

From: David Parry <dparry@theoakleaf.co.uk> Subject: Time For Change
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To All Who Care Deeply About Bridge

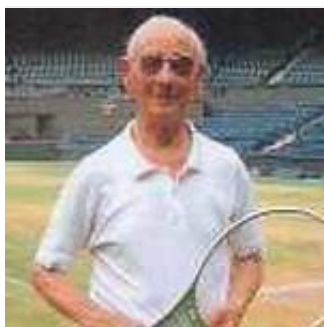
It's time for change.

Have a Go Heroes: Ordinary People Making a Difference

In the 1970s bridge was booming. In 1978 Freddie Della-Porta launched the London Trophy for non-bridge clubs. These included tennis clubs, golf clubs, chess clubs, umpteen other small clubs, and some very well-known establishments like the MCC, the RAC club, also large companies such as Touche Ross and Prudential Insurance, as well as other institutions like the Law Society and HM Treasury. At its peak the London Trophy attracted entries from over 300 teams. Over the years numbers declined and in 2017 it stopped altogether.

Freddie's mantra was that the foundation of any club or organisation is always its grassroots membership.

He brought his business acumen and experience to the EBU, serving on the Board for three years from 1976 to 1979. But the EBU was thriving, the Board saw no need to focus on ordinary members and expand and promote Freddie's ideas.



Freddie Della-Porta

In the last six months, three (of eight) EBU Directors have resigned from the Board, all five of the EBED Trustees have resigned (following the EBU's decision not to re-appoint the popular EBED Chair, Lee Guy), and now we learn that the highly regarded CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of EBED, Mark Humphris, has announced that he is leaving too.

In Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Lady Bracknell tells her prospective son-in-law, Jack Worthing: "To lose one parent may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness." We wonder what she would have said had she been addressing the EBU Chair!

Tesco employs over a quarter of a million people in the UK. Tesco has one CEO. The EBU has a staff of 16 (far too many in our opinion) and one CEO. EBED has a

staff of four and one CEO. We believe that the EBU and EBED should be much more closely aligned. Surely one CEO could manage both organisations.

The EBU is heading in the wrong direction and has been for a long time. The recent en bloc resignation of the EBED Board is a clear signal of the discord within the organisation. However, the numerous vacancies on the EBU Board present a unique opportunity too. An enlightened EBU Board could bring in new people with the skill, experience, and passion needed to rebuild our wonderful game from the ground up. This is the only way to create a lasting organisation.

The Directors are elected to run the EBU for you. If you want them to make these changes, then please make your views known to them. They are copied into this message.

Here's something you can copy and paste if you want to. Our thanks to our supporters from the south-east for the four-word introduction, which sums up what so many people feel: *We care about bridge.*

Dear EBU Board

We care about bridge.

We urge you to stop the internal conflicts and recognise the urgent need for change.

Please consider looking outside your current circle to bring in new people who can help implement these necessary changes.

Regards

Please do pass on the message to others like you who care about bridge. It's time for change and together we will achieve change.

Finally, if you haven't already done so, do sign up to Nicky's newsletter for more news and views. It's free - subscribe at: <http://eepurl.com/cZhrh1>

Regards
David and Nicky