undertook the task of designing, printing and getting accepted the EBU20 convention card. It was not changed for 27 years



when it was modified to become EBU20A. He was a member on many occasions at appeals committees at congresses.

**David Anning – Kent**

*Sadly, David passed away before he knew of his award. It will be presented to those close to him at a future date.*

David's service to Kent Bridge began in 1985 when he became the elected auditor. He continued in this post for ten years until, in 1995, he joined the KCBA Committee as a full member. His role was that of Area Secretary for the East Kent region, the largest of the areas into which Kent is divided for administrative purposes, he only surrendered this responsibility in 2013. During that time he organised and directed the East Kent League, managing to maintain the number of teams. David trained as a Tournament Director and completed the County TD course and had been a stalwart of Kent's directing team ever since.

In 2010, he took over as Treasurer of KCBA seeing the County through most of the change to P2P with great assurance and care. The finances had always been very solid under his guidance and, when he resigned this year, he passed on an extremely healthy state of affairs to his successor. All David had done had been done in a slightly old-fashioned, and hence thorough, way. He has probably been the most reliable attendee at county and club meetings. His dedication to the game of bridge in Kent is why the KCBA Committee is delighted to forward this recommendation for a Dimmie Fleming award.

**Julia Brough – Surrey** [Already presented locally]

Julia left the Surrey committee in 2015 after over 15 years of service to the county. Nowadays when every club and county has a website as a matter of course, it is impossible to imagine life without one. Julia created a bespoke website for Surrey which was one of the first in the EBU. Not only did it list the usual events and information, but Julia tailored it to enable on-line event entries, and league results which was way ahead of anything else on the market at the time.

Julia also instigated the county's quarterly newsletter and organised its distribution via email to 500 members. She also fought a constant battle to get members to update their email addresses.

Julia was also very helpful to other members of the committee who were not as technically aware as she was especially in the early days. Requests for amendments to the website were met with helpful suggestions, and immediate action.

Surrey owes a large debt to Julia for all her work in dragging the county into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Peggy Griffin – Surrey** [Already presented locally]

Peggy joined the Surrey Committee in 1994 and served the County for 21 years.

During that time, Peggy took on many onerous tasks and fulfilled a wide variety of roles on behalf of the County, including Congress Secretary (for 10 years), Match Secretary (for 13 years), Shareholder and league organiser.

Peggy was also the County's Master Points Secretary for several years. In the days before computerisation and direct crediting, this was a particularly onerous job as at the end of the season master point cards had to be written for all the winners and league participants; in those days there were over 70 teams in Surrey's County Knockout and Plate competition, not to mention the various leagues and numerous tournaments organised by the County.

Peggy also served as President in 2000 and 2005, during which time she visited many clubs and was a great ambassador for the County.

#### **EBU/EBED AWARD – ALEC SALISBURY AWARD**

The award is made to the school teacher who has made the most effective contribution to promoting bridge.

**Stuart Haring** (Haberdasher's Aske Boys School) [To be presented at the Middlesex Congress]

Stuart has run the bridge club for many years at this school which has won the Schools Cup for the last 7 years in a row. He is inevitably turning out junior internationals (a rarity from non-bridge playing families), and all other recent previous winners have been lightweights in comparison. He has also tried to get juniors attending the Acol Club on Sundays.

#### **PREVIOUSLY AWARDED**

JD gave details of the awards which had been presented at the Summer Meeting in Eastbourne in August. These were:

**Young Pair of the Year:** Sam Behrens & Ben Norton

**Young Player of the Year:** Tom Paske

**Tom Bradley Award:** Alan Shillitoe (this award is presented to a non-serving school teacher who has made a significant contribution to junior bridge. Alan was a key contributor to the development of the Junior Award Scheme and had served as NPC and coach for the international junior teams for many years).

**Life membership:** Jim Proctor (Jim was the longest serving member of the EBU Tournament Directors' panel at the time of his retirement in 2016. He joined the panel in 1974, and had held the top rank of National Tournament Director for several decades.

Following the presentations Mr Petrie spoke to thank those present and all volunteers throughout bridge in England. He cited their invaluable and incalculable contribution of time and effort, without which the EBU, and bridge in England, could not function as it currently does. On behalf of all members he also gave thanks to the EBU staff for their work.

### **3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

The minutes were a matter of note, having been formally accepted at the Shareholders' Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016

### **4. Minutes of Shareholders Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

#### **4.1 Accuracy**

There were no matters of accuracy. The minutes were approved.

#### **4.2 Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda**

6 - JD reported that there had been no significant progress on the cases with Sport England and HMRC.

The court had postponed the date for the Sport England hearing from 9<sup>th</sup> November to 19<sup>th</sup> January. IP advised that this hearing was to seek permission to appeal the original decision. In response to a question from a representative from Surrey, he explained that if permission was granted then there would be a further hearing to contest the original decision, whereas if permission was denied then there would likely be no further action taken.

JD reported that all the necessary papers had been submitted for the case with HMRC which had been referred to the European Court, but no date had been set. He had been advised by the legal

counsel that 'Brexit' would have no impact on the hearing as a) the court would wish to seek a ruling regardless of the UK's position within the EU; b) the ruling could be applied retrospectively so was required in order to address issues of taxes already paid.

11 – JD reported that since the meeting two further pairs had been banned by the EBL and their own NBOs. The EBL were canvassing opinion on what action should be taken to reassign the medals stripped from the disqualified teams – both for the specific cases in question and also to put in place a policy should it be necessary in future. JD gave his opinion, on behalf of the EBU had not been approached to give a formal position. It was noted that, depending on the action taken, medals for the European Championships in Opatija in 2014 might be re-assigned.

