



MINUTES

1. **Present:** James Smith (JS, Chairman), Sue Buchan (SB), Brian Callaghan (BC), Heather Dhondy (HD), Chris Duckworth (CD), Steve Eginton (SE), Mike Hill (MH), Sati McKenzie (SaM), Shireen Mohandes (ShM), David Muller (DM), Kath Stynes (KS)
Apologies: Jonathan Lillycrop (JL), Victor Lesk (VL)

2. **Minutes of March committee meeting and matters arising**

Accepted

3. **Treasurer's report**

There is an issue with Quickbooks software losing data that has caused problems with producing reports. BC reported that the LMBA has about £11,700 in the bank. This is about £1,750 up on same time last year. Mike Scoltock is unwell and is not in a position to act as auditor / assessor any longer.

ACTION: BC to reconstruct Quickbooks data from bank transactions

ACTION: BC to suggest alternative auditors

4. **Membership report**

KS reported that the current individual membership is basically the same as last time: 1,1514 (from 1,504 in March). HD reported that the All England unaffiliating was a mistake – it is still an EBU club.

5. **Tournaments**

- a) **Leagues:** SB reported that all divisions are nearly complete apart from one match in division 1.

CD requested details of winners for the autumn newsletter.

HD asked about scoring – last rules said the league used discrete VP scale but seems to be scored using continuous scale.

Some discussion about prize money. Group thought it was £60

ACTION: SB to clarify rules /prizes and SaM to put details onto the website

- b) **Teams of Four Final:** Still not played. Needs to be finished in time for playoff for the Lederer spot.

ACTION: DM to chase finalists for a date

- c) **Garden Cities:** Report was circulated. 6 teams, one of the YC teams won though did not feature in next stage. Basically broke even.

- d) **National Pairs SE Regional:** Report was circulated.

ACTION: BC to check all entries paid

- e) **Café Bridge:** CD sent report about the spring event. It went well and raised a good amount for MSF.

Entries for autumn not yet open. It will be in Chiswick. SB has done some scouting. JS also volunteered to do some legwork.

- f) **Congress:** Numbers lowish at the time.

ACTION: BC to approach last year's entrants directly

ACTION: BC to check everyone has paid

ACTION: KS to do another all members emailshot

6. **Newsletter Editor's report**

No action taken yet for autumn newsletter. CD has previously said she would like to refresh format. Some discussion about this:

- Suggestion of a competition set by someone like Paul Lamford
- Archive material similar to what BC puts on the YC website
- Reviews of old / out of print books "Collector's Corner"
- Stories about rubber bridge clubs, fights in clubs, ... People like Barry Myers, Kitty Teltscher, Nicola Smith might have stories

- ShM thinks it should still be an actual newsletter rather than just blog / ad hoc articles on the website for example. Example of Barbara Seagram's newsletter which she looks forward to

ACTION: KS to produce article about the Lederer

ACTION: ShM to provide example(s) of Barbara Seagram's newsletter

ACTION: All to think of ideas for how to reinvigorate the newsletter

7. Website

Nothing major to report

8. EBU Matters

- a) **Pachabo/Corwen Online or F2F in 2024:** Carried over from previous couple of meetings. SE suggested that the EBU will have a lot of data from the recently reformatted National Pairs on how people qualified and which groups were most likely to play in online regionals/finals. SE keen that we have our qualifiers in same format as whatever EBU decides to use for the finals.

ACTION: JL to source whatever data/analysis the EBU is running on this event. Did we get this?

ACTION: Did we still want to do our own questionnaire with next mailshot? Did we agree who was putting a questionnaire together? ShM said she can produce something easily

- b) **Chairman's Meeting:** JS reports:

- New EBED Chairman
- Relations between EBED and EBU very good at the moment
- EBED has been given a large sum (~£900K). Suggestion of learning from chess how to appeal to young people
- Competitions for the future and other formats (Crockfords, National Pairs, new 9 High calendar, EBED 6 High?)
- Discussion of role of shareholders

9. Selection Matters

Metropolitan Cup date likely to be Oct 1. We want to raise 3 teams.

ACTION: HD to sort the A teams

ACTION: SE to approach Paul Lamford to form a B team and Ned Paul to form a C team.

10. Disciplinary Matters

Nothing to discuss

11. Any Other Business

- a) **Dates for next year:** Agreed
- b) **Junior funding:** Abbey Smith has approached London to subsidize a junior. We agreed to co-fund if EBU / EBED would fund based on their eligibility criteria.
ACTION: JS to draft an email and circulate
- c) **Handovers:**
- **KS handover:** KS circulated a list of current activities. KS agreed to remain notionally on the committee (because of Lederer role) though unlikely to attend any meetings... SE volunteered to take over membership secretary. Some discussion about whether we should continue to use Mailchimp or if use email capability of BridgeWebs.
ACTION: KS to schedule session with SE, ShM and SaM to hand over current processes
 - **JL handover:** JL has agreed to stay on as London Chief TD
- d) **Other**
- **Merger with Middlesex:** CD thought this might be on the agenda after some discussions with Peter Hasenson but it seems Middlesex is no longer interested in this possibility
 - **New event:** ShM proposed a new format of competition – 3 beginner/intermediate players in a team with 1 more experienced player. (Maybe 3 Jack or lower with 1 Ace). Format has been very successful on RealBridge and players in New Zealand have participated very enthusiastically. Committee expressed interest in exploring this.
ACTION: ShM to progress

Next Meeting: Sep 19th after the AGM.