



## Minutes of Council Meeting held at West Midlands Bridge Club

Wednesday 11 June 2008

### Present:

Colin Lang (Chairman), Darren Evetts (Secretary), Leslie Reece (Treasurer), Jon Downing (Vice-Chairman), Stephanie Galvin (Master Points Secretary), Jane Hall, David Hulston, Peter Jupe, Beryl Latham (Admin Secretary) John Pyner, John Robbins (Match/Selection/Publicity Secretary), Sandra Squires (Membership Secretary), Mike Thorley, Pip Whitehouse (Tournament Secretary), Margaret Wort

### 1. Apologies

Dave Cropper (Youth Officer), Carolyn Fisher, Hylda Townsend

### 2. Minutes of last meeting (160408)

The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read and signed.

### 3. Matters Arising

None

### 4. Election of Committees

*The Following were elected at the AGM (010608):*

<b>Chairman</b>	Colin Lang	<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Jon Downing
<b>Secretary</b>	Darren Evetts	<b>Treasurer</b>	Leslie Reece
<b>Admin Secretary</b>	Beryl Latham	<b>League Secretary</b>	Jon Downing
<b>MasterPoints Secretary</b>	Stephanie Galvin	<b>Match Secretary/Publicity</b>	John Robbins
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Sandra Squires	<b>Tournament Secretary</b>	Pip Whitehouse
<b>Youth Officer</b>	Dave Cropper	<b>Newcomers Development Officer</b>	Vacancy

### Non-Representative Members (10 Max):-

Carolyn Fisher, Dodo Gerogevic, Jane Hall, Rob Helle, David Jones, Alan Pagett, John Pyner, Hylda Townsend, Nick Woosnam

**Ex-Officio Members:** None

*The following Committees/Working Parties were elected:*

**Co-Opted Members:** Roy Moore, Norman Selwyn

The following Committees were elected:-

### Selection Committee

Jon Downing, Colin Lang, John Pyner, John Robbins, Pip Whitehouse

### Tournament Committee

Jon Downing, Darren Evetts, David Jones, Colin Lang, Alan Pagett, Leslie Reece, Pip Whitehouse

### **Conduct Committee**

Jon Downing, Darren Evetts, Colin Lang, Roy Moore, John Robbins, Norman Selwyn

### **Laws & Ethics Committee**

Darren Evetts, Colin Lang, John Pyner, Norman Selwyn, Nick Woosnam

### **EBU Shareholders**

Colin Lang, John Pyner, Leslie Reece

### **WebSite Working Party**

Darren Evetts, Roger Twyman

### **Midland Counties Congress Committee**

Jon Downing, Darren Evetts, Colin Lang, Leslie Reece

### **Warwickshire Pairs League & Competitions Working Party**

Jon Downing, Darren Evetts, Steve Green, David Jones, Elayne & Mike Meakin, Maggs & John Pyner, John Robbins

## **5. Treasurer's Report – Leslie Reece**

With the new competition/WPL format coming in it is difficult to judge how this will impact upon finances.

The question of the non-payers in last years GolfPrint event was raised – investigations had not revealed who they were – agreed to write off these payments.

## **6. EBU Shareholders Meeting 4 June Report – John Pyner**

The meeting reported the death of Ian Spoor (Tournament Director). Looking at £90-£100K profit this year but next year looking at about £20K loss. The question of Charitable Status is pending Government Legislation.

A Television programme relating to Bridge was filmed in March – see Website for details.

Easter Congress at Blackpool cancelled now at Palace Hotel in Buxton, Spring Congress London and Spring Fours saw a 20% increase. Newcomers Pairs which was postponed this year will be replaced with Real Easy Congress an event organised by John & Gill Pain of the EBU.

Premier League – Concern expressed about players from other nations are playing in an event designed to identify pairs/teams for national selection.

## **7. EBU Strategy Update – John Pyner/Colin Lang/Leslie Reece**

On 27 May 2008, EBU Chairman emailed all Shareholders with following commitments (summarised) if p2p was passed:

- To set up permanent Club Committee of the Board and provide Club support for the implementation process. The p2p project will be 'club-driven'.
- To set up a Project Board responsible for strategic management, and to ensure its members and those of p2p implementation team have appropriate IT and business skills
- To rigorously examine the IT process at every stage before going live.
- To conscientiously review the EBU operations, systems, processes and structures.