## **5. Resolutions – Standing Committee reform:**

### **5.1 Articles of Association (Special Resolution)**

It was proposed by the Board that the Tournament Committee no longer be a Standing Committee. AG briefly addressed the Shareholders on the issue, and explained the simple change to the Articles and Byelaws which would be required. A public vote was held, with only one vote cast against the proposal, the remainder being in favour of the proposed changes to the Articles.

### **5.2 Bye-Laws (Ordinary Resolution)**

A public vote was held, and all present voted in favour of the change.

## **6. Chairman's Annual Report**

The annual report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It is attached to these minutes.

### **Appendix A.**

JD advised that in order to make the content more relevant he had changed the time period which it covered, extending the end date from April to August – it therefore covered 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016. In future years the Chairman's report will cover the period from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> August.

There were no matters arising relating to the report.

## **7. Treasurer's Annual Report**

JC had circulated his report prior to the meeting. He thanked Andrew Petrie, who stood down as treasurer at the last AGM, for the good position in which he had left the EBU's finances.

JC advised that even when ongoing legal costs were set aside a loss had been made across the previous and current financial year. It was his opinion that a small profit should be made across a four year cycle, so he anticipated a need to reduce expenditure whilst still providing a good service to the members. He also highlighted the need to address the balance between serving the current members, and spending to safeguard the future – he gave the examples of working to increase the membership, and investing in new technology.

A representative from Surrey asked whether there was any update on the legal costs, and JC replied that he had budgeted for the 'worst case scenario' so it was not expected to be materially worse than those in the figures previously circulated.

The reallocation of some salary costs to the accounts of English Bridge Education and Development was noted.

A representative from Cambs & Hunts asked how the budgets for international teams were calculated as many costs were dependent on performance. JC advised that it was based on predictions of performance. He added that as entry fees, and other additional expenses, are usually paid in US Dollars or Euros, and affected by exchange rates, the recent weakening of Sterling against those currencies would lead to higher expenditure in the short term.

All were in favour of adopting the report and accounts.

## **8. Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

### **8.1 Number of members by county 31/3/16**

The published list is attached to these minutes. - **Appendix B**

## **9. Treasurer's Report year to date**

JC noted that the year to date figures were down on budget, affected by expenditure on international events and the poor financial performance of the Summer Meeting – he particularly highlighted the low entry for the second weekend, though advised that the change of dates for next year's event may result in an increased attendance in 2017. He noted that although competitions were contributing to the finances, they were not doing so to the same extent as in the past, and in due course it may be necessary to rationalise the calendar, and/or have more events organised at a local level.

He advised that efforts were being made to promote the EBU Shop, and expressed his hope that the overall gap relative to budget would be closed in the remaining six months of the year.

## **10. Appointment of Auditors for the year 2016/2017**

It was agreed to re-appoint the auditors.

## **11. EBU Fees 2017-18**

JC advised that his proposed fees for 2017-18 were based at just under 3%, with inflation expected to be around 3%. These prices are attached – **Appendix C**

He reported that the new software being installed at the Aylesbury offices would enable fees to be charged at fractions of a penny, so more exact charging would be possible in future.

JC was asked by a representative from Gloucestershire why a separate Club Affiliation fee was charged, and whether this could instead be incorporated in to the Universal Membership subscription charges – the affiliation fee may act as a disincentive for clubs to affiliate. JC replied that he thought this an interesting proposal which would require more detailed thought – he would therefore consider it and respond fully at a later date.

## **12. Election of Directors**

Prior to the vote, IP asked all Shareholders to note that although there were no regulations in place regarding canvassing for votes, if there was any 'negative campaigning' in future – by any EBU members – then the Board would have no hesitation in introducing regulations and taking action against anyone who contravened them.

Three nominations had been received for two positions. Heather Dhondy (69 votes) and Darren Evetts (42 votes) were re-elected to the board. Nicky Bainbridge (28 votes) was not elected.

JD explained it would be necessary to adjust the periods of office for some of the board members so there would not be four vacancies in 2018. This situation had come about due to resignations midway through terms, and would be addressed during 2017.

### **12.1 Election of Vice-Chairman**

Ian Payn was re-elected uncontested.

## **13. Appointment of Company Secretary**

Barry Capal was re-elected as Company Secretary.

## **14. Election to the Tournament Committee**

As the Tournament Committee was no longer a Standing Committee (as per item 5) there was no election.

## 15. Election of members to the Laws & Ethics Committee

Robin Barker, Frances Hinden and Tim Rees all stood for re-election. As no other nominations for the three vacant positions were received all were re-elected without a vote.

## 16. Election of members to the Selection Committee

There were two vacancies due to terms ending, to be replaced by members serving a three-year term, and one vacancy due to a resignation, to be replaced by a member serving a one-year term. Four nominations were received. Alan Mould (70 votes) and Paul Hackett (58 votes) were elected and re-elected respectively for three-year terms. Ollie Burgess (46 votes) was elected for a one-year term. David Debbage (45 votes) was not elected.

### Additional Item

The draw took place for the prize winners in the Simultaneous Pairs competitions. Every pair who had won a heat of an EBU or EBED Simultaneous Pairs and every club who had run a heat were entered into the draw. The leading prize winners were:

Pairs winners	Players	Club
<b>1st Prize - £1000 per pair</b>	Shiv Datt & Richard Cumming-Bruce	Marylebone Cricket Club Bridge Society
<b>2nd Prize - £500 per pair</b>	Brian Smith & Ron Wall	Louth Duplicate Bridge Club
<b>3rd Prize - £200 per pair</b>	Gill Gold & Ray Green	Hexham Bridge Club

### Club winners

<b>1st Prize - £1000</b>	Grantham Bridge Club	Lincolnshire
<b>2nd Prize - £500</b>	Horsham Bridge Club	Sussex
<b>3rd Prize - £200</b>	Welwyn Garden City Bridge Club	Hertfordshire

All prize winners including runners up are listed on the website <http://www.ebu.co.uk/node/2595>

## 17. Minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors

### 17.1 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016

These minutes had been considered at the Shareholders' Meeting in May. There were no further questions.

