



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU SELECTION COMMITTEE HELD  
AT TGRS BRIDGE CLUB, 19C CRAVEN RD, LONDON W2 3BP  
ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024**

<b>Present:</b>	David Bakhshi (DBa) Chairman & Elected Member
	Tony Russ (TR) Vice Chair & EBU Vice Chair
	Alan Wilson (AW) Elected Member
	Claire Robinson (CR) Elected Member
	David Burn (DBu) Elected Member
	Paul Barden (PB) Elected Member
	Jeremy Willans (JW) Elected Member
	Patrick Shields (PS) Appointed Member
	Gordon Rainsford (GR) EBU Chief Executive
	Heather Sanderson (HS) Secretary

**1. Procedural Matters**

1.1 Apologies for Absence: Abbey Smith and Adrian Darnell

**2. Election of the Chair (GR in the Chair for this Item) and Vice Chair for 2024**

2.1 GR proposed that the vote be conducted by written ballot. There were no objections.

2.2 GR proposed that absent members be allowed to vote for the officers by proxy. There were no objections.

2.3 DBa and CR stood for Chair. GR distributed Post It notes to everyone and then collected and counted the ballots. DBa was elected Chair.

2.4 Tony Russ was proposed as Vice Chair and elected.

**3. Terms of Reference for the Selection Committee (SC) (submitted by AD)**

3.1 Typos were noted. **Action** DBu will proofread and clean up the language.

3.2 PS explained that the SC will have more responsibility for finances and the budget. They will be involved in the process of building it and managing it throughout the year. It was noted that it was the disruption to EBU finances caused by covid which had led the Board to take greater control in recent years.

3.3 With respect to 3.2.4, it was proposed that the committee should have more flexibility in terms of the teams that they support and therefore recommended that the named teams be removed from the ToR:

*implement the Committee's approved strategies in the selection of players and officials to represent England in ~~Open, Women, Seniors, U26, U26 Women, U21, U16 & Mixed~~ international bridge competitions and championships;*

3.4 It was agreed that it would be good practice to have meetings every quarter.

3.5 It was recommended that the SC have written processes of operation and financial management.

3.6 A conflict between the proposed ToR and the Articles of Association was highlighted. The Articles of Association allow Ex officio members to be Chair but the proposed ToR allows only elected members to serve as Chair.

**Action: HS to feedback to the Board.**

#### **4. Review of decisions taken between meetings**

DbA circulated a list of decisions taken between meetings. These included 4.1 through 4.12 below.

4.1 We formalised and publicised venues for the Lady Milne and Teltscher Trophy Trials.

4.2 We made recommendations for the Young Player and Young Pair awards.

4.3 Charlie Bucknell was appointed as coach to the U21 squad.

4.4 We approved the [Minutes](#) of the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 meeting.

4.4 We formalised and publicised venues for the 2024 European Open, Mixed, Women's and Seniors Trials.

4.5 We decided to hold the Lady Milne Trial over a single weekend, because of the relatively low number of entries.

4.6 In agreement with the Squad leader suggestions, we selected U21, U26 and two U26 Women's teams for the 2023 Channel Trophy. We appointed Ewa Wieczorek as NPC for the U21 team, Michael Byrne as NPC for the U26 team, Claire Robinson as NPC for one U26 Women's team and Paul Barden as NPC for the other U26 Women's Team.

4.7 In accordance with the results of the Premier League, we selected two England teams and two EBU teams for the Camrose. We appointed David Burn as NPC of the England for the first weekend, and Peter Hasenson as NPC of the England team for the second weekend. Tom Townsend filled the role of playing captain for the EBU team on the first weekend and Paul Barden was appointed as NPC for the EBU team on the second weekend.

4.8 In accordance with the results, we selected teams for the 2024 Lady Milne and Teltscher Trophies.

4.9 Heather Dhondy was appointed as NPC for the Lady Milne.

4.10 In agreement with the Squad leader suggestions, we selected teams for the 2024 Peggy Bayer and Junior Camrose Trophies. We appointed Ewa Wieczorek as NPC for the U21 team, Michael Byrne as NPC for the U26 team

4.11 We agreed dates for the 2024 Premier League.

4.12 We approved the Pryor team for participation in the Transatlantic online Seniors Cup.

4.13 There was a discussion regarding the process for decision making and the need for robust systems in place. It was noted that email threads did not work particularly well especially when decisions that appeared finalised were reopened. It was suggested that people be assigned responsibility for each of the trials and concepts.

4.14 It was noted that the format and specific conditions of contest were approved for the Open Trials.

It was agreed that it would be useful to have an accessible archive of venues and formats used in previous trials. **Action: GR to assist in organising.**

## 5. Premier League 2024

5.1 There was a discussion about potential venues with reference to the comparative space, convenience, and catering offerings. It was noted that access to playing areas via stairs may cause difficulties for players with mobility issues.

