

# **Statement from the World Eightball Pool Federation**

## **March 2010**

This statement is from the WEPF Executive Committee on behalf of its members

### **Introduction**

There have been a number of comments posted around recently where reference has been made to the World Eightball Pool Federation (WEPF) and some of its members. Some of these comments are both inaccurate and misleading.

One specific issue is the relationship between the WEPF and the World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA). The WEPF would like to clarify how and why there has been no agreement with the WPA. The WEPF would like to make it clear that it is not for the want of trying on the part of the WEPF but the WPA did not recognise the possibility of co-existence and their requirements were that the WEPF would have to dissolve.

None of the WEPF Executive Committee members are involved in our sport for their own ends or personal gain. Neither are they precious of their positions but they are not prepared to see WEPF members and their players disadvantaged.

### **Background**

The European Pocket Billiard Federation (EPBF) (which is the European division of the World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA)) was specifically formed because the Caremball federations were not looking after the interests of the Pool players.

The EPBF organised and promoted only American style Pool (8-ball, 9-ball & 14:1/Straight-Pool), the English Pool Association (EPA) were once members of the EPBF and participated in their European championships for over 10 years.

Over these years Alan Scorer the WEPF Secretary, represented the EPA at the EPBF annual general meetings. During this time he consistently requested the EPBF to accept the small table 8-ball game (or English Pool as the EPBF called it) as their fourth discipline. These requests were consistently refused and the EPBF had no intention of looking after the interests of small table 8-ball Pool players.

As the interests of small table 8-ball Pool players across the World were not being looked after and recognising any future requests to the EPBF would be in vain, the EPA contacted other countries that played small table 8-ball Pool to organise international events. The first such event took place in Perth, Australia in 1992 between Australia, England and New Zealand, the founder members of the WEPF. The first WEPF World Championships took place in England in 1993.

In order to hold European championships, the European members of the WEPF formed a European division of the WEPF, called the European Eightball Pool Federation (EEPF). On seeing the development and success of the EEPF and its European championships, the EPBF decided to introduce 'blackball' as a fourth discipline. When Alan Scorer on behalf of the EPA, EEPF and the WEPF questioned the logic of this, the EPBF suggested that there could perhaps be a fifth discipline! It was at this point the EPBF lost credibility with the WEPF and EEPF. The view was then taken they would not accept small table 8-ball.

In 1998, Jorgen Sandman the then President of the WPA and President of the World Confederation of Billiard Sports (WCBS) was invited by the WEPF to its AGM to address the WEPF members. Mr Sandman set out a number of possible structures one of which was the formation of a World Pool Council (WPC) which would have been an umbrella organisation under which the WEPF would sit. The WPC would then be the body affiliated to the WCBS. The WEPF favoured this structure but the WPA withdrew this option and the other options disadvantaged WEPF members so did not pursue them.

## More recent events

In 2005 Joe Fanto the WEPF President and Bernard Finnigan the WEPF Vice President, attended a WPA board meeting in Germany with a view to finding common ground on how the WEPF and WPA might integrate and work together. The meeting was seen as quite positive and there seemed to be a way forward.

However, it was a different story when a letter arrived from Ian Anderson the WPA President, setting out the terms of the WPA. The text of his letter to the WEPF dated 02/02/2005, clearly states:

1. **WEPF would have to dissolve its present formation of structure and name.**
2. **WEPF would have to assist their national federations to become affiliated to the current WPA structures of Blackball internationally. English 8-ball as a game together with its rules would be phased out over a period of one or two years and united under Blackball within the WPA organisation.**
3. **I hope this clearly defines the requirements the WEPF would have to adopt in order to become part of the WPA structure.**

It was at this point the WPA lost credibility with the WEPF and its members. The view was then taken they had no intention of accepting the WEPF and would not accept small table 8-ball Pool. The WEPF members unanimously decided they could not accept the requirements of the WPA as they were detrimental to their players.

## Summary

On analysing the various proposals put to the WEPF for amalgamation with the WPA over the last 18 years, it has always been felt that it was not in the best interest of WEPF member and players, as the options given always required that:-

- The WEPF lose its existence
- The World Rules would no longer exist
- At best WEPF would be required to unify the rules to form one unique set with the current Blackball rules.

Nevertheless, the door is not firmly closed, the WEPF are prepared to listen to any constructive proposals for the structure of Pool organisations that fully protect WEPF members interests and those of our sport.

## Scottish Eightball Pool Federation (SEPF)

The WEPF is aware of the issues that the SEPF has been dealing with recently. The WEPF is very pleased to report that the presented difficulties in operation, experienced by the SEPF are being resolved with the assistance and excellent support being offered by the WEPF European body, the EEPF.

Thanks to this assistance the SEPF has taken part in the recently held EEPF European championships. We also understand that the SEPF will continue to be a Full Member of the WEPF, and will once again participate in the WEPF World Championships in Blackpool in June 2010. As a long standing member, the WEPF looks forward to the continued involvement of the SEPF and will give them support in becoming an even stronger member federation.

WEPF Executive Committee