### 17.2 28<sup>th</sup> June 2016

The meeting considered the minutes. There were no questions.

### 17.3 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016

The meeting considered the minutes.

JD explained the absence of four board members from the meeting was due to unavoidable circumstances and was an extraordinary occurrence as most meetings have a full attendance.

In response to a question from a representative from Cambs & Hunts, BC advised that the implementation of Workbooks would likely be in around 6-8 weeks – the delay had been due to a painstaking testing period to ensure it was robust when the switch took place.

JD was asked by a Middlesex representative to comment on the possible changes to the Selection Committee's Terms of Reference, as mentioned in these minutes. JD replied that the first point of action would be to discuss any changes with the Chair of the Committee, so it would not be right to discuss them more publicly before consulting with her. The updated terms of reference will now be found as an appendix to the Bye Laws on the EBU website at <http://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/official-documents/bye-laws.pdf>

## 18. Minutes of the meetings of the Laws & Ethics Committee

JD presented the minutes on behalf of the Chairman, Tim Rees.

He noted the Board's intention to establish a Prosecution Panel, to which they would recruit members. This would be put in place early in 2017.

**18.1 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

The meeting considered the minutes. There were no questions.

**18.2 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

The meeting considered the minutes. There were no questions.

**19. Minutes of the meeting of the Tournament Committee**

**19.1 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

IP presented the minutes for the meeting's consideration. He stressed that although the Tournament Committee had ceased as a Standing Committee there would be no break in support for Gordon Rainsford, and the board would seek to ratify an advisory panel in the near future. IP was asked by a Surrey representative about the original proposal for the previous Committee to continue in the short term to provide this assistance. IP advised that this was part of the original proposal – for all Standing Committees to be abolished – and had thus changed as the proposal had changed. He noted that all likely contributors to the new group were previous members of the Committee, so there would be some consistency, but an intention was to 'streamline' the group so not all previous members would be invited to join.

A Manchester representative voiced his disappointment in relation to disqualifications from the NICKO competition. IP responded to his comments, but also noted that this was not an issue for discussion with or by the Shareholders.

In response to a question from a Surrey representative, IP commented that although some aspects of the attendance at the Summer Meeting were disappointing, there were positive elements which signalled potential for growth, and any plans to reduce the competition calendar would not involve abolishing the Summer Meeting. A representative from Devon commented from experience in their county that a change of date away from the Bank Holiday weekend may make a significant difference to attendances. Paul Hackett, a member of the Selection Committee, confirmed that the dates of the Summer Meeting were unlikely to overlap with the Transnational Teams at the World Championships and would not clash with the World Youth Open Championships.

All those present joined a vote of thanks to all past members of the Tournament Committee.

**20. Minutes of the meetings of the Selection Committee**

JD presented the minutes on behalf of the Chair, Gillian Fawcett.

**20.1 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

The meeting considered the minutes.

A Surrey representative asked about the player 'contracts' issued to those playing in representative international events. He was informed that these contracts had recently been updated and would be circulated to all relevant players in due course.

**20.2 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

Due to an absence from work by the Committee's secretary these minutes had not yet been produced. JD advised that they predominantly focussed on the selection of teams for forthcoming events.

**21. Dates for Shareholders' meetings for 2017**

<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Shareholders' Meeting
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	County Chairman's Meeting
<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	Annual General Meeting

All meetings would start at 1pm, and will be held in the Tudor Room, Imperial Hotel, London.

## **22. Any Other Business**

Sussex had asked for clarification relating to recent perceived changes to the novice sessions criteria. JD advised that this was not a change, but merely a clarification of existing criteria. He advised that the new Club Liaison Officer had undertaken a number of visits to clubs during which she had answered questions and helped with understanding the regulations regarding Novice Sessions and Universal membership submissions. He added that she would be pleased to visit more clubs and invited the shareholders to encourage the clubs in their county to contact her if appropriate.

A Sussex representative raised concerns that any regulations and restrictions relating to novice sessions may not encourage new affiliations, and may be a barrier for people moving from lessons to 'full' sessions. JD explained that some clubs were permitted to affiliate whilst not yet meeting the criteria relating to the frequency of UM submissions, so as to encourage them to grow as a club and develop their membership from students to 'full players'. It was expected, however, that the club would develop and meet these criteria within a reasonable time period. In the instance of the club in Sussex in question, this development had not occurred. He also noted that the frequency of such requests was very small, and therefore any regulations were unlikely to have a significant impact – either positive or negative.

A representative from London, speaking on behalf of his club, thanked the Board for the grant scheme which had been put in place as this had enabled the club to buy a duplimate machine. JD reminded the Shareholders of the scheme which had been offered in April of this year, and advised them that it was likely to be offered again in 2017.

Closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked Shareholders for their attendance. The meeting closed at 3.45pm.

**Date of the Next Meeting is 1.00pm Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May  
at the Imperial Hotel , London**





## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION**

**1 APRIL 2015- 31 AUGUST 2016**

The English Bridge Union is the governing body for duplicate bridge in England, representing communities of bridge players at club, county and national level. It is funded by members for members and provides the infrastructure and development of the game in England. Monies are re-invested into our national game.

