



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, RUSSELL SQUARE, LONDON WC1
ON WEDNESDAY 10TH MARCH 2004**

Present:	Chris Dixon	Chairman
	Richard Fleet	Vice-Chairman
	Roger Amey	(until item 9)
	Raymond Brock	
	Pat Davies	
	Bob Rowlands	
	Mel Starkings	Appointed member (for items 1, 2 and 9)
	Gerard Faulkner	Vice-President
	Tony Friday	Vice-President
	Nick Doe	Secretary

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|-----------|------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Apologies for Absence | Philip Mason | EBU Vice-Chairman |
| | | Denis Robson | EBU Chairman |
| | | Paul Bowyer | Appointed member |

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (11th February 2004)

2.1 Accuracy

The minutes were agreed to be a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2.2 Matters arising

2.2.1 Proposal for a Women's Under-25 European Championship (item 4.6)

Mr Doe reported that it was understood that this was to be inaugurated in Prague this coming August, although no official announcement to NBOs had yet been made. Mr Fleet thought that the Committee ought to consider sending a team, but the Committee, noting the Board's disinclination to fund participation this year, was content not to pursue the suggestion.

2.2.2 Peggy Bayer Trophy (item 4.9)

The Committee noted that no report had yet been received from Mr King, and did not consider that non-receipt of the match records from the organisers amounted to an adequate reason for failure to submit a timely NPC report.

2.2.3 *World Championships (Venice Cup), Monte Carlo 2003 (item 6.2)*

The Committee noted that the Chairman had written to the player concerned, but no response had yet been received.

2.2.4 *Other Action Points*

The Committee noted that these had all been dealt with.

3. Budget

The Committee considered a paper from Mr Bavin setting out the figures included in the Treasurer's budget recommendations to be considered at the forthcoming Board meeting. It noted that the figures did not include any of the funding for training of the Open and Women's teams, which had been requested following a meeting in the Autumn between the Chairman and Messrs Bavin and Burn.

The Chairman considered this to be an appallingly short-sighted view. If the EBU meant to be serious about being effective in the international arena, to deny funding for training was not going about it in the right way. Mr Faulkner thought that for the Board to decline to make funding available was to ignore the fundamental purpose of achieving NBO status, which sat ill with the money currently being spent on projects such as the EBU Development Plan.

Mr Priday reminded the Committee that the original funding purpose of the establishment of the Master Points scheme had been to provide funds to finance international representation. Mr Brock noted that the regrettably unbalanced nature of the international timetable had contributed to the need for funds in the forthcoming financial year, but considered that it was a grave error to budget one year at a time when the international cycle was four years in length. The Committee also considered that it was strange that the budget for 2004/05 was set so late. Teams were being selected at the current meeting (some had indeed been selected at the previous one), yet the budget (if any) for preparation had not yet been finalised.

Mr Fleet noted that, quite apart from the training issue, it was not clear that the proposed budget provided sufficient to pay for adequate accommodation for the England teams at the forthcoming European Championships, and thought that something had gone wrong in the budgeting process. He also found it odd that the proposed under-funding came at a time when the Board was prepared to pay the new Youth Squad Managers. He thought that if the final budget did not cater for the proper funding of international teams, Committee members might consider it a resignation issue.

The Committee agreed that the Chairman should ask the Chairman of the Union for an audience at the Board meeting to explain the Committee's grave concerns.

As a separate issue Mr Fleet asked that the Committee be given further information concerning the items in the budget for salaries and management charge, in order that it might better understand the figures.

4. Open Trials and Events

[Note – the numbering within this item differs from that in the published agenda.]

4.1 Progress of trials

The Committee noted the results of Stage IVB (the final), as shown in Appendix 1 (A), and congratulated Mr Armstrong's team on its success.

4.2 Camrose Trophy

Mr Doe apologised for the omission of this item from the agenda.

The Committee noted that the reserve pair for the match against Scotland had had to be called in due to work commitments on the part of one of the players originally selected, which would have required him to leave the match early had he played.

The remaining results were noted, as shown in Appendix 1 (B). The Committee congratulated all the players who had represented England in the Camrose this season – it was particularly satisfying to finish the last season of the traditional format with a record win against Scotland. Messrs Burn and Fleet were thanked for their reports.