**Action: HS to inquire re availability for Premier League dates at Coventry, West Midlands, Young Chelsea, East Midlands, Tunbridge Wells, Wimbledon and Richmond.**

5.2 There was a discussion about Vugraph operators and the possibility of increasing the rate paid. It was agreed to raise the compensation from 80p to £1 per board. It was also agreed to cover expenses for juniors in addition to the rate paid.

## 6. Decision Management

6.1 It was noted that the Chair is responsible for the existence of a conflicts of interest registry. As per the proposed ToR, it will be updated at the start of every meeting.

6.2 It was agreed that the conflicts of interest registry would be open to members of the committee.

6.3 There was a discussion about recusals for various events. It was suggested that there was a distinction between discussing the Premier League and trials. It was agreed that recusals should apply per event.

6.4 TR agreed to monitor recusals in accordance with the Register of Conflicts of Interest.

LUNCH BREAK - CR left the meeting at this point.

6.5 Discussion resumed regarding changing conflicts of interest. It was agreed that TR would be the sole arbiter of whether a member's involvement in any earlier decisions made it unacceptable for them to make a late entry into an event.

6.6 **Action: Everyone email HS with their conflicts of interest.** Conflicts of interest apply to events and relationships. Some thought that bridge partners were not conflicts of interest.

## 7. Topic Management

7.1 GR noted that events that are held regularly, like the Premier League, Lady Milne and Teltscher Trials, are much less problematic. Fixing aspects of other trials in a manner consistent over years would reduce future discussions. It was noted that for the home internationals, the aim was to select a team that was competitive for the event rather than the best team possible. It was debated whether a similar approach would work for a European or World Championship. It was noted that, due to funding, the Open trials were different to other categories.

It was thought that it would be useful to have objectives about what the committee is trying to achieve. PS noted that the Board had produced some guidance. The objectives for international representation are as follows:

- a. To provide success that would be useful for promoting the game,
- b. To give the members some different experiences than they otherwise would have, and
- c. To enhance the reputation of the EBU abroad.

It was noted that the question of generating success should be thought of in the long term, medium term and short term.

7.2 There are four sets of trials which need to be assigned to someone as well as topics such as finance, NPC and squads.

7.3 Responsibilities were assigned as follows:

- European and World Bridge Games Open Trials – Dbu
- European and World Bridge Games Mixed Trials – AW
- European and World Bridge Games Women's Trials – PS
- European and World Bridge Games Senior's Trials - JW

7.4 Leading a topic requires taking note of any decisions made and communicating them to the SC Secretary who will in turn communicate the decisions to any recused members.

7.5 There was a discussion regarding the role of an NPC manager. It was agreed that it would be useful to actively maintain a list of potential NPCs. It was noted that for home internationals captaining was primarily administrative, unlike the duties of an NPC at a major championship. Often teams are consulted regarding their preferences. TR queried if there could be a process for developing NPCs. The job would be to maintain a pool of NPCs, maintain regular contact to see who is available in advance, encourage development and seek feedback from players and NPCs. Whomever is responsible for an event will contact TR about potential NPCs. NPCs may register an interest in captaining an event without making a firm commitment. **Action: Responsibility for NPC manager was assigned to TR. TR will write and circulate a job description.**

7.6 PB was assigned the responsibility for Finance. PS, as Board Treasurer support, will liaise with PB.

7.7 A person leading a topic may seek out other committee members for assistance. However, the leader will be responsible for seeing it through until the event is over.

7.8. AS to continue as Junior Liaison Officer.

7.9 Dbu will be responsible for providing information to the committee regarding the Premier League.

7.10 PS was assigned responsibility for the Lady Milne Trial and JW was assigned responsibility for the Teltscher Trial. It was agreed that past formats and conditions of contest would be available to consult well in advance of the trials for the 2025 events.

7.11 With respect to Europeans, DBu noted that there was a selection spectrum which ranged from picking a team from the players who look to be performing best to running a trial in which the top pairs are guaranteed selection. It was recommended that the committee decide where on the spectrum the committee wished to be. It was also suggested that feedback on the process be sought from players in advance of our July meeting. It was agreed that the process for planning the 2026 European would commence at that point.

**8. Any Other Business**

8.1 GR replied to Mike Bell regarding his inquiry to play Brown Sticker methods.

8.2 There was a discussion about how to respond to recent correspondence. It was noted that there was a false premise which should be corrected. It was agreed that DBu would draft a message from the SC to the Board. **Action: DBu.**

8.3 GR noted that any recording of a meeting was for the exclusive use of the secretary to do the minutes and would be deleted once the minutes were approved.

**8. Date of next meeting**

It was proposed that the next meeting would take place online via Zoom on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> April at 14:00. **Action: HS to check on availability of absent members.**

Heather Sanderson  
Acting Secretary to the Selection Committee  
January 2024