

7th June 2009

P2P Club Representatives Meeting (Surrey)

Apologies: Mary Street (Dell), Barbara Herrold

Attendees: see separate file

Andrew Jenkins [AJ] gave a brief introduction, explaining his background as a volunteer for the EBU Club Committee, the manager of the Acacia Bridge Club, his participation on the Hampshire County Committee, and with it, his relationship to John Carter who is involved in the P2P administration within the EBU.

Andrew clarified that this meeting was for club representatives to ask questions, but that the documentation that has been sent by the EBU is fixed, and will not be changed based on the results of the meeting, hence out of scope for discussion. The detail of the implementation can still be discussed and amended, but the Club Contracts cannot.

(further minutes are captured as questions and responses, segmented into those answered at the meeting, those answered from a later telephone discussion with Barbara Herold, and those which remained unanswered at the end of the meeting – questioners are identified where known)

Questions answered at the meeting

[?] Surrey P2p levy –why 0p? [Chris Stableford] Explained Surrey CBA's reasoning for minimising the financial impact on clubs during the first year of P2P and clarified that this will be revisited after the 2010/11 season.

[Paul Shannon] Can we have details of how results will be exchanged with the EBU? [AJ] ScoreBridge will be updated in July to accommodate the changes necessary. Clubs will be involved in trials towards the end of this year. *[Post-meeting: the EBU Shareholders meeting minuted that trials will take place Jan to March 2010 – Surrey will endeavour to get Clubs involved – volunteers welcomed]*

[Colin Thomas] Can they try their scoring system exchanging data with the EBU before P2P comes in? [AJ] Advised to request the EBU to be involved in the trials.

[Paul Shannon] What happens if things go wrong? [AJ] Confident that the systems will work, due to detailed testing and Club trial process.

[Paul Shannon] Understands that there is no agreement between the EBU and Stephen Bligh for the continued support for ScoreBridge? [AJ] There is an agreement currently, but unaware of the future.

[Paul Shannon] Is there an ESCROW agreement in place? [Chris Stableford] Yes, there is.

[Sylvia Timberlake] Do we need to send Club Membership Information to the EBU via e-mail? [AJ] Yes.

[Jill Page] EBU magazine will be bi-monthly, need to have paid 12 P2P sessions to receive. [AJ] Assuming club affiliates, first 2 magazines will go to every member – the EBU will then assess the number of sessions on a pro-rata basis (exact number TBD) to decide who should receive the August magazine and the diary. This may not be a hard and fast rule, exceptions will be permitted.

[?] Most of the people are members of the EBU because they want the Master Points, but Master Point scheme does not reflect ability. [AJ] Explained that National Grading system will reflect current ability as opposed to the Master Point scheme that will reflect lifetime achievement.

[?] Can members still become individual members? [AJ] if your club affiliates, it is automatic; if your club does not affiliate, you can become a member either by playing an individual subscription or by finding an affiliated club which will take you as a member.

[Sylvia Timberlake] Can players get master points at a non-affiliated club? [AJ] No.

[Richard Collins] On the option to pay P2P invoices monthly or bi-monthly – this may affect how many P2P sessions are registered with the EBU → who receives magazines. [AJ] ScoreBridge will upload results to the EBU along with uploading to a web site – the time frame for paying the invoices is not related for the time frame to submit results.

[Malcolm Channing] Will there be an issue with correcting scores after they have been uploaded? [AJ] No, it will be possible to re-upload results if they have been changed due to errors in the score.

[Colin Thomas] Would it not have been best to retain the existing membership mechanism in parallel with P2P to allow teething troubles to be identified and resolved? [AJ] This has been 3 years in discussion, which has allowed a long time for discussion to resolve issues.

[Paul Shannon] What do we do with Club internal Teams competitions, where scoring may be manual? [AJ] When scores are collated, Master Points can be issued by ScoreBridge. [MC] National Grading System (NGS) requires that all results need to be entered? [Colin Brick] ScoreBridge has a facility to enter these events for MPs and NGS.

[Frank Marshallsay] What is the status of ladder events? Will additional Master Points awarded attract a P2P fee? [AJ] No, the additional ladder event Master Points awarded will not attract a further P2P charge.

[Frank Marshallsay] If a player chooses to remain anonymous, will the club results only be allowed to show their pseudonym? [AJ] Yes.

[Frank Marshallsay] What access to Club data held by the EBU will Club representatives have? [AJ] Club representative will have a certain degree of access to Player information to amend/correct it.

[Marietta] Have the EBU finalised the mechanism to update member information which the EBU holds? [AJ] No, not yet.

[Geraldine Brock] 29p P2P rate has been set – what happens if there is a major financial shortfall?