On 4 June, the Shareholders voted by 52 to 31 in favour of p2p. In percentage terms it is equal to 62.6% for and 37.4% against – a convincing win, even better than expected.

All 3 shareholders for Warwickshire voted against, reflecting the overwhelming wishes of the membership as previously expressed. The breakdown by County is available on EBU website. It is interesting that 4 Counties voted in both directions, and 2 shareholders abstained.

Chairman announced that the Club Committee and Implementation Board would now be set up, and that in approx 1 year, Clubs would receive a package (including contract) for affiliation on p2p basis.

Effect of p2p has serious implications for voting rights of Counties. Changes in the Bye laws and Articles of Association of the EBU will be needed, and will be submitted for approval of Shareholders at AGM October 2009.

The EBU and Counties will not know actual level of disaffiliation until Clubs respond to that next year. The consequences of disaffiliation for all concerned are serious. Go it alone? Free for all? County funding?

Discussion ensued and concern expressed about how clubs would be asked to sign contracts whilst not fully knowing the impact of the future. The change in constitution was looking solely at voting rights and how shares are distributed.

#### **8. WCBA County Strategy – Colin Lang/Darren Evetts**

- New formats of competitions were circulated and comments invited asap. Rules will be published early in July.
- First Wednesday of the Month Events – Support needed to ensure these are a success.
- Birmingham Pairs League - it appears that this event is being set up without a licence or any form of affiliation. It was suggested that this would be sought when support for the event was ascertained. Moseley Bridge Club is being hired to host the event.

#### **9. League Secretary's Report – Jon Downing**

- Incorrect match result given – League Tables Updated.
- Handicap Won by the Hackett (West Midlands A) Team.

#### **10. Tournament Secretary's Report – Pip Whitehouse**

- **Ladies' Pairs** – 12 pairs competed – Winners: Carolyn Fisher & Jane Hall
- **Men's Pairs** – 12 pairs competed – Winners: David Hulston & Paul Cotterill
- **Goodman Cup** – Winners: Roger Bryant, Rob Helle, Steve Green, Graham Link, David Kenward
- **Cock O' County** not bringing in the numbers we'd hoped for! Conflicts with Corwen and Harrogate Congress.
- **Garden Cities** – Coventry A Qualified for the National Final on the 21<sup>st</sup> June.

#### **11. Match/Selection Committee/Publicity Report – John Robbins**

New Midland Teams Challenge Event – The first of these events was held on Sunday and attracted 18 teams. Congratulations to winners Susan Stockdale, Darren Evetts, John Robbins and Tony

Poole. Congratulations to Hereford for a well run event and particularly to Susan Sharp of Worcestershire for setting up the new format.

County Matches with Lincolnshire – It was noted that some Counties have organised a half way venue. This year Lincolnshire are coming to Warwickshire but agreed to look to the half way venue for future years.

The question of the County selection process was raised again. Agreed that the County Match analysis should be published on the Website (agreed for new system). It was noted that we have a wealth of good players and that openings were limited. An attempt would be made to include players who perform well in County events in the Markham team.

## **12. Secretary's Report – Darren Evetts**

**Correspondence:** Letter regarding the reporting of successes in the County News and how some people are missed – John Robbins asked to ensure that winners of events are included. The nominated County Charity would be drawn at the next Council Meeting, Leslie to write to Clubs asking for suggestions.

**Calendar Updates:** 2008-9 Programmes issued at the AGM (for County Members) – more available from Darren.

**Website Report:** Hits to date: 33525 and increase of 2313 since the last meeting. Progress being made to move the Website to Bridgewebs and particular thanks to Roger Twyman for his time and expertise in achieving this.

**Midland Counties Congress:** Proceeding as usual but the Committee are looking to using Bridgemates for the 2009 Congress.

## **13. Green Point Event Review – 11 May 2008**

22 Teams competed. WMBC agreed a 50/50 profit share which is fortunate since a loss would have been made if room costs were at previous years' levels. The profit for this event is £360.

## **14. Youth Officer's Report – Dave Cropper**

Nothing to Report.

## **15. AGM Issues**

Deferred

## **16. AoB**

New Laws August 1<sup>st</sup> – Affiliated Clubs will receive a free copy available from Darren. Possibility of running a familiarisation session for club TDs.

## **17. Date of next Council Meeting – Wednesday 15 October 2008 @ 7.00pm – West Midlands Bridge Club. Coffee available upon arrival.**

D Evetts

12 June 2008