



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

Jan Kamras
President

Report on EBL Activities

Dear Presidents, dear Friends,

I would like to give you some information, in addition to what we publish on the EBL website, about what has been going on in the Executive Committee (“EC”) since we took over the reins in the summer of 2018. In particular I want to relate this to the ambitions I communicated to you before the elections.

Finances:

My first pledge was to restore the EBL’s finances to a solid base from which to operate. I am very happy to report that this has now been accomplished, thanks to the full support of my colleagues on the EC.

We have reduced the recurring administrative costs by some €30.000 p.a., achieving our goal of having them fully covered by the recurring income (the annual dues from the NBOs). The 2018 result was originally budgeted to be a loss of some €30.000; this was turned into a profit of approx. €15.000, not counting a €75.000 contribution from the WBF to our 2016-17 legal costs of investigating and prosecuting cheating cases. This allowed us to refill a somewhat depleted Youth Fund, create a Development Fund and add to our free equity. It should be noted that this was achieved without compromising the quality of any planned courses or other activities.

Thanks to the efforts of our Treasurer we have also reformed the accounting system, making it both more flexible and more transparent.

Administration/Governance:

My second pledge was to create a more efficient way of conducting our business. We have advanced well in this respect, e.g. by cutting the number of committees from more than 30 to 18 as well as reducing the number of members in some committees. We have also made our EC meetings more efficient by preparing paper work better in advance, using meeting time for lively and productive discussions. This has allowed us to shorten the total meeting time, contributing to the cost-savings described above.

Transparency:

The third pledge was to improve transparency. I want to split this into two categories - internal and external.

Internal:

The full EC is kept better informed of the daily activities of the president, and is in a position to affect the decision making earlier in the process. Discussions during our meetings are very open. We also engage very much with our staff during our events, making sure that their opinions and recommendations are given the attention they deserve. As mentioned above the new accounting system has also contributed.



External communications:

This is an area where I have not yet achieved what I wanted. My intention was, and still is, to start a “blog” feature on the EBL website where I, on a regular basis, report on our activities, discussions and decisions.

I hope to get this up and running early next year.

Hoping to meet many of you during our NBO Officers’ Seminar in Prague next year I remain,

Sincerely yours

Jan Kamras
President

November 7, 2019