The Committee considered a criticism of the Chairman of Appeals which Mr Burn had included in his report, and was surprised at the choice of language used. It did not consider that the Chairman of Appeals had done anything which ought to be reported to BGB as sponsoring organisation. The Chairman agreed to write accordingly to Mr Burn.

4.3 European Teams Championships, Malmö, 2004

[Mr Brock withdrew while the question of officials was discussed]

The Committee noted the views expressed by the team which had qualified for selection as of right, concerning the selection of a third pair, reserves and officials. It also considered the complications arising out of the uncertain availability of one member of the winning team, as a result of work commitments. It concluded that it was appropriate to select two reserve pairs, and to give the player concerned a deadline of one month to accept or decline the invitation.

The following were selected to represent England:-

John Armstrong and Danny Davies

David Gold and Tom Townsend

Jason Hackett and Justin Hackett

First reserves – David Price and Colin Simpson

Second reserves – David Bakhshi and Andrew Robson

NPC – Raymond Brock

Coach – David Burn

Reserve NPC – John Williams

4.4 World Teams Olympiad, Istanbul 2004

The following were selected to represent England:-

John Armstrong and Danny Davies

David Gold and Tom Townsend

Jason Hackett and Justin Hackett

First reserves – David Bakhshi and Andrew Robson

Second reserves – David Price and Colin Simpson

NPC – Raymond Brock

Coach – David Burn

Reserve NPC – John Williams

4.5 Preparation and training

The Committee noted that an invitation to the Bonn Nations Cup had been received (*see item 12.4*), otherwise there was little scope in the budget for any training which required significant expenditure. Mr Brock agreed to brief the Chairman when he had spoken to the team, with a view to including any particular requests in his submission to the Board.

5. Women's events

5.1 *European Teams Championships, Malmö, 2004*

Miss Davies briefed the Committee on her discussions with the players, who had been consulted about the appointment of officials.

The following officials were selected to accompany the team selected at the previous meeting:-

NPC – Alan Mould

Coach – Christine Duckworth

Reserve NPC – John Williams

The Committee wished to place on record its appreciation of the contribution of Mr Arthur during his years as NPC of British and English Women's teams. The Chairman agreed to telephone him before the appointments were publicised and to write him a suitable letter.

5.2 *World Teams Olympiad, Istanbul 2004*

The following officials were selected to accompany the team selected at the previous meeting:-

NPC – Alan Mould

Coach – Christine Duckworth

Reserve NPC – John Williams

5.3 *Training and preparation*

The Chairman agreed to liaise with Mr Mould concerning the training and preparation thought to be desirable. The Committee wished to reiterate the previous decision that invitations would be made explicitly conditional on adequate commitment on the part of the players to whatever programme of training and preparation was put in place. Mr Mould would be invited to refer the matter to the Committee if he encountered any resistance on the part of the players.

6. European Teams Championships – practical and financial arrangements

The Committee noted the contents of Mr Williams' report on the recent Chefs de Mission meeting in Malmö. The view was expressed that that meeting had been held too late, and that even then the information available was insufficiently comprehensive. The Committee wished to record that it considered the European Teams Championship to be of great importance and that it hoped that the players could be accommodated in proper comfort as near to the playing venue as possible. It was confident that Aylesbury office would make the best arrangements it could.

The Committee noted that there were to be anti-doping regulations of some complexity, which should be drawn to the attention of the players as soon as possible.

7. Seniors Trials and events

7.1 *Results of trials*

The results were noted, as shown in Appendix 1 (C). Mr Collings' team was congratulated on its success.

7.2 *Additional players*

The Committee noted that the Conditions of Contest had stated that a team of fewer than six players could nominate additional players to bring the total to six, subject to the approval of the Committee. There was a similar provision with regard to reserves and officials, although the team could choose to have a playing captain. The winning team had made various nominations, which were acceptable

to the Committee, and accordingly the following were selected to represent England in the European Teams Championships and the Senior International Cup (the Seniors event at the World Teams Olympiad):-

John Collings and David Jones
Paul Hackett (playing captain) and Tony Waterlow
Derek Rue and Keith Stanley

Reserves – John Hassett and Bill Hirst

The Committee declined a request to defer publication of the selections.

