



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD AT AYLESBURY OFFICES ON FRIDAY 23RD JULY 2004**

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| Present: | Chris Dixon | Chairman |
| | Richard Fleet | Vice-Chairman |
| | Raymond Brock | |
| | Denis Robson | EBU Chairman |
| | Bob Rowlands | |
| | Tony Priday | Vice-President |
| | Nick Doe | Secretary |

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
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| | Roger Amey | |
| | Pat Davies | |
| | Philip Mason | EBU Vice-Chairman |
| | Gerard Faulkner | Vice-President |

Mr Dixon being delayed by a problem on the roads, Mr Fleet as Vice-Chairman took the Chair until the end of item 2 (Mr Dixon arrived towards the end of that item).

[Secretary's note – as this was an unscheduled meeting called at short notice, the minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising therefrom were not considered, and will be dealt with at the next scheduled meeting on 16th November.]

2. Senior International Cup, Istanbul 2004

The Committee considered Mr Hackett's playing captain's report from the Seniors event at the recent European Teams Championships in Malmö, together with correspondence from the players, the opinions of a Committee member and a Vice-President unable to be present, and an opinion from Mr Harris as to the legal position. The Committee noted that, in the event of any change being made to the team selected to play in Istanbul, the Union would, at the least, be liable to reimburse costs already incurred by the players affected, and that it was possible that the Union's liability might extend to compensation for loss of professional opportunity and reputation, and even to costs incurred in respect of the Malmö event.

The Committee deplored the incidents which had occurred in Malmö, which had led to a breakdown of confidence within the team, which had in turn manifested itself in very disappointing results in the latter part of the tournament after an encouraging start.

Having considered the options available, the Committee decided to confirm the invitations to the six playing members of the team selected for the Senior International Cup (all of which had been accepted), but to make a change to the captaincy arrangements. Instead of Mr Hackett as playing captain, it was considered necessary to send an NPC at the Union's expense.

[Mr Dixon absented himself briefly while the appointment was discussed].

It was agreed to invite Chris Dixon to act as NPC of the England team in the Senior International Cup. The full team is:-

John Collings and David Jones
Paul Hackett and Tony Waterlow
Derek Rue and Keith Stanley

NPC – Chris Dixon

Mr Doe was asked to confirm the position to the players as soon as practicable, stressing that the NPC had the Committee's absolute authority to determine the line-ups and deal with all other matters which are normally the responsibility of the captain.

3. World Teams Olympiad, Istanbul 2004 (Open Series)

3.1 NPC arrangements

The Committee noted that a possible problem had arisen with Mr Brock's appointment as NPC. The Chairman reported that he had had discussions with Mr Brock, and was satisfied that the arrangements proposed were satisfactory. Mr Brock was invited to give his observations on the proposed arrangements, which involve the presence of his children in Istanbul for part of the period of the Championship, albeit in a different hotel, and with someone to look after them other than Mrs Brock (who is a member of the England Women's team at the Olympiad). Mr Brock was confident that he would be able to discharge his duties as NPC without distraction.

The Committee saw no reason to object to the arrangements proposed.

3.2 Team preparation

3.2.1 European Champions Cup

The Committee noted that an invitation had been received to send a team to the European Champions Cup in Barcelona in October. Whilst this was the event designed for the club champions of the invited NBOs, the EBL had made it clear that the absence of the type of club championship envisaged was no bar to acceptance of the invitation. It had been decided to send a team of representative strength under the banner of the All England Bridge Club, a club formed for the purpose. In the light of the fact that the event is a fortnight before the World Teams Olympiad, it was decided to select the following team:-

David Bakhshi and Andrew Robson
David Gold and Tom Townsend
Jason Hackett and Justin Hackett

Reserves – David Price and Colin Simpson

It was decided that no NPC should be sent, but that the team would be requested to decide their own line-ups on the basis that the Committee expected each of the three pairs to play approximately the same number of boards.

The Committee noted that the Treasurer had agreed the necessary funding. The Committee also noted there was significant prize money at the event. It did not consider that there was any basis for clawing back the funding out of any prize money which the England team might win. Accordingly the players would keep any prize money which they were to win.

3.2.2 Lederer Memorial Trophy

The Committee noted that the England team had received an invitation to the Lederer, which was to be held on the weekend between the European Champions Cup and the start of the Olympiad. It was agreed that it was desirable for the invitation to be accepted, although one of the four pairs comprising the teams which had played in the European and been selected for the Olympiad was unavailable, and there were doubts as to the availability of two of the others. The Committee was happy for the Chairman to deal with the matter in consultation with Mr Brock.

3.2.3 *Possible international practice match*

The Chairman reported that he had hoped to be able to arrange a match against opposition from the United States, Italy and Sweden in the run up to the Olympiad. He acknowledged that such an event could not be staged without sponsorship, which he hoped to find, but it would not be possible to stage the event if the England team was not available, and this was in doubt.

3.2.4 *Brighton*

Mr Brock suggested that the practice of hosting foreign teams at Brighton should be reintroduced, and saw no reason why something should not be done for this year, although it was acknowledged that this might not be feasible.

4. *Any other business*

4.1 *European Championships, Malmö 2004 – Women’s Series*

The Chairman reported that there had been considerable dissatisfaction with the very light schedule of play. The English NPC (Alan Mould) had been instrumental in getting up a petition seeking a more realistic schedule at future championships. The Chairman had discussed it with Mr Mould in Malmö, and it had been decided not to present the petition to the EBL, particularly as it appeared that the EBL had decided to make changes along the lines suggested. It was clear, however, that the NBOs whose representatives had signed the petition were probably expecting something to be done with it. Mr Robson volunteered to seek Mr Harris’s views. Subject to the outcome of that discussion the Committee was minded to write a brief letter to the EBL congratulating it on its decision to make changes. It would be appropriate to send a copy to the other NBOs concerned.

4.2 *European Championships, Malmö 2004 - expenses*

The Committee noted that both the Open and Women’s teams in Malmö had hired cars to transport themselves from hotel to venue. The Chairman informed the Committee that the transport arrangements otherwise available had not been as NBOs had been led to believe in advance, and he considered that what the teams had done was reasonable. The view was expressed that the costs should be reimbursed to the players in full, particularly as the *per diem* had never been intended to cover transport costs (which had been thought to be negligible).

4.3 *International timetable*

The Committee noted that there seemed no imminent prospect of the present timetable (whereby the Olympiad is in the same year as the European Championships, with no event open to all NBOs in odd-numbered years) being changed. It continued to regard the position as very unsatisfactory.

4.4 *EBL Seminars – Seniors*

The Committee noted that the EBL were to hold a number of seminars, one of which concerned future Seniors events, and that two people had volunteered to be the EBU’s representative. The Committee thought that the choice of representative was one for the Board.