[AJ] EBU are confident that they have the reserves to survive a shortfall and adjust plans thereafter. If take-up is hugely lower, then there could be an issue, but the Board is confident that this will not be the case.

[Geraldine Brock] Will there be an annual review of the 29p P2P rate? [AJ] Yes. EBU board will review each June, and propose a revised rate – could go up as well as down – will be put to Shareholders at the EBU AGM in October. Clubs will need to decide whether to remain affiliated by December of the prior season.

[x] What was the thinking behind the £30 affiliation fee? [AJ] Similar to what happens now, effectively a registration to play events like the NICKO.

[Sylvia Timberlake] Is Club Insurance deal restricted to clubs with less than 100 members? [Terry Hewett] This was the original case, but the scheme has been expanded to address larger clubs – now, ~90% of clubs should be covered by the policy.

[Sylvia Timberlake] Have the EBU considered price-capping an increase to the 29p rate? [AJ] There is no price-cap in place, but we don't know whether the EBU have considered it.

[Malcolm Channing] Member rebates – are we confident that the EBU have the systems to communicate this to members? [AJ] The EBU will send out cheques to all players who have played more than 150 sessions, and have merited a rebate of >£5. It may be that such sums may be optionally used for competition entries too.

[Paul Shannon] Why have the EBU not take steps to contact Bridge Teachers and/or non-affiliated clubs to try to increase membership that way? [AJ] Not aware of any such steps.

[Chris Stableford] What will happen to Master Points won by non-members in the future? Will there be a suspense facility at the Club or at the EBU? [Jill Page] Documents from the EBU say that if the clubs provide a name and abbreviated address (postcode), then the EBU will retain the master point data to allow them to register. *[A Post-meeting question has been raised to the EBU Club Committee asking them to clarify whether this facility will also be available to the County for events where non-EBU-members play and win Master Points]*

[Colin Thomas] What are the benefits for people who join the EBU direct? [AJ] Exactly the same as for members who join an Affiliated Club.

[x] It appears that the EBU have turned their back on clubs where low percentages of players are EBU members – will the contact details be retained in an attempt to attract these clubs back into the fold? Cost was originally low, but is not under P2P. [AJ] Outlined the broader picture – there is a belief that the EBU was for the tournament player, and did not have much relevance for the ordinary club player – the EBU management now are much more down-to-earth bridge players, and the EBU is changing to be much more representative of the average club player, trying (albeit slowly) to adjust to be more relevant than they were before. Clubs of this type were gaining all the benefits of the EBU without contributing as much to it, but the new system makes a more even contribution. Certainly not the intention that clubs who choose not to affiliate will be abandoned - EBU will assess how many disaffiliate and what resources they have to bring them back into the fold.

[x] Possibility of social membership of a club was discussed [AJ] Too administrative, too costly and therefore not cost-effective.

[Malcolm Channing] Club Affiliation Fee is £30 however many sessions they play per week [AJ] Deemed the fairest scheme

[Paul Shannon] National Grading Scheme – is there information on this? [AJ] Rankings between 2 and Ace, scored according to you performance (and your partnerships). Players will be able to review their own rankings as soon as results are uploaded. Results based on the last 1000 boards played. New members will be graded as average, effective rating only applies after 600 boards. *[Post-meeting the EBU is preparing detail for dissemination via the web site]*

[Marietta Andree] What will the ratings be used for? [AJ] indication of current playing performance, which might be more relevant than master points, and the possibility of running handicapped or flighted events.

[Sylvia Timberlake] How can non-IT players find out their grading [AJ] Club secretary should have access to all club members' grading.

[Paul Shannon] Direct membership is set as £23 – seems expensive [AJ] broadly speaking what individuals pay now.

Questions answered from a later telephone discussion with Barbara Herold

[Colin Thomas] Can non-EBU members play in any or all County competitions? Will the Surrey 30K teams and pairs, newcomers teams and pairs, be open to non-EBU members? [Barbara Herold, by telephone] County Competitions will not be available to non-EBU members except for the lowest division of some league events. *[A Post-meeting clarification from the EBU Club Committee has confirmed that Surrey CBA will still be able to run the Newcomers Teams & Pairs plus the 30K Teams and Pairs events as now, open to non-EBU-Members as they are now. Master Points won by non-EBU-members at these events cannot be provided by Surrey CBA as paper points; we are still trying to establish whether on provision of a postcode, they can be held at the EBU in case such non-EBU-members join at a later date, and then credited.]*