8. Format and timing of future trials

8.1 *Format of Women's Trials for 2004/05*

The Committee decided that the trials should be scored by the Butler method. The Conditions of Contest should follow the standard model for a trial of that type, with any matters of doubt being referred to the Chairman (and if he thought fit, to the Committee) for a decision. Mr Doe was asked to endeavour to publish the Conditions as far in advance as possible.

8.2 *Timetable for 2004/05*

Mr Doe reported that he had chosen two weekends for the Open Trials from the larger number previously set aside, namely 18th-19th September and 2nd-3rd October, which were approved. For the Women's Trials, however, he questioned whether the dates previously set aside were any longer appropriate. The Committee agreed that it was desirable that the trials should be held earlier in the season than previously. It decided that it was not appropriate to schedule the Open and Women's Trials on the same weekends, as it was reasonable to allow female players to seek to represent England in both the Camrose and Lady Milne Trophies given that those events did not clash. The proposed dates of 9th-10th October and 13th-14th November were approved.

8.3 *Format of Open Trials for 2005/06*

The Committee considered the possible need for changes to the format used in 2003/04, notably in the three areas specified at the previous meeting, and reached the following conclusions:-

- Stage I should be for teams rather than pairs.
- The qualifications for direct entry to Stage II should be revised. Instead of performance in one or more specified competitions, it was decided to use the Gold Point ranking list. Teams would qualify if they held 60 or more Gold Points in aggregate, with each pair holding 20 or more. However, teams would be permitted to apply to the Committee for waiver of the Gold Point requirements.
- The criteria for exemption to Stage III would be left unchanged, i.e. a maximum of four teams would be exempted, so that a minimum of four would qualify from Stage II.

In addition it was agreed that the semi-finals and final would be reduced to the length of the equivalent stages of the last Bermuda Bowl, namely 96 and 128 boards, respectively.

Mr Doe was asked to publicise these decisions as soon as practicable.

8.4 *Format of Women's Trials for 2005/06*

The Committee agreed to run separate trials for the Lady Milne Trophy and the European Teams Championship, with both trials to be pairs trials over two weekends, scored by the Butler method.

It was agreed that the Lady Milne Trial would be open to all with no minimum qualification. The Committee would reserve the right to drop pairs after one weekend, depending on the number of entries. The top two pairs would be guaranteed selection as of right for the Lady Milne Trophy,

with the third pair and reserves being selected from the pairs who had played in the trial. Screens would not be used.

The European Championship Trials would be open to all pairs who finished above average in the Lady Milne Trial, and to pairs holding an aggregate of 15 Gold Points. In addition, pairs would be permitted to apply to the Committee for waiver of the entry requirements. Only the winners of the trial would be guaranteed selection as of right for the European Championships, with the remaining pairs and reserves being selected from the pairs who had played in the trial. Screens would be used.

8.5 Timetable for 2005/06

The Committee agreed that the Women's European Championship Trial should be played alongside Stage III of the Open Trials. The Lady Milne Trial, however, should not clash with earlier stages of the Open Trials, for the reason already noted. Mr Doe was asked to adjust the dates for trials in September 2005 in the forward calendars accordingly.

[Secretary's Note – the dates have been revised as follows:-

Open – 10th-11th and 24th-25th September

Women (Lady Milne) – 3rd-4th and 17th-18th September]

8.6 Seniors

[additional item]

Mr Faulkner said that he considered there to be a large untapped market, and it was therefore disappointing that only four teams had entered the Seniors Trials this year. He considered that the length of the matches and the unattractiveness of travelling had perhaps been a factor in the low entry. The Chairman thought that it was not possible to replicate the stamina requirement of a major championship in a trial, but that it was both possible and desirable to have a stamina requirement of some sort.

A proposal from the chair that Seniors Trials in 2005/06 should revert to a knock-out basis was agreed. Teams would be of four players only. The event would be seeded by the Committee, and matches up to and including the quarter-finals would be of 32 boards, played privately. Semi-finals and a final of 48 boards each would be played over a single weekend, alongside the knock-out stages of the Open Trials. This would reduce the marginal cost of staging the trials to an absolute minimum. As a consequence, assuming that the funding position for Seniors championships remained unchanged, no entry fee would be charged for the trials.

Mr Doe was asked to check on how a request for a partial refund of entry fees for the 2004 trials had been dealt with.

9. Junior matters

[taken out of order earlier in the meeting]

9.1 European Youth Championships, Prague 2004

The Committee decided to invite David Muller to act as coach to the England teams.

