



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD AT 40 BERNARD STREET, LONDON WC1
ON TUESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2005**

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Present: | Gerard Faulkner | Chairman |
| | Richard Fleet | Vice-Chairman |
| | Paul Bowyer | Appointed member (for items 1-9) |
| | Pat Davies | |
| | Steve Eginton | |
| | Philip Mason | EBU Vice-Chairman |
| | Clive Owen | |
| | Bob Rowlands | |
| | Mel Starkings | Appointed member (for items 1-9) |
| | Nick Doe | Secretary |
| In attendance: | Andrew Kambites | (for item 5) |

1. Election of Committee Chairman for the Year 2005/06

Mr Doe welcomed members to the meeting, in particular Messrs Eginton and Owen to their first meeting of the Committee, and Mr Rowlands on his return to the Committee. He summarised the results of the elections at the AGM and confirmed to the Committee that the Board had not only reappointed Messrs Bowyer and Starkings to their positions on the Committee but had also indicated that until further notice it proposed automatically to appoint to the Committee the persons who for the time being held the office of Squad Managers for the two junior age groups.

Mr Doe called for nominations for Chairman, reminding the Committee that Mr Fleet was ineligible because of the "five year rule". Mr Fleet nominated Mr Faulkner and the nomination was seconded by Mr Mason. There being no other nominations, Mr Faulkner was declared duly elected.

Mr Faulkner thanked the Committee. He paid tribute to the contribution of Mr Dixon during his years on the Committee, the last three as Chairman, and to the work of Messrs Amey and Brock as members of the Committee.

2. Election of Committee Vice-Chairman for the Year 2005/06

Mr Fleet was proposed by Mr Faulkner and seconded by Miss Davies. There being no other nominations, Mr Fleet was declared duly elected.

3. Apologies for Absence

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Sandra Landy | |
| Denis Robson | EBU Chairman |

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting (6th July 2005)

4.1 Accuracy

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

4.2 Matters arising

4.2.1 Shareholders minutes of 20th July 2005 (item 13.2 of 20th April 2005)

The Chairman drew the Committee's attention to the fact that when he had presented the minutes of the Committee's April meeting to shareholders in the absence of the then Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, a question had been asked about the minute concerning the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship. He had indicated that the minute had not quite captured the flavour of the Committee's discussion, but on reflection he did consider that the minute had been accurate, and he undertook to draw this to the attention of the shareholders at the next meeting. It might be relevant that the Committee had discussed the matter on the basis of the allocated budget of £5,000, whereas it had subsequently transpired that the amount requiring to be spent would be considerably less.

4.2.2 Women's Trials (item 1)

The Committee formally noted that following the last meeting the letter from the women players had been withdrawn, and it had proved possible to find alternative dates for the Women's European Championship Trial. The Chairman acknowledged that the decision had been a compromise which some had felt to amount to a climbdown. Mr Rowlands Eginton commented on the importance of getting decisions right at the start, so that no question of changing tack in response to player pressure could arise in future. **Mr Rowlands said that the Committee should stick to decisions once they had been approved by the Board and noted by shareholders.**

4.2.3 Seniors events (item 3.2.3)

The Committee noted that the entries for the Gerard Faulkner Salver had been down this season, which appeared to lessen the likelihood of the Tournament Committee being prepared to seed the competition next season. Whilst the question was primarily a matter for the Tournament Committee, it was noted that Aylesbury office did not appear to have taken steps to publicise the competition or remind potential entrants of the closing date, which might well have contributed to the drop in entries. It was felt that some clarification of the relevant lines of authority at Aylesbury might be required.

Whilst acknowledging the Tournament Committee's view that the competition was too small to seed because seeding was thought to exacerbate the practical problems of running a knock-out competition without excessive travelling in the early rounds, the Committee thought that the Tournament Committee might perhaps see its way to seeding at least four teams without undue adverse practical consequences.

Mr Doe drew the Committee's attention to a suggestion by one team captain that the Committee's wishes with regard to the use of the competition for selection purposes had not been properly carried out. The Committee disagreed – in particular it was entirely happy for the communication to captains requesting confirmation of eligibility and interest in participating in the play-off to be deferred until the number of teams still involved in the competition had been reduced by elimination in the early rounds.