[Chris Stableford] Will Simultaneous Pairs events run by Surrey or the BGB be open to non-affiliated clubs, and if so, how will Master Points be credited? [Barbara Herold by telephone] For Simultaneous Pairs events which are not EBU-run, no Master Points will be issued. EBU-run events will only be open to Affiliated Clubs. *[A Post-meeting clarification from Sally Bugden at the EBU has confirmed that Surrey CBA will still be able to run the three Simultaneous Pairs events, and that non-Affiliated Clubs will be allowed to participate in Charity events ONLY). Master Points won at non-Affiliated Clubs CANNOT be credited to EBU members' records, even if their EBU numbers are sent to Surrey CBA with the results.]*

[Marietta Andree] The route to upload results may suit some clubs but not others – clubs with many sessions might prefer to send through results once per month, rather than rely on a large number of disparate volunteers to co-ordinate their activities. [Barbara Herold by telephone] Uploading results monthly in a batch rather than as sessions played will be available through ScoreBridge.

[Colin Thomas] Are we going to change the voting mechanism within the EBU to members, or retain the current Shareholder approach? [AJ] It will be much easier to change that model once P2P comes into being; Sally Bugden is aware of this question. It is something being discussed, but no decision has been made. [Barbara Herold by telephone] On the 1-member, 1-vote question, no decision has yet been made.

[Frank Marshallsay] What is the policy for recently-lapsed EBU members – will they retain their old master points? [Barbara Herold by telephone] Lapsed members; if you can be matched by postcode, etc., then former ranking will be valid, if can't be matched, then lost.

[Marietta Andree] If new members join a club after the initial upload, how does that information get to the EBU? [Barbara Herold by telephone] Notification of new member data to the EBU can be done via ScoreBridge as a stand-alone activity, but clubs will need to upload that data.

[?] When do Clubs have to make a decision on affiliating? [AJ] The target is August, but if no decision has been received by that time, the EBU will not assume non-affiliation. [Geraldine] Club has contacted the EBU and been told that the middle of October is accepted. [Barbara Herold by telephone] 31st December is final date for a decision to affiliate.

[Jill Page] Rubber bridge players – should we put these names in to the EBU? [AJ] They become members of the EBU, hence they could receive the first couple of magazines. [Barbara Herold by telephone] This is essentially up to the club; if clubs don't tell the EBU about them, then the EBU will not regard them as members.

[Paul Shannon] How much is the exercise of establishing P2P costing? [Barbara Herold by telephone] Set-Up fee for P2P is available on the EBU web site, but not to hand at the meeting.

Questions answered from a later e-mail from Barbara Herold

[Colin Thomas] Can monthly social events be played without attracting a P2P fee in an Affiliated Club? [Barbara Herold by e-mail] Providing they meet the criteria listed in the P2P guidelines, i.e. rubber bridge, Chicago, supervised educational sessions of up to 16 boards duration and approved charity events. The question does not state exactly what form the monthly social events take.

[Paul Shannon] When Club membership information changes, how will this be communicated with the EBU? [AJ] ScoreBridge will be extended to accommodate this exchange. [Marietta Andree] Felt that this was not correct. [Malcolm Channing] Unhappy about the security aspects of exchanging personal data unencrypted. [Barbara Herold by e-mail] It can either be done by the club secretary via ScoreBridge or by the individual who will have access to his/her own personal data with the EBU. Everyone will receive their own personal login ID whereby they can access and change their personal details. Doing it via the web interface means it will be SSL secured. The reply I have received from the EBU regarding encryption of emails is that it would be unenforceable and unworkable for many clubs.

[Gerry Burgess] Clubs may not have access to personal information at present. Would it be possible to have members' addresses as "Care of the bridge club" so that they do not need to submit

personal info? [Barbara Herold by e-mail] Clubs will be asked to obtain personal information. If someone has a problem with their own personal information being submitted via ScoreBridge then the answer above remains a solution.

[?] If EBU asked new members whether they wanted magazine, many might opt out. Has the EBU a mechanism for this? [Barbara Herold by e-mail] To my knowledge, no; I cannot see it would be cost-effective to ascertain that information.

[Paul Shannon] Special Club discounts for Bridge equipment – can we explain how much these discounts are? [AJ] Information was not available at the meeting. [Barbara Herold by e-mail] I have already replied direct to Paul Shannon about this and various other queries he had. Basically, the answer is to check out the EBU website under bridge shop.

[Roland Bolton] Will the club be charged P2P fees for playing a club session of a charity event? [AJ] No [RB] How will this be supported by ScoreBridge (and other systems), and how will the EBU ensure that such a facility is not abused? [Barbara Herold by e-mail] As above, if it is an approved charity event then no; there should be the appropriate facility within ScoreBridge to flag an event as charity. Clubs using other compatible scoring programmes will need to liaise with their software manufacturer for advice. As the event will need approval from the EBU they will no doubt have their own means of checking for abuse.