The Committee again considered the position of the pair discussed at the previous meeting, in the light of the fact that one of its members had now qualified for the England Open team for the two major championships of the year. As the pair were therefore effectively out of contention for the under-25 team, the question arose as to whether the other player wished to be considered for the under-20 team, for which he was still eligible. The Committee considered that it was unsettling for the rest of the squad for the matter to be left unresolved any longer, and decided that the player should be asked to commit himself as soon as possible as to whether he wished to be considered for selection with his current under-20 partner. Mr Starkings agreed to contact the player and impose a suitable deadline for a decision.

10. Committee procedures and documents

10.1 Notes for Guidance

Revised documents for NPCs, coaches and players, prepared by the Chairman following a meeting with Mr Brock, were noted with approval. These would be issued to the players and officials selected for the European Teams Championships and the World Teams Olympiad.

10.2 Documents for Home Internationals

Mr Doe offered to prepare slimmed down versions of the documents to be issued to players selected for Home Internationals.

11. Panel of non-playing captains

The Chairman's proposal, seconded by Mr Fleet, that the name of Phil King be removed from the Panel, was carried unanimously. Mr Doe was asked to write to him. It was also agreed that Mr Hackett (who had been an ex officio member of the Panel whilst a member of the Committee, and who had indicated his willingness to remain a member) should remain on the Panel.

12. Friendly internationals and invitations

12.1 European Champions Cup 2003

The Committee noted the view expressed by Mr Harris that the European Bridge League appeared to have considered that the parameters announced for the 2002 event were to apply for that year only, so that they were free to invite whichever NBOs they wished for 2003. The Committee considered that it would have been preferable if this had been spelled out, as the implication at the time had been otherwise.

12.2 Corn Cairdis 2003/04

The Committee noted the results, as shown in Appendix 1 (D).

12.3 Invitation from Israel

The Committee noted that an invitation had been received at extremely short notice to send "the England National Team" to an event in Tel Aviv in mid-February. At the Chairman's instructions this had been offered to the latest England Open team, namely that which played at the European Open Championships in Menton, but in the light of the short notice it was unable to accept and the invitation had regretfully to be declined.

12.4 Bonn Nations Cup

The Committee noted that an invitation had recently been received, and decided to invite the two pairs comprising the team which had won the Open trials to take up the invitation, with the third pair and reserves selected for the European Teams Championships to be offered the place in turn should either pair be unable to accept.

12.5 Forbo Tournament

The Committee noted that a private invitation appeared to have been issued to a group of English players (no official invitation having been extended to the EBU for several years). It was of course the organisers' privilege to extend such an invitation and the players' to accept it, but the team (which had done extremely badly) had styled itself "England", which the Committee considered inappropriate for any team other than one selected to take up an official invitation addressed to the EBU. It decided to approach Mr Harris with a view to seeing whether he might be able to use his good offices to get official invitations to the EBU reinstated for this event.

13. Dates and venues of future meetings

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Thursday 3rd June at 1 pm at Aylesbury.

14. Any other business

14.1 *Smoking at venues for trials*

Mr Doe drew the Committee's attention to a letter from West Midlands Bridge Club stating that it was now a completely non-smoking venue. The Committee did not think that there was any reason not to continue to use it as a venue for trials, although the lack of smoking facilities should be drawn to the players' attention.

14.2 *Junior Camrose weekend – future dates*

Mr Doe drew the Committee's attention to the fact that BGB were planning to consider a possible change of date from the end of January (which presents problems with exams for many young people), perhaps to one of the dates freed up as a result of the change to the new format for the Camrose Trophy.

14.3 *Women's Trials*

The Committee declined a request for a refund of entry fees to the Women's Trials on the grounds of inconvenience and expense arising from the late stage at which the arrangements had been finalised.

14.4 *Seeding*

Mr Doe reported that the Tournament Committee had recently decided no longer to ask the Committee to seed the National Women's Teams.

The Committee noted that the Tournament Committee had in recent years asked for the seeding of the Spring Foursomes to extend further down the field than previously. This had made the task of Committee members somewhat burdensome. The Committee thought that it should be satisfactory for it to be invited to seed the top eight teams, with the remainder being ranked by average Gold Point holdings.

