

Awaiting approval



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT YOUNG CHELSEA BC, 54 GOLDHAWK ROAD, LONDON W12 8HA
ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH 2016**

Present:

Ian Payn	Chairman
Terry Hewett	Vice Chairman
Jeremy Dhondy	EBU Chairman
Jerry Cope	EBU Treasurer
Peter Clinch	
Joe Fawcett	
Paul Hackett	
Gordon Rainsford	Chief Tournament Director
Peter Jordan	Secretary

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Barry Capal, Philip Mason and Eddie Williams.

The Chairman then welcomed new members Peter Clinch and Joe Fawcett to the committee.

- 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

2.1. Accuracy: agreed.

2.2. Matters Arising: there were no matters arising that were not on the agenda.

- 3. Event News:**

3.1. Summer Meeting

It was generally agreed that the move to Eastbourne had been a success. Although there had been serious problems with the room temperature mid week (due to the abnormally hot weather) measures would be taken for next year to minimise any repetition of the inconvenience.

Eastbourne had served the event well with a wide range of hotels and restaurants at affordable prices and car parking that was user friendly. The general layout of the Winter Garden also worked well and was enjoyed by the majority of the players.

The date for 2017 has had to be changed to August 04-13 because of the change of date of the Eastbourne Air Show from the second to the third weekend of August. It was felt that this would be beneficial as the Summer Meeting would not now run into the Bank Holiday weekend.

3.2. Northern Mid – week Congress

The new venue at Wakefield had proved to be successful with numbers up on last year. The date is moving to later in August for next year and there will be an extra match on the teams day.

3.3. Pachabo Cup

The secretary reported on the number of counties not sending teams this year (with the reasons why) and also on the attendance records of the last five years. After discussion it was decided not to change any of the qualification regulations for next year.

3.4. Teams results

Gordon Rainsford said that Pianola had difficulty with the display of teams when there were more than four players in the team. He said that text files were available for analysis and that it was hoped that improvements on the reporting could be made before too long. The suggestion was made that more could be done to explain to players the nature of the problem.

3.5. Guernsey Congress

It was reported that there would be a new venue, Les Cotils, for next year and that a new format was under consideration following a request from the organisers. The committee asked for more background on the reasons for the format change before agreeing to the said change.

Secretary's note: Following email discussion it has now been decided to keep the existing format for next year but to ask players for their views on the proposed new format for the following year, as well as a possible change to timings that would leave some evenings free.

3.6. Nicko qualification

The secretary reported that all entries for this year's competition had been scrutinised and a number of players were found not to be registered for their respective clubs. After dialogue with the clubs in question a number of the players in question were allowed to enter where it was proved that it was an administrative fault by the club, in other cases the players were not allowed to play.

4. Green Point One Day Events / County Congresses

4.1. Out of time changes for 2017

The secretary reported that the committee (by email consultation) had agreed to a request from Avon to run a green point event on the weekend of 20-21 May 2017.

4.2 Out of time request for 2017

A request from Gloucestershire to green point the Saturday of the Cheltenham Congress was agreed to as there was an allowance available.

4.3 Cumbria Congress 2018

As the date requested by Cumbria clashed with a heat of the National Pairs, Cumbria were asked to look for an alternative date which they duly had done. The committee agreed that applications for green point events should not be agreed to if they clashed with EBU national events, including heats thereof.

4.4 EBU 2018 Calendar

The secretary said that all the requests for green pointed days that had been received were now approved and that the calendar would be updated by the end of October.

5. Law & Ethics report.

Jeremy Dhondy spoke of the decision of the L & E Committee in May for reform of the system of appeals. There would no longer be reference to 'frivolous' appeals but to 'appeals without merit'.

In the event of an appeal being lost and being regarded as without merit then the cash deposit would continue to be forfeit as now but in addition there would also be a penalty expressed in matchpoints of 20% of a top (with an equivalent if the event was scored by IMPs or victory points). This applies as from 01 August 2016.

6. Issues raise by members

6.1 Grand Master Stars

David Wing had written to ask the committee to consider implementing a starred ranking for bridging the gap between Grand Master and Premier Grand Master.

The committee considered that the proposal should be adopted and asked Gordon Rainsford to formulate a star ranking proposal.

Secretaries note: Subsequent to the meeting the proposal that has been adopted is that one star will be awarded for each additional 200 green points over the existing Grand Master requirement, meaning that it will be possible to become a Four-Star Grand Master before reaching the rank of Premier grand Master.

6.2 Gerard Faulkner Seeding

A request for seeding the semi-finalists of the competition in the draw for the following year was received from Gary Jones. After due consideration the committee decided not to change the existing regulations.

6.3 Awards for 5-board swiss pairs matches.

Marietta Andree wrote on behalf of Richmond Bridge Club to request that awards be made for winning 5-board matches in swiss events in order to reward less experienced players. The committee sympathised with the reason for the proposal but could not agree to this change.

Secretary's note: It was subsequently suggested to Richmond BC that they consider running this type of event over two sessions in order to increase the awards available or to run them as stratified events.

6.4 Eastbourne

Paul Chapman had written to express his concerns over the Summer Meeting and make a number of recommendations for next year. As all the points had been discussed at length earlier and Gordon Rainsford had made a detailed reply to Mr Chapman thanking him for his views the committee decided that all was being done that could be done.

6.5 The Schapiro Spring Foursomes

A request had been received from David Gold that in order to be named as a winner a player would need to have played at least half of the scheduled boards over the entire event and half the boards on the final day. The committee decided to accept this but to reduce the requirement for the final day to one third of the scheduled boards.

The Committee also considered some suggestions from Tom Townsend but decided not to make any change.

6.6 Stratification of national events

A member had raised a query as to whether it was right that top class junior players should be included in stratification bands below the A level. The issue of the range of the bands was discussed and also the possible inclusion of NGS ratings.

The committee decided that in pairs events the bands would still be based on masterpoint rank but that the C band would be widened to include players below the rank of Premier Regional Master and the B band would now include players up to the level of Premier Life Master.

6.7 Garden Cities registration

A club organiser from Devon had asked for help with the qualification regulations for the Garden Cities Trophy as they felt that the county was too restrictive in the membership requirements for their qualification. Gordon Rainsford said that he would reply to the member and copy in the Devon officers explaining that the qualification process was determined by the county and any changes would be for them to make.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Paul Hackett asked if a trophy could be presented for the point a board teams afternoon on the Friday of the Summer Meeting. The committee felt that the session in question did not warrant a trophy.

7.2 The Chairman closed by saying that he was at the end of his tenure and therefore he would not be in post after the AGM and would like to thank all who had served on the committee for their help and support.

He also stated that as there was a possible change to the constitution of what has been the standing Tournament Committee a decision on the date of a future meeting should be put off until after the AGM.

The meeting closed at 4.20pm.

Peter Jordan 09.10.16