This annual report provides an insight in to the work that we do to support our clubs, counties and members and will be of interest to those individuals and organisations that, in turn, provide us with support to develop the game. This year it has been produced for a slightly longer period to ensure that it and future reports will be more up to date and relevant.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers that make up our national team - the Directors of the Board and all the members of its committees and the dedicated team of staff under our General Manager, Barry Capal, at Aylesbury.

A full list of national volunteers and staff can be found on the EBU website at <http://www.ebu.co.uk/biographies/ebu>

The statutory annual report and accounts will be able to be viewed on our website [www.ebu.co.uk](http://www.ebu.co.uk) shortly after the EBU's Annual General Meeting on 23rd November 2016.

### **The Board**

The Board is made up of eight directors elected by the shareholders, who are the representatives of our counties, and up to two appointed by the Board, renewable annually. The directors receive no remuneration for the work they undertake. They have legal and financial responsibilities as set out in the Companies Act 2006. The Board appointed a new director, Graham Smith in August 2016

Each director takes responsibility for one or more aspects of the EBU's business. This responsibility includes budgetary control, delivering strategic objectives and regular reporting on the work of the department and committee associated with it. For the year 2015-16 the responsibilities were as follows:

Chairman: Jeremy Dhondy

Vice-Chairman: Ian Payn

Treasurer: Jerry Cope



Tournament Committee Chairman: Ian Payn  
Board Director responsible for facilitating the strategic plan: Jerry Cope  
Board Director responsible for staff development: Jerry Cope  
Board Director Responsible for Education/Representing the Board on EBED: Rob Lawy  
Board Director Responsible for the County Working Group: Darren Evetts  
Board Director responsible for legal matters: Anthony Golding  
Editorial Board Chairman: Jeremy Dhondy  
Tournament Directors Development Group Chairman: Heather Dhondy  
Board Director responsible for Bridge Great Britain: Heather Dhondy  
Board Director responsible for European and World duplicate bridge affairs: Jeremy Dhondy  
Board Director responsible for Awards: Ron Millet  
Board Director responsible for the All Party Parliamentary Group: Ron Millet

Progress is very slow with our efforts to reclaim VAT on entry fees. At present the documents we have supplied are being translated into 23 languages. We continue to be grateful to David Ewart, our honorary Counsel, for his great assistance in representing us on a pro bono basis. We are also involved in the process of judicial review concerning Sport England's refusal to recognise us as a sport. An application to appeal is due to be heard shortly after the publication of this report.

We were pleased to have presented the first Tony Friday award last year awarded for an outstanding contribution to bridge and enhancing the game in all its aspects. It went to Bernard Teltscher.

### **English Bridge Education and Development**

Our sister charity English Bridge Education and Development (EBED) receives funds to help it operate from the English Bridge Union. It runs most of the elements of education that the EBU used to run. It runs the English Bridge Teaching Association (EBTA). It has started work on some significant projects which are a new accelerated learning project called Fast Forward for Bridge to help get new recruits to a standard where they can play more quickly than at present, a cognitive research project to provide evidence for bridge's ability to enhance the quality of life for participants and an integrated approach towards bridge for those in full time education built around the recently launched Junior Awards Scheme.

### **Finance**

The EBU is a not-for-profit members' organisation which does not distribute any surplus but retains it to invest in the future of the game. We entered 2015/6 in a healthy financial position, and therefore, notwithstanding inflation increasing some of our costs, decided to freeze our main prices for 1 year from 1 April 2016. In practice a number of areas (Universal Membership, Competitions and our Shop) performed a little less well than we hoped and we ended the year with a small operating deficit of just below £28k. We also invested around £180k in legal costs in pursuing our case against Sports England. It is worth noting that administrative expenses remain below £10 per Member. The Board feels this represents excellent value for money for Members, and will continue to keep a tight control on costs, whilst seeking to enhance service levels.

Our reserves remain satisfactory and although we will also have a planned operating loss in 2016/7 (because it is the most expensive year of the 4-year international calendar) we aim both to return to operating profitability from 2017/8, and to continue to invest in the future of duplicate bridge.

### **Clubs and Club Services**

A number of clubs affiliated during the period April 2015 - August 2016 but the total number of affiliated clubs reduced from 625 to 615. The main reasons for the reduction in numbers were falling numbers at small clubs, teaching clubs not wanting member benefits and club amalgamations. Bev Purvis was appointed as the new Club Liaison Officer in May 2016 replacing Andrew Urbanski. Visits to clubs across the country have taken place including a new initiative to contact and visit non-affiliated clubs. Work on updating the Club Management Handbook has begun and the UMS exemption for Novice sessions has been clarified with all clubs being reminded of the limited nature of such sessions. Several clubs have been assisted with applying for charitable status with the Charity Commission and with HMRC.

### **Education and development**

Most education activities are now run by the charity, English Bridge and Education. Full detail can be seen in their annual report. In the past year EBUTA, the Teacher's Association has been transferred to the charity and re-badged as EBTA.

### **The All Party Parliamentary Group for Bridge (APPG)**

The group is chaired by Bob Blackman MP; a member of the House of Commons is required by the rules to fill this position.

Baroness Henig along with the other Lords on the APPG continues to be very supportive of Bridge and the EBU.

Bob Blackman MP has raised the issue of Bridge as a Sport on two occasions at Question Time as well as raising it directly with the Minister for Culture, Media and Sport. He had also challenged the Departmental officials on the matter.

This year the APPG has, again, hosted two visits from schools that play bridge and/or minibridge and in October Heather Dhondy undertook a teaching session at the Lords.

In May 2015 Fabian Hamilton MP joined the group so that the 2 major political parties were now represented. Unfortunately for the APPG in January 2016 he was appointed an opposition front bench spokesperson on Foreign Affairs and as Parliamentary rules dictate he resigned from the APPG.

