

EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

Yves Aubry
President

To: The Presidents of the EBL NBOs

Cc: EBL EC members

Thursday 24th September 2015

Investigation of allegations of cheating at EBL events

Dear Presidents & Friends,

We have received formal requests from several NBOs to investigate the allegations of cheating by the two partnerships, Fisher - Schwartz and Fantoni - Nunes, that have recently been published on the internet and social media, supported by prima facie evidence.

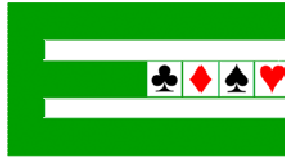
I have decided the EBL should formally investigate these accusations and pursuant to Articles 31 and 53 of the EBL Statutes, I have nominated Eric Laurant to act as Chairman of an Investigation Committee, assisted by Jan Kamras and Disciplinary Committee member, Jean Paul Meyer, together with a panel of expert players.

The terms of reference of the Investigation Committee shall be to

1. collect all available evidence,
2. present the evidence to the defendants, giving them the opportunity to respond and present their own exculpatory evidence,
3. present the accumulated information to the panel of world-class players, who will evaluate all such evidence to arrive at an opinion on culpability, and
4. present those findings to the Executive Committee and, if necessary, to the Disciplinary Committee.

Further, the German pair Piekarek – Smirnov has admitted unethical behaviour in the past. As this is likely to include occurrences at EBL events, the Investigation Committee is being asked to include their case on the same basis as Fisher – Schwartz and Fantoni – Nunes.

Piekarek and Smirnov have been suspended by the German Bridge Federation (DBV) with immediate effect and the DBV will conduct its own disciplinary enquiry.



Each NBO is asked to recognise this suspension in accordance with Article 15 of the statutes of the EBL (reproduced below for your convenience)

Article 15 – Reciprocity

Each NBO must accept and respect all decisions taken by other NBOs in disciplinary matters. In particular all NBOs within the League shall recognize each other's suspensions and expulsions, without examining the reason therefore.

I will keep you informed of developments.

Sincerely yours,

Yves Aubry