EBU's NEW 'MINISTRY OF FUN'



In a moment of madness, the EBU Board have been persuaded to allow the creation of a new department within the EBU – the **MINISTRY OF FUN!** (Yes, really!!)



The Ministry of Fun is the brainchild of Andrea Knox, the current President of the Welsh Bridge Union, probably developed in a bar somewhere with her frequent partner in crime, Oliver Cowan. In an attempt to retain limited oversight, EBU Board member Debbie Sandford has been charged with being their 'responsible adult'. Good luck trying to do that Debbie…

Andrea commented, 'I have a fairly serious job – I run a commercial & insolvency law firm – and play bridge as my main hobby. I therefore like to focus on my bridge being enjoyable, sociable and fun. When you focus on a given aspect of life it is easier to achieve, hence the focus of the Ministry of Fun is just that – fun, quirky, well-run bridge events open to all to enjoy!'

Andrea and Oliver started their collaboration during lockdown when they designed and launched the fictitious Llanbrighton Bridge Union to run the first Welsh 'nearly overseas' congress on the seafront in Brighton. (Overseas if you are coming from Anglesey, next congress 18th – 20th June 2027). Details are on the Llanbrighton Bridge Union website and, for a flavour of the event, check out the ridiculous fake facts they invented under the 'About Llanbrighton' tab…. Play at the first Llanbrighton Congress was for the equally fictitious 'Dragon Points' (cuddly Welsh dragons!) but due to its success the Congress is now fully EBU licensed and Green Pointed.





INAUGURAL GROUNDHOG DAY

FAST FORWARD to the first Ministry of Fun project – the new annual Groundhog Day, taking place on the 2nd February each year (the actual Groundhog Day in the USA …) In the film Groundhog Day, Bill Murray re-lives the same day again and again. In bridge Groundhog Day we will play 24 boards again – boards that have crazy distributions, bidding and play decisions that were each actually played somewhere in the world in the year before. Each board is chosen by a separate well known player or players (Andrea is in the process of lining up the contributors) and they each write a commentary on their chosen board. This will be compiled into an electronic/online booklet to be emailed post-event to the players. If you have a board in mind and would like to contribute please get in touch with the Ministry of Fun.



Groundhog Day will be played in the evening of Tuesday 2nd February on RealBridge and BBO, with players invited from round the world. Play is completely free due to sponsorship funding by EBED – players just need to pre-register at fun@ebu.co.uk; Please save the date. Full refund if you don't have fun . . . oops, another fictional fact!

For any clubs that want to, Groundhog Day can be played face to face at their club – the board files and the commentaries will be distributed to all clubs that request this completely free of charge, in plenty of time.

Post Groundhog Day we hope to have a podcast and/or Zoom to chat through some of the boards. Due to the ridiculous nature of the event, masterpoints cannot be awarded at Groundhog Day, and your results will not affect your NGS.

The Ministry of Fun really looks forward to welcoming you at Groundhog Day and, in due course, at its other, similarly quirky, future events!

GROUNDHOG DAY
PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY NOW – FEBRUARY 2, 2027
AND PRE-REGISTER VIA EMAIL fun@ebu.co.uk