



**Minutes of Council Meeting held at West Midlands Bridge Club
Wednesday 13 June 2007**

Present:

Colin Lang (Chairman), Darren Evetts (Secretary), Carolyn Fisher, Jane Hall, Barry Holloway, Alan Pagett, John Pyner, Myra Scott, Hylda Townsend, Pip Whitehouse

1. Apologies

Ann Bailey, Stephanie Galvin, Leslie Reece (Treasurer), Nick Woosnam

2. Minutes of last meeting (180407)

The minutes were amended (grammar error) and clarification of Warwickshire Pairs Rules made – A one day, two session event with qualifying round in the afternoon and a flighted evening session (the consolation final will be an open event). Then agreed and signed.

3. Matters Arising

Colin confirmed that we have received sponsorship from Bigwood Chartered Surveyors in the form of £200 for the Cock O' the County and £1000 general sponsorship.

4. Election of Committees

The following were elected at the AGM:

Chairman	Colin Lang	Vice-Chairman	Jon Downing
Secretary	Darren Evetts	Treasurer	Leslie Reece
Admin Secretary	Beryl Latham	League Secretary	Jon Downing
MasterPoints Secretary	Stephanie Galvin	Match Secretary/Publicity	John Robbins
Membership Secretary	John Birch	Tournament Secretary	Pip Whitehouse
Youth Officer	Vacancy	Newcomers Development Officer	Myra Scott

Non-Representative Members (10 Max):-

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

Co-Opted Members: Roy Moore, Norman Selwyn

The following Committees were elected:-

Selection Committee

Jon Downing, Dodo Georgevic, 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

John Pyner, Colin Lang, Leslie Reece

WebSite

Darren Evetts

Midland Counties Congress Committee

Darren Evetts, Jon Downing, Colin Lang, Leslie Reece

Warwickshire Pairs League Working Party

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

5. Treasurer's Report – Leslie Reece

No report for current year.

The question was raised about holding WCBA events at clubs who seemed to be charging a higher rate than others for using the premises etc. Unfortunately no one was in attendance that had been dealing with this matter. It was reported that historically clubs would donate the use of the premises and charge for teas; over the years this had increased to a room hire charge. It was agreed that the 07-08 programme would run as published with regards to venues.

The treasurer would be asked to provide a detailed analysis of charges for events.

6. EBU Shareholders Report – John Pyner

The EBU treasurer reported that in the year 2006-07 there would be a surplus of approximately £70K but 2007-08 looked to make a loss of approximately £30K. The Bridge Shop is just about holding its own.

The Tournament Committee reported that the Ranked Masters format would be changed to bracketed pairs. The overseas congresses would be reduced to one.

The EBU is seeking charitable status (if successful clubs would also be able to apply). It was noted that Subs would not be subject to gift aid.

Universal Membership was proposed for implementation by 2010. County Representatives required to feedback to shareholders meeting on 3 October. The outline of the proposal is as follows: No annual member subs (lapsed and new members would pay a £5 charge); A number of benefits to clubs and members are outlined in the Strategy Document (available on the website or by request). EBU member fees would be collected by a levy placed on table money. Club affiliation fees would depend on the number of sessions held during the week – 1 session £50pa, 2 sessions £75pa etc up to a maximum of £150pa. Counties would receive a percentage of fees collected.

Agree to hold a **special club Secretary's (or his/her nominated representative) and Council meeting on Wednesday 12 September 2007, 7pm at West Midlands BC**. This will allow discussion about the proposal and Council will prepare a formal response to be fed back at the EBU Shareholders meeting (3 October) by our representatives. A reserve Council meeting was added for Wednesday 19 September in case of insufficient time at the meeting on the 12th.

7. League Secretary's Report – Leslie Reece/Jon Downing

Nothing to report on league. Oldbury, Wolmald, Flood and Whitehouse won the Handicap.

8. Tournament Secretary's Report – Pip Whitehouse

Cock O' the County – Coventry swept the board winning all prizes! Winners: Maggs Pyner & Vic Garrod. The addition of prizes for the highest pairs below National Master and Star Master did not yield as much response as we had hoped, but we will persevere with special prizes for lower ranking players. It was commented that there was now more bridge available, and on the Internet.

Foster Cups – 7 pairs played – Staffs also managed only 7 pairs. Worcestershire won the event.

Goodman Cup – Wood beat Green by a close margin.

Simultaneous Pairs – 146 Pairs Competed with Carolyn Fisher & Sue Goldman winning. Much better than last year with movements being sent out – cost implications here though. Making them available via the website should reduce this. One club did not send results in because they could not get a cheque signed –

ensure clubs know that this is not a problem and the results should be sent in within 24 hours. Letter received expressing concerns about the balance of points for North/South when only 26 of the boards are played. It was noted that a pair who played NS on the same session won the event. Little can be done to ensure a totally fair balance with random deals. It was noted that there were a number of errors in the hand booklet.

9. Match/Selection Committee Report – John Robbins

Corwen & Pachabo – Unfortunately Warwickshire did not finish well in either of these events.

10. Secretary's Report – Darren Evetts

Correspondence:

- Brian Barrett - letter of condolence re Michael Allen
- Worcestershire re County Invitation Teams – Suggesting alternative to running individual invitation events – seems sensible – agreed to pursue idea of one event between three Counties – did the proposal include a change to the Foster Cups format?

Calendar Updates

- **Gibbons Trophy** – CBC moved to 4 November to avoid clashing with the rescheduled seniors congress.

2007/8 Programme - Circulated and now being amended!

Website: Hits since May 2005 are 21642

Midland Counties Congress - 2008 Brochure available on Website – Format and arrangements proceeding as in 2007.

11. Newcomers Development Officer's Report – Myra Scott

As yet, no interest in Newcomers' event – 08 July. Will decide by 30 June whether to go ahead or not. Meeting for teachers planned for Wednesday 26 September, 7pm at WMBC.

12. MDAG Report – Colin Lang/Myra Scott

Nothing to report however it is possible that a future inter County meeting will be called in September in light of EBU Strategy Proposals.

13. Green Point Event – Sunday 13 May 2007 – Sutton Coldfield Bridge Club

28 Teams competed (42 in 05, 34 in 06). Wine prizes were well received! Thanks to Sutton, David and their teams for their hard work in organising and running the event.

14. AGM Issues

Colin referred to the Chairman's corner that would be included on the Website and available soon. (www.warwickshirebridge.co.uk)

The cost of EBU events was discussed – whilst it was felt that EBU fees are more expensive now there they are still competitive compared to other pastimes.

15. AOB

Best Behaviour at Bridge – We should be promoting this policy as much as possible.

Sponsorship Money – How should we use this? WPL a possibility.

16. Date of next Council Meeting – Wednesday 28 November 2007 @ 7.00pm – West Midlands Bridge Club. Coffee available upon arrival.

EBU Strategy Proposal meeting - Wednesday 12 September with a reserve Council meeting on Wednesday 19 September.

D Evetts
June 2007