During the year the Group was approached by Briony Brock, daughter of the well-known international Bridge player. She works as a fund raising officer for Stoke Mandeville Spinal Research, a charity that among other things looks at rehabilitation techniques for those who have suffered spinal injury including Afghan war veterans. One of the techniques has been teaching and playing Bridge to those who are wheelchair bound. Further details can be seen here -[http://lifeafterparalysis.com/what-we-do/#what\\_we\\_do\\_section\\_2](http://lifeafterparalysis.com/what-we-do/#what_we_do_section_2)

The APPG agreed to become an official sponsor to Stoke Mandeville Spinal Research and this is now in place.

At the final meeting for the period held at the end of July Richard Banbury from EBED was present so that both the promotional and educational aspects were represented. Several events at school student and Parliamentary level were announced for the forthcoming Autumn period. There will also be a House of Lords reception in November to promote Stoke Mandeville Spinal Research's work in introducing Bridge to the hospital's patients. As can be seen the Parliamentary APPG is becoming more lively and active in promoting Bridge.

### **International Performances**

England's representation in international duplicate bridge competitions is an important part of the EBU's activities as a national bridge organisation. Successes at international level help to raise public awareness of English bridge and to attract new players to the game. Our participation in international events provides us with an international profile in the bridge world and it also brings more influence within the European Bridge League (EBL) and the World Bridge Federation (WBF).

The Selection Committee, made up of seven elected and two ex officio members and chaired by Gillian Fawcett, is responsible for selecting the teams to represent us internationally. It has been a good year for England at international level, with a gold medal winning performance at the European Championships, and wins in three of the five Home Internationals:

- **Open**

Following the team's 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Bermuda Bowl in 2015, their performance in the Europeans was disappointing, as they failed to qualify for next year's world championships however they did qualify for the European Champions Cup. The England Open team won the Camrose Home Internationals

- **Women**

The Women's team continued their run of medal-winning performances with the Gold Medal at the European Championships, qualifying once again for the Venice Cup.

- **Seniors**

The Senior team won the Senior Camrose for the first time since 2010, but unfortunately did not repeat their medal winning performance in the European Championships, finishing in 10<sup>th</sup> place and failing to qualify for the D'Orsi Bowl.

- **Juniors**

The Junior team won the Junior Camrose for the fourth time in a row. Two junior teams had qualified for the World Youth Teams championships by finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in the Junior Europeans in 2015, but unfortunately finished out of the medal positions.

## **Junior squads**

The Selection Committee is also responsible for the junior squads which provide training for young players. Through the hard work of squad leaders Alan Shillitoe, Michael Byrne, Sarah O'Connor and Sally Brock, supported by a number of top players who provide coaching and mentoring, the junior squad system continues to bring young players into the game and to prepare successive generations of players for national and international competition.

The U16 squad is developing well, and young players have already progressed from that squad into the U21 team for the Palmer Bayer Trophy. They performed well in both last year's junior Europeans, and this year's Youth Teams Championships. A new U26 women's squad is in development, headed by squad leader Sally Brock, and we hope to enter an U26 women's team into the Junior Europeans next year.

## **Regulation**

The Laws and Ethics Committee (L&E), made up of seven elected plus two ex-officio members under the chairmanship of Tim Rees, is responsible for the regulation of the game in England.

Updated regulations were published in 2013, including a White Book (primarily information and guidance for Tournament Directors) and a Blue Book (primarily information for players). Both publications are available electronically, free, from the website and are updated annually. Only minor amendments were made in August 2015 and August 2016.

The L&E hears cases of both a technical and disciplinary nature. During the last year, there have been three appeals to the National Authority, which is the final step for appealing a Director's ruling. All three cases had sufficient merit to be heard, with one being successful. Disciplinary cases continue with relatively low frequency. One case successfully prosecuted was where a member had been misusing the NGS opt-out facility. Most of the issues considered by the L&E are concerned with complaints of bad behaviour by players and/or committee members. The L&E encourages these issues to be dealt with at a local level, which has successfully happened in most of this year's cases. The L&E provides advice on model disciplinary regulations for clubs, counties and jointly run events. The L&E has also produced a set of model regulations for League Competitions.

Appeals from tournaments are reviewed by the L&E so that they can offer advice and ensure the consistency of decisions. An annual booklet of the major decisions is published and is available electronically from the EBU website. There has been a backlog of these – this has now been cleared, with booklets for 2012, 2013 and 2014 now available. Appeals are reviewed and comments published in the minutes of their meetings.

There is a panel of referees appointed by the L&E who hear appeals at tournaments and act as telephone referees in knock out events, on a voluntary basis. They are also called upon from time to time to give rulings from club and county events.

The L&E believes that it is important that any player can invoke the appeals procedure when unhappy with a ruling. However, there has been a spate of appeals without merit, often from people for whom a financial sanction is of little importance. Therefore, the sanction for an appeal without merit has been increased to include a score reduction.

## **Tournaments and Competitions**

For the first time in two decades the EBU ran a European Bridge League event last year– the annual Champions Cup for national teams from the top ten countries of the previous European Championships, together with the holders and the host nation's team. Run by our competitions department with a lot of help from volunteer members and financial support from Simon Gillis, it took place at Horwood House near Milton Keynes last November. It was judged to have been very successful and came in well under budget, so the possibility of further co-operation with the EBL in the future is very much alive.