4.2.4 Future trials – venues (item 3.2.4)

Mr Doe drew the Committee's attention to the fact that it appeared that the West Midlands Bridge Club was becoming less able to accommodate the number of trials the Committee wished to stage there. The Committee noted the need to make a decision as to the possibility of holding future trials at Kettering, but agreed that such a decision should not be made until feedback was available from the players from other events (notably the Tollemache qualifier) which were to be held at Kettering. The Committee noted that there is a widespread assumption that Kettering is only likely to gain general acceptance as a venue if hotel accommodation becomes available on site. Whilst acknowledging that the answers to previous polls about the venue of trials had been very polarised

according to where the players were based, the Committee thought it sensible to poll players in due course as to their preferences between London and Kettering as a venue.

4.2.5 *Laundry allowances (item 3.2.8)*

Mr Doe apologised that he had not been able to check the position with Mr Bavin as the latter had been absent due to illness.

[Secretary's note – Mr Bavin confirms that in future it is intended that per diems will cover laundry.]

4.2.6 *Invitation from Indonesia (item 8.2)*

The Committee noted the withdrawal of one of the pairs selected amid protestations that they had never in fact confirmed their availability. It appeared that there might have been a misunderstanding or a breakdown in communication.

Whilst the withdrawal had led to the necessity to rescind the acceptance of the invitation (the terms of which had made it clear that a second rank team was not what the organisers wanted), the Committee was somewhat relieved to note that the hosts seemed, perhaps paradoxically, to have been pleased with the way the matter had been handled by the EBU. This was less surprising when one realised that several European NBOs had apparently not troubled to respond to the invitation in any way.

4.2.7 *Terms of reference (item 11.1)*

The Committee noted that the Board had agreed to pursue the idea of terms of reference for the other two Standing Committees, which – in contrast to the Committee – currently lacked them. However, the structural changes proposed by Mr Dixon had not found favour. It was not likely that significant changes would be made to the Committee's terms of reference.

The Committee was pleased to note that Vice-Presidential attendance rights were likely to remain, as it had generally found the contributions made by Vice Presidents to be positive.

Any other matters arising (including action points) not featuring elsewhere on the agenda

4.2.8 *Future arrangements for Girls Squad (item 3.2.6)*

The Committee noted that it had not been considered that there were sufficient numbers of interested players to warrant a full two-year programme conducted separately from the existing squads, but it was intended to work separately with the leading girls pairs from approximately a year's time. The Committee was keen that if the European Girls Championship was to be supported, proper attention and resources should be devoted to selecting and preparing an England team.

4.2.9 *Feedback on new Camrose format (item 3.2.10)*

The Committee noted that despite its views being made known via Mr Neville (the EBU's representative on BGB), and despite criticisms apparently being made by other Unions (at least, the England NPCs' reports had suggested that other Unions' players were unhappy with the format, and the Committee hoped that these views had been noted), no substantial changes had been made to the format for 2006. Mr Doe said that it was his understanding that BGB had taken the criticisms on board, but had wanted to learn two years' lessons before considering radical changes.

The Committee noted that the change to the new format had largely been based on considerations of cost. It thought that it would be helpful to know what the savings had been, and Mr Doe undertook to look into the matter, whilst warning that it might be a bit difficult to draw direct comparisons as England had not yet hosted a weekend under the new format.

4.2.10 *Cancellation of Stage I of the Open Trials (item 6.2)*

The Committee noted a suggestion that it had been a mistake to allow the three teams not qualifying as of right for Stage II to play in Stage II when Stage I was cancelled. Whilst acknowledging that poorly-performing teams could be considered an undesirable randomising factor, it was worth noting that one of the problems encountered by England teams in recent Championships appeared to have been their inability to dispatch weaker opponents by a satisfactory margin, so it was arguable that practice against weaker teams was of some value.

The Committee agreed that the policy of making trials open to all who wished to enter needed to be looked at again, when the format of trials was next considered.

4A. Committee procedures and conflicts of interest

Before proceeding to items 5-9, the Chairman explained the Committee's procedures with regard to conflicts of interest, in the light of the fact that Mr Owen's son is a leading junior player. He stressed that the conflicts of interest which had involved certain former members of the Committee had led the Committee to take a hard line. Mr Owen commented that his principal expertise was in junior matters. He withdrew while the remaining members of the Committee considered the extent to which he should be expected to remain out of the meeting while items 5-9 were discussed.