14.5 *Rosenblum and McConnell Cups*

The Committee noted a suggestion this it was appropriate to make a decision at this stage about the future commitment to these events, but decided that this was not necessary. A discussion would be scheduled for a future meeting.

Appendix 1 – Results

A. *Open trials Stage IVB (Final)*

ARMSTRONG (John Armstrong and Danny Davies, David Gold and Tom Townsend) defeated SIMPSON (Phil King and Andrew McIntosh, David Price and Colin Simpson) by 367 IMPs to 248 over 160 boards.

B. *Camrose Trophy (remaining results)*

Fourth weekend

England v Wales

IMPs			VPs		
E		W	E		W
102	-	18	25	-	2
64	-	87	11	-	19
79	-	42	21	-	9
Total			57	-	30

England team David Gold and Tom Townsend
Phil King and Andrew McIntosh
David Price and Colin Simpson
NPC – David Burn

Republic of Ireland v Northern Ireland

IMPs			VPs		
RI		NI	RI		NI
72	-	41	20	-	10
65	-	48	18	-	12
85	-	54	20	-	10
Total			58	-	32

Final weekend

Scotland v England

IMPs			VPs		
S		E	S		E
26	-	68	8	-	22
31	-	116	2	-	25
33	-	113	2	-	25
Total			12	-	72

England team David Bakhshi and Andrew Robsion
David Gold and Tom Townsend
David Price and Colin Simpson

NPC – Richard Fleet

Wales v Northern Ireland

IMPs			VPs		
W		NI	W		NI
69	-	39	20	-	10
48	-	52	14	-	16
93	-	53	22	-	8
Total			56	-	34

Final table

	VPs 1 st w/e	VPs 2 nd w/e	VPs 3 rd w/e	VPs 4 th w/e	VPs 5 th w/e	Final table		
						Pl	VPs	Ave
ENGLAND	58.5	52		57	72	4	239.5	59.88
WALES	56		41	30	56	4	183	45.75
R. of IRELAND	28	47	49	58		4	182	45.50
SCOTLAND	34	43	59		12	4	148	37.00
N. IRELAND		38	31	32	34	4	135	33.75

Cross-table

	E	W	RI	S	NI	Final table			
						Pl	W	L	VPs
ENGLAND		57	58.5	72	52	4	4	0	239.5
WALES	30		41	56	56	4	2	2	183
R. of IRELAND	28	49		47	58	4	3	1	182
SCOTLAND	12	34	43		59	4	1	3	148
N. IRELAND	38	34	32	31		4	0	4	135

C. Seniors Trials

	C	H	T	J	IMPS	POS
COLLINGS		+16	+7	+112	+135	1
HACKETT	-16		-8	+116	+92	2
TOWNSEND	-7	+8		+73	+74	3
JACKSON	-115	-135	-74		-324	4

Teams:-

Collings – John Collings and David Jones, Derek Rue and Keith Stanley

Hackett – Paul Hackett and Ross Harper, David Kendrick and Tony Sowter, Ian Panto and Tony Waterlow

Jackson – June Ball and Paul Jones, Pat Hogger and John Jackson

Townsend – Michael Allen and Roger Bryant, Giles Foster and Bill Townsend

D. Corn Cairdis

<i>England</i>				
	County	Club	Officials	Total
County	11 + 17	16	14	58
Club	17	15 + 5	21	58
Officials	16	18	15 + 24	73
Total				189

<i>Ireland</i>				
	County	Club	Officials	Total
County	19 + 13	13	14	59
Club	14	15 + 25	12	66
Officials	16	9	15 + 6	46
Total				171

England teams:-

County – Irving and Joy Blakey, Joyce and Peter Hishmurch

Club – Celia and Kevin Comrie, Elena and Marcello Rosenbaum

Officials – Alaine Hamilton and Denis Robson, Jeff Morris and John Neville

Appendix 2 – Action Points

<i>Item</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible</i>
3	Presentation of concerns to the Board	Chris Dixon (liaising with Raymond Brock and Alan Mould)
3	Further explanation of budget	Max Bavin
4.2	Letter to Mr Burn	Chris Dixon
5.1	Letter of thanks to Jimmie Arthur	Chris Dixon
8	Publicity and Conditions of Contest for Trials	Nick Doe
9	Contact junior player	Mel Starkings
10.2	Documents for Home Internationals	Nick Doe
11	Letter to Phil King	Nick Doe