The biggest change to the competitions calendar this year was the move of the Summer Meeting from Brighton to Eastbourne. It had been prompted by steadily declining entries moving us towards a financial situation that would not be sustainable for much longer, together with considerable feedback that many of our members disliked a few important aspects of Brighton – the expense of hotels & restaurants, the difficulty and expense of parking, and the unpleasant atmosphere on the sea-front when leaving the venue late at night. Although not everyone liked Eastbourne and there were some problems with the very hot period mid-week, the feedback overall was very much more positive than negative. There can be no doubt that Eastbourne provides us with the best chance of sustaining a long summer event of this nature in the future.

Other changes that have been introduced to the competitions schedule, as mentioned in the last report, have settled in to varying degrees. The Player of the Year Championship awards place-points to those ranking highly in a range of our toughest pairs and teams events, to provide an extra challenge of interest to our top players, and indeed to the rest of us who like to see how they compare with each other.

The new format Autumn Congress is approaching its third year and provides welcome variety to the standard Championship Pairs schedule. The move to having smaller Championship Pairs finals in all congresses with qualifying sessions seems to have generally been welcomed. This year was the first time we have had a new format for the National Pairs qualifying stage and there is still some adjustment to be done to make it best suit members' needs, but it certainly makes it simpler to administer and clearer to pairs whether or not they have qualified for the final.

The Really Easy Afternoons that we run four times a year at some of our congresses, with satellite events running alongside at various local clubs, seem to meet a need among our less-experienced members and we anticipate them continuing to expand. Also with the same broad constituency in mind, this year's Masters Pairs had a bumper entry of 127 pairs, up 50% on the previous year.

Many of our other competitions have continued to decline, in common with those of most other national organisations, but we are constantly looking for ways of making our events more desirable and trying to minimise price increases. Our arrangement with Bridge Overseas helps in that regard by providing us with cheap or free event accommodation. Our overseas congresses, also organised in conjunction with them, always perform well financially and are popular with the members who attend them.

## **Tournament Directors Development Group**

This subcommittee of the Board deals with the appraisal, promotion, development and management of the EBU's active tournament directors. It is chaired by Board Director, Heather Dhondy. During the period Jim Proctor decided to retire from the panel. We were sorry to see him go after so many years of excellent work and wish him well in the future. The TDDG ran a senior TD training weekend for the first time and several of our TDs attended a European Bridge League training weekend. Sarah Amos and Eddie Williams head the list of promotions, becoming National TDs, which is the highest level. The group continues its work of recruiting and training new tournament directors to continue the excellent service provided at our national tournaments.

## **The County Working Group**

The EBU County Working Group was set up by the Board to focus on County development, the key objectives of which include communications and relationships with Counties, Clubs, Members, and potential Members. The National County Working Group will explore development opportunities and make recommendations to the Board on ways forward.

The National County Working Group is currently made up of representatives from only two (Midland & Northern) of the five Regional County Working Groups (Eastern, Metropolitan, Midlands, Northern and Western), Board Members and the General Manager. Each Regional County Working Group is made up of Counties, based primarily on the Inter-County League Groups. Guernsey, Isle of Man, and Jersey (Provincial Counties) are, for geographical reasons, outside of the Regional Groups, but have each been contacted by the Group Chairman, and invited to send a representative to the National Meetings, or to communicate directly with him on any matters they would like to raise. The structure has proven successful in two Regions, Northern and Midlands, with groups starting in the Eastern and Western Region, but later folding. One meeting was held in the Metropolitan Region but, with no one to move things forward that did not progress. An attempt to form a Southern Group also proved unsuccessful. There has been no contact from the Provincial Counties.

To date the main national initiative to be developed by the County Working Groups and the Board is a Best Practice for County Associations Document. This 'work in progress' document provides a framework which Counties can adopt fully, or in part, or develop to their own requirements (feedback welcomed into the National document), which focuses on volunteering, standard practices and performance management.

There have also been some developments in the idea of Regional Support Officers, which will be trialled, in part, in the Northern Region. At a local level the Northern and Midland Groups have held Regional Improvers Pairs competitions, aimed at new players and those from unaffiliated Clubs.

In summary, where a Regional Working Group exists there is evidence that it can make a positive contribution to the development of Bridge, both locally and nationally. Where it has not been possible to form, or maintain a Regional Working Group we are not currently



engaging with Counties in those areas. The Working Groups and the Board will be looking at how to develop the National County Working group model, in light of the moderate success, with the overriding aim to ensure that all Counties have a route of engagement with the County Working Group Structure. It is important we recognise the hard work and commitment of those members who represent their County, and Region, in engaging in this process.

I hope that as many members as possible will make their views known to their Club, and County, so that we can all participate in shaping the future of Bridge in England

### **English Bridge**

The Editorial Board for English Bridge is a subcommittee of the Board chaired by EBU Board Chairman Jeremy Dhondy. During 2015-16 we have seen a change of Editor. Elena Jeronimidis retired after some years. This is a good place to thank her for the excellence of her work and her successful efforts to move the magazine forward. The new Editor, Lou Hobhouse, has settled in well and made a modest number of changes and improvements. We have completed the archive of past magazines on our website going back to 1945 and our current magazine is available online to members with some additional content.

### **Library and Archive**

The EBU Library has been sorted, catalogued and tidied with repairs being undertaken to some books. Thanks are due to member Gordon Bickley for this work. The archive of past results and other aspects of the EBU's history presented electronically has developed in the last year. One of our members is writing a book on the early years of the History of Bridge in England and it is hoped that publication will follow shortly after the publication of this report. Past magazines back to 1945 are available on the website.

### **EBU Headquarters at Aylesbury**

We have a full time staff equivalent of around eighteen, serving over 54000 members through the provision of tournaments, regulation, international support, club and membership support services including a shop providing bridge books and supplies, and communications including Club Management Focus to affiliated clubs, and Events Focus to 'tournament players'.