The Chairman indicated that the default position was that Mr Owen should be expected to remain out of the meeting for all items where a potential conflict of interest might conceivably be thought to arise, unless the remainder of the Committee was unanimous in endorsing a more ad hoc approach, with Mr Owen remaining for general discussions, and only being requested to withdraw when an actual conflict of interest became apparent. He suggested that Mr Owen should remain on the latter basis, but unanimous support was not forthcoming. It was then agreed that Mr Owen should remain for item 5, and should then be invited to make any statement he wished with regard to the subject matter of items 6-9, subject to the proviso that he did not comment about specific players, before withdrawing for the remainder of those items.

Mr Eginton considered the Committee's procedures to be inflexible, to the possible detriment of its work. Mr Mason (supported by Mr Rowlands) considered it absurd to exclude Mr Owen from participation in discussion of items where his strength lay. Mr Rowlands wished it minuted that he objected to the whole procedure – he considered it wrong that it had been possible for someone with a conflict of interest to be elected in the first place. The Committee agreed that it would be appropriate for the Board to consider whether it should introduce a specific requirement for candidates for election to disclose potential conflicts of interest so that shareholders could exercise a better-informed choice.

5. Player contracts / Codes of Conduct

The Chairman welcomed Mr Kambites to the meeting.

Information relating to the proposals made by Mr Kambites, and the resolution put forward by his County, Gloucestershire, for consideration by shareholders, had been circulated in advance. This had included a proposal to introduce a form of contract for members of junior squads, but the discussion at the shareholders' meeting had resulted in a request to the Committee to consider the question of player contracts or codes of conduct for all England international representatives, not just juniors.

The Chairman summarised the crucial point at issue as being whether the Squad Managers should have the power to exclude players not just from squad activities, but also from selected teams. Mr Kambites agreed that this was his principal concern, although he was not so much worried about who should have the power to exclude, but that there should be a mechanism in place to ensure that decisions could be made, if necessary, as a matter of urgency. He did not consider it appropriate for decisions to be deferred until the Committee could meet to discuss the matter. There had been an occasion in the past when he had raised something which he considered warranted exclusion from a team, but the matter had not been addressed prior to the event at which the team concerned had played.

As a Squad Manager, Mr Starkings confirmed that he accepted the responsibility to make sure that a decision was made, but he did not consider it appropriate for it to be his decision to make. Mr Doe drew attention to the fact that if anything requiring the Committee's attention arose between meetings, particularly if there was any element of urgency, there were established procedures already in place to deal with it. Specifically, the matter was reported to the Chairman who would discuss it with the Vice-Chairman. The two would then together decide to what extent it was necessary, desirable or feasible to conduct further consultation with members of the Committee before making a decision. In an emergency, a decision could be made extremely quickly, and

even the unavailability of key people should not stop this happening. It was important, however, for matters requiring formal action on the part of the Committee to be raised wherever possible by contacting the appropriate person at Aylesbury, namely Mr Doe as the Committee's Secretary.

Mr Kambites commented that it had been suggested in the past that matters of conduct were for the Laws & Ethics Committee, whose disciplinary procedures are not geared to making quick decisions. The Chairman assured him that any matter of conduct affecting the fitness of a selected member of a team to represent England was for this Committee and would be dealt with.

Mr Kambites said that until recently he had not been persuaded that the EBU acknowledges any responsibility in connection with things which happen away from the bridge table. If parents entrusted young players to EBU-organised activities, the EBU had the responsibility to provide a safe and positive environment, free of such things as negative peer pressure, which had caused problems in the past. Mr Starkings commented that the formal requirements were getting increasingly onerous, but without, he hoped, appearing complacent, he was convinced that the EBU had made great progress in ensuring that activities involving juniors were properly conducted.

In considering the contract proposed by Mr Kambites, the Committee noted that Mr Starkings is already in the habit of discussing the existing notes for guidance in squad sessions. Mr Kambites considered that something which the player was required to sign would be more helpful. In particular if schools knew that such a document were in existence, their attitude to bridge might improve considerably. It was agreed that the Chairman and Mr Doe should liaise, with additional consultation as the former considered appropriate, to produce a draft document combining elements of the existing notes for guidance with certain specific matters from Mr Kambites' proposed contract.

Before leaving the meeting Mr Kambