



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2017
AT THE YOUNG CHELSEA BRIDGE CLUB, LONDON W12 8HA**

Present:

Paul Barden	
Jeremy Dhondy	EBU Chairman
Gillian Fawcett	Chairman
Anthony Golding	
Peter Hasenson	
Dawn Mertens	Secretary
Alan Mould	
Tom Townsend	Vice Chairman

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from David Burn, Ian Payn, and Alan Shillitoe.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 14TH JUNE 2017

2.1 Accuracy

Apart from an error in grammar and of punctuation there were no matters of accuracy.

2.2 Matters arising

Peter Hasenson queried whether proxy votes should be allowed as there was nothing mentioned in the articles regarding proxy votes at Selection Committee Meetings. Gillian commented that the majority of committee decisions were made by email between meetings and that we should therefore be able to accept opinions from those not present. It was agreed proxy votes would not be allowed but at the Chairman's discretion opinions canvassed or votes cast before the meeting could be taken into account.

3. REVIEW OF DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

The Allfrey team was invited to play in the Champions Cup in November.

It was agreed that we should advertise for junior squad leaders, and as a result of the recruitment process Harry Anoyrkatis and Giorgio Provenza were appointed as squad leaders of the U26s and U16s respectively. Paul Barden will assist Harry and act as Team Manager to the U26s.

Funding for sports psychologist sessions for the women's Venice Cup team was agreed.

Two teams were given approval to call themselves "England" at the Commonwealth Championships, and it was agreed that England polos would be given to those who did not already have them:

Bill Hirst
Brian Callaghan
Chris Duckworth
Gary Hyett

Steve Eginton
and
David Burn & Kieran Dyke
Graham Osborne & Frances Hinden.

The women's Venice Cup team was invited to play in the Hua Yuan Cup and the IMSA games, and the substitution of Lizzie Godfrey for Sandra Penfold was approved.

The Premier League Conditions of Contest were agreed.

London was agreed as a venue for Premier League Division 3 for the 2nd weekend.

A new code of conduct for junior squad leaders and coaches was agreed.

It was decided to hold a team of four trials for the women's European team, with one additional pair selected by the Selection Committee. Jeremy Dhondy, Tom Townsend and Gillian Fawcett recused themselves for the discussion and decision regarding team selection.

The closing date for the senior trials for the Teltscher Trophy and the European Teams was extended, and all teams were accepted.

U26 Women's team for Channel Trophy was selected:

Yvonne Wiseman & Alex Birchall
Siyu Ren & Laura Covill
Ewa Wieczorek & Olivia Bailey
NPC: TBA

Substitutes were agreed for the Division 3 Gipson and Boss teams for the final weekend of the Premier League.

4. FINANCES

4.1 Report on Open/Women's/Seniors budgets

The accounts up to the end of September were tabled with all deemed to be in order.

Peter Hasenson left the meeting

4.2 Report on Junior budgets

The Committee asked if there could possibly be a greater breakdown of expenditure as it was not immediately obvious where expected rebates from the Junior Europeans appear in the accounts. Gillian to speak to Gail to see if this could be produced.

There is the possibility that we may have to send an additional team to the Junior Camrose which has not been allowed for in the budget. If this should be the case it was suggested that the squad leader could treat the weekend as a training session with funds for the team coming from the training budget.

4.3 Cost savings in 4 year cycle

The EBU Treasurer had advised that savings of over £50,000 (£12,500 per annum) would have to be made to the Internationals budget over the next four year cycle in line with savings in other departments. Changes may have to be made to the way events are funded or possibly an event could be dropped from the budget; this however would need approval from the Board. Gillian to speak to the Treasurer in this regard.

5. OPEN EVENTS

5.1 Premier League 2017

The Gipson team, who due to a family bereavement had fielded two substitute players with the permission of the Selection Committee, have only three qualifying players for next year. The Committee therefore voted that the Gross team be declared winners of Division 3 with the Gipson team being allowed promotion as long as they meet the criteria that all three qualifying players are members of the team next year. Gillian to write to the Gipson team advising of this decision.

There were many positive comments especially from Division 3 players who enjoyed playing with screens and especially at the West Midlands Bridge Club where all three divisions played together at the same venue. The U16 Squad Leader thought that the Junior players gained a lot from playing the event.

5.2 Selection of Camrose Team for first weekend

The Allfrey team as winners of the Premier League were offered the choice of weekends and the second weekend was their preferred choice. The Hinden team as runners up were asked if they would like to add an additional player to their team, as they played as a team of five, and they proposed Graham Osborne as the sixth member. The team selected for the first weekend therefore are:

Frances Hinden & Graham Osborne
Jeffrey Allerton & Chris Jagger
Michael Byrne & Kieran Dyke

5.3 Selection of Camrose Team for second weekend

The Allfrey team were selected for the second weekend:

Alexander Allfrey & Andrew Robson
Tony Forrester & Graham Osborne
Mike Bell & David Gold

5.4 Selection of NPC's for Camrose

It was agreed that David Burn and Chris Dixon would be asked to act as NPCs for the first and second weekends respectively.

Secretary's note: - David Burn was subsequently appointed NPC for the first Camrose weekend.

5.5 Open Trials applications and Trials format

Tom and Jeremy left the meeting for this item.

A total of 26 pairs applied to enter the Trials. The Committee decided to limit the size of the Trial to between 8 pairs minimum and 12 pairs maximum. After careful consideration of the applicants the Committee agreed to accept 10 pairs with a further reserve pair:

Espen Erichsen & Glyn Liggins
Neil Rosen & Martin Jones
Michael Byrne & Kieran Dyke
Heather Dhondy & Brian Callaghan
Tom Townsend & Alex Hydes
Phil King & Andrew McIntosh
David Bakhshi & Artur Malinowski
Simon Cope & Peter Crouch

Jeffrey Allerton & Chris Jagger
Frances Hinden & Graham Osborne

Reserves: Tom Paske & Ed Jones

The suggested format would be a 12-board double round robin scored by Cross-IMPS converted to VP's. The Committee will liaise with the Chief Tournament Director to update the Conditions of Contest in line with European Bridge League rules. Players will be asked to send in their systems to the Secretary by 5th January 2018.

6. WOMEN'S EVENTS

6.1 Venice Cup NPC report

The NPC, Derek Patterson, was thanked for his report and the team congratulated on their performance finishing as runners-up in the Venice Cup and winning the silver medal.

6.2 Women's European Trials format

The format of the Trials which take place 2nd -5th March have already been agreed and announced on the EBU website. The Secretary reported that there had been no applications received to date.

Gillian had received an invitation from Philippe Cronier of the French Bridge Federation for the Women's team to play a practice match in Paris, 9th-11th February. It was agreed that unfortunately we would have to decline this invitation as the Women's team would not have been selected at this stage.

6.3 Lady Milne Trials

The Trials will take place 26th-28th January 2018 at the Young Chelsea Bridge and will be limited to 16 pairs. Applications will be invited by 8th December and the entry fee will be £105 per player. As previously the top two finishing pairs will represent England in the Lady Milne Trophy and the Selection Committee will select the third pair, who may or may not have played in the Trials.

7. SENIORS EVENTS

7.1 Format of Teltscher Trophy Trials

Applications have been received and entry approved for six teams and timings have been agreed for the Trials. The Conditions of Contest are presently being drawn up by the Chief Tournament Director.

7.2 Format of European Seniors Trials

Applications have been received and entry approved for five teams and timings have been agreed for the Trials. The Conditions of Contest are presently being drawn up by the Chief Tournament Director.

8. INVITATIONAL EVENTS

8.1 Commonwealth Games

The organising committee of the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship have been advised of the members of the England A and B teams for this event.

Jeremy has been asked, that in the event of Birmingham becoming host of the 2022 Commonwealth Games, whether the EBU would consider running the Commonwealth Nations Bridge event.

9. JUNIOR EVENTS

9.1 Selection of Teams for 2017 Junior Channel Trophy

The U26 Women's team has already been agreed.

Secretary's note: After consultation with the Squad Leader Giorgio Provenza was appointed NPC to the U26 Women's team.

At the recommendation of the U21 Squad Leader the following players were selected for the U21 team:

Liam Sanderson & Daniel Winter
Kripa Panchagnula & Harry Madden
Sam Anoyrkatis & Theo Anoyrkatis
NPC Michael Byrne

An U26 training weekend takes place at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club 11th/12th November and the Squad Leader will make his recommendations for selection of the U26 team following this.

9.2 Selection of Teams for 2018 Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer

The selection of teams for the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer will be deferred until after the Junior Channel Trophy. Names of players and systems need to be sent to Bridge Great Britain by 2nd February.

Tom Townsend left the meeting - the Committee thanked him for his service over the last nine years.

The Secretary will email the other NBOs to check if they will be sending teams to both the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer in 2018.

9.3 Fundraising for 2018 Junior World Championships, China

The NPC's were thanked for their reports from the Junior Europeans and all four teams were congratulated on qualifying for the World Championships in China in 2018. Darren Evetts has been appointed as the Board member responsible for fund raising and has already received a donation of £1,000 with more in the pipeline. The Squad Leaders need to ensure that all the squad biographies are up to date on the EBU website and ask squad members to help with fund raising by encouraging their local clubs to participate in the Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs.

10. DATES AND VENUES FOR 2018-19 TRIALS

The following dates were proposed.

Premier League:

1st weekend 15th/16th September 2018

2nd weekend 27th/28th October 2018

3rd weekend 3rd/4th November 2018

Reserve weekend 8th/9th September 2017

Seniors Trials:

Teltscher Trophy Trials 15th/16th December 2018

Women's Trials:

Lady Milne Trials 11th/13th January 2018

The Secretary to check with venues regarding availability on the above dates. Manchester Bridge Club is in the process of moving to smaller premises and will therefore no longer be able to host the Premier League.

11. BRIDGE ENGLAND SIMS

Paul Barden reported that he is finalising the hand commentaries for the Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs at present with some players still to send in their commentaries on the hands.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held early February the exact date to be agreed after consultation with new Committee members.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business the meeting closed at 17.30pm.