We also provide assistance to English Bridge Education and Development in a number of areas.

It has been, as usual, a busy year with the following notable developments:

#### **□ EBUScore**

The EBU was grateful to receive from Jeff Smith the generous donation of his scoring software. This was rebranded EBUScore and was made available to download from the EBU website on 1st October.

It is available free of charge to all affiliated clubs and counties, and to full members of EBTA, the teachers' association. It is also available to other organisations and

individuals for £50, and to date has been 'bought' by two other NBOs, clubs in six overseas countries, and sixteen unaffiliated clubs in England.

Support for the product is available free of charge at present, and is provided by EBU staff member Ian Mitchell. To date, due to the high standard of the product and its ease of use, there have been very few enquiries requiring support, and it is therefore intended to continue to offer free support in the short- to medium-term.

At the Summer Meeting in Eastbourne Ian ran two free training sessions for the software. These were well attended with around 50 delegates across the two sessions. More sessions will be held in 2016-17.

#### □ **Media coverage**

The Judicial Review, which took place in September 2015, generated considerable media interest. In advance two 'special reports' were made – one by Al Jazeera London, who attended Wimbledon BC to get some footage, and one by the Wall Street Journal who filmed at the Summer Meeting. On the days of the review EBU staff and officials gave numerous television, radio and newspaper interviews. Bridge and the case featured on BBC Breakfast, BBC News, BBC World, ITV, Channel 5, Sky News, Sky Sports, Talk Sport, 5Live, Radio4, over twenty local radio stations, and many more outlets.

The newspaper/online reporting lasted for a few days and we received notification of articles in nearly 600 outlets around the world. The international coverage included much of eastern Asia, North America, and the Middle East. All major UK newspapers covered at least one day of the case, and many included opinion or editorial pieces.

Whilst the coverage of the EBU's position and legal arguments was often incorrect, and opinion on whether bridge should be viewed as a sport differed, the media's reporting on bridge itself was almost universally positive. Its attributes of mental stimulation and social interaction were positively promoted.

The print monitoring service which we use estimated the value of the print coverage to be £1.63m (i.e. that would be the cost of paying for the equivalent level of exposure) – this excludes the coverage on television and radio, the value of which, whilst unquantifiable, would have been considerable.

#### □ **Membership database software**

A replacement for our membership database software has been sought as our existing software was both outdated and no longer supported by the provider. We hope that the new software will allow for a more efficient service to be provided to the members. We are in the process of testing the replacement product, and hope that it will be in use in late 2016



## □ Staff

Andrew Urbanski, the Club Liaison Officer, left his position in December as he wished to work closer to his home in Bristol. He was replaced by Bev Purvis who started in April.

Megan Kirk joined us in October 2015 on a one year apprenticeship scheme.

John Pain, who currently deals with Laws & Ethics matters told of us his intention to retire in mid-September. After his retirement the Law & Ethics matters will be handled by Ian Mitchell.

## □ Diary

The diary was produced by Letts, as in recent years. Due to a printing error the wrong colour of ink was used, and the EBU accepted a discount on the total cost, rather than asking for a reprint – and in so doing a large amount of paper was saved.

## **General Meetings and Shareholdings**

The EBU is a company limited by shares. Our shareholders do not get any financial remuneration, their shareholdings and voting rights are based on the number of members their county has. There are two shareholder meetings a year, one of which is an annual general meeting. This report will be presented to the shareholders for discussion at the Annual General Meeting on 23rd November 2016.

For full details of our constitution and structure please see the EBU's Articles and Bye Laws available on the EBU's website [www.ebu.co.uk](http://www.ebu.co.uk).

Jeremy Dhondy

Chairman

For and on behalf of the Board of the English Bridge Union

## **Staff Members and National Volunteers 1 April 2015 – 31 August 2016**

Details of the directors, committee members and staff can be found at <http://www.ebu.co.uk/biographies/ebu>. We are also grateful for the assistance of:

### **Honorary Counsel**

David Ewart QC

### **Pro Bono Advisor**

Stephen Barnfield

**Disciplinary Panel** (this group hears and decides on cases that are prosecuted by the Laws & Ethics Committee)

Norman Innis Joy Mayall, Kath Nelson, William Nicolle, Alan Oddie, Jackie Pye, Paul Roberts, Ed Scerri, Paddy Seligman, Geoff Smith, Jeff Smith, Keith Stanley, John Williams,

**Awards Panel** (this group scrutinises applications from counties for the Dimmie Fleming Award and makes recommendations to the EBU Board)

Margaret Curtis, Philip Mason, Jeff Morris

**THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION LIMITED**

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS BY COUNTY AS AT 31ST MARCH 2016**

NB The numbers below include anyone designated as a member on the EBU database as at 31st March 2016.

	31 March 2016								31 March 2015								
County	UM0	UM1	UM2	Direct	Juniors	for All	Total	Clubs	- / +	UM0	UM1	UM2	Direct	Juniors	for All	Total	Clubs
Avon	141	127	586	16	3	0	873	5		138	122	622	17	3	0	902	5
Bedfordshire	32	43	282	19	1	0	377	5		56	59	282	20	0	0	417	5
Berks & Bucks	758	521	1894	54	44	57	3328	35		585	489	1928	62	42	23	3129	35
Cambs & Hunts	126	126	510	11	56	12	841	15		102	99	534	11	51	23	820	15
Channel Islands	113	58	187	5	1	5	369	7		111	64	205	6	1	5	392	7
Cornwall	84	82	414	5	3	20	608	13		63	72	414	5	4	35	593	13
Cumbria	80	57	372	10	0	5	524	5		83	48	385	10	0	17	543	5
Derbyshire	118	133	572	5	4	10	842	14	-1	137	143	572	4	5	8	869	15
Devon	155	205	1027	23	3	14	1427	23		155	223	1036	26	0	18	1458	23
Dorset	81	95	387	21	0	11	595	6		103	102	399	27	0	0	631	6
Essex	373	278	1293	33	1	83	2061	27	-2	449	297	1297	32	1	83	2159	29
Gloucestershire	165	129	599	19	4	16	932	13		138	158	579	22	4	10	911	13
Hants & Isle of Wight	170	246	1058	48	2	83	1607	25		168	298	1037	48	1	33	1585	25
Herefordshire	102	59	338	6	0	0	505	10		90	49	358	8	0	1	506	10
Hertfordshire	249	321	1361	54	9	124	2118	22	+2	207	287	1338	58	8	83	1981	20
Isle of Man	3	21	71	6	0	0	101	2		9	13	86	6	0	0	114	2
Kent	396	378	1773	39	6	58	2650	32		338	419	1766	49	5	63	2640	32
Lancashire	165	234	1352	50	1	43	1845	10		145	223	1375	51	2	45	1841	10
Leicestershire	138	111	610	26	4	11	900	12		143	111	618	37	4	18	931	12
Lincolnshire	153	87	528	9	4	1	782	12	+1	142	95	534	9	0	1	781	11
London	450	359	679	139	44	18	1689	13		403	346	630	137	40	23	1579	13
Manchester	224	267	807	66	39	60	1463	9	-1	234	232	800	73	39	19	1397	10
Merseyside & Cheshire	168	147	692	24	7	29	1067	8		157	152	701	29	6	21	1066	8
Middlesex	265	233	762	109	20	36	1425	12	-1	273	260	867	117	14	117	1648	13
Norfolk	74	138	749	12	1	75	1049	22		90	157	766	10	1	38	1062	22
Northants	184	197	785	4	1	0	1171	11		167	196	697	5	1	0	1066	11
North East	248	214	1042	10	5	36	1555	22	-1	283	205	1086	13	1	29	1617	23
Nottinghamshire	80	100	521	18	3	5	727	10		67	103	537	21	3	16	747	10
Oxfordshire	201	201	987	18	125	66	1598	20	-1	164	203	980	24	94	76	1541	21
Somerset	57	94	586	24	1	19	781	15	+1	56	111	559	27	1	27	781	14
Staffordshire/Shropshire	52	180	683	35	1	1	952	13		50	109	705	41	2	10	917	13
Suffolk	117	173	711	12	3	47	1063	20	+1	113	162	730	13	3	31	1052	19
Surrey	906	912	3163	108	3	105	5197	48	+1	998	864	3175	103	4	168	5312	47
Sussex	352	409	2048	23	17	74	2923	30		398	429	2055	25	10	53	2970	30
Warwickshire	404	320	1700	17	5	38	2484	13		395	318	1738	18	7	54	2530	13
Westmorland	21	24	143	3	0	7	198	2		6	24	146	5	0	3	184	2
Wiltshire	156	106	630	17	3	59	971	15		67	126	624	17	2	110	946	15
Worcestershire	46	89	515	18	0	60	728	14		53	83	520	21	0	48	725	14
Yorkshire	469	494	2598	25	26	83	3695	34		507	481	2579	29	27	87	3710	34
Non County Members*	56	19	33	418	32	0	558	1		56	10	29	436	28	0	559	0
	8132	7987	35048	1559	482	1371	54579	625		7899	7942	35289	1672	414	1396	54612	625
Affiliated Clubs							625									625	

UM0 denotes members who have not played any club sessions in the financial year.

UM1 denotes members who have played at least 1 but fewer than 12 club sessions in the financial year.

UM2 denotes members who have played 12 or more club sessions in the financial year.

\* these include direct overseas members and members who have expressed a desire not to be affiliated to a county. The club is Bridge Club Live.



### **FEES PROPOSAL 2017/8**

The EBU should aim to generate a small surplus over a 4-year cycle on its business-as-usual income and expenditure to enable it to invest in one-off activity (eg new IT, improved equipment, etc). Our costs (mainly wages) will over time rise in line with wages in the economy, which tend to rise at RPI+1% over the longer term, over the same period, taking account of efficiencies and economies, we should expect fees to rise at around or just below RPI.

We froze prices this year, and on constant prices, we are looking at a loss of over £100k over the next 4 years. Inflation is currently forecast to rise to close to or at 3% by April 2017, so the proposed fees from 1 April are set out below. The basic increase in UM works out at 2.8%. We are currently constrained on the proposals that we can put forward to round penny increases, but the new software being installed later this year will enable us to price in fractions of a penny (rounding final total invoices) and I expect to take advantage of this facility in future years.

Membership Subscription: 37p (Last year: 36p)

Direct Membership UK: £29 (£28)

Direct Membership O/S: £34 (£31)

Club affiliation fee, via County: £36 (£35)

Licensed Club and County Events: £2.08 (£2.04)

Licensed Charity Events (including multi-venue): £1.84 (£1.80)

Non-charity multi-venue simultaneous events: £5.84 (£5.68) per venue

Blue Point events: £2.60 (£2.52)

County green-pointed events; £7.64 (£7.44)

Beginner/improver events: £0.72 (£0.72)

Events run by non-affiliated organisations (eg holidays): £2.44 (£2.36)

NOTE 1: Existing prices are in brackets

NOTE 2: The extra increase in direct overseas membership starts to reflect the increased cost of mailing English Bridge to those members.

NOTE 3: University Affiliation fees would remain unchanged at £5; there is no charge for affiliation fee for schools.

**Jerry Cope**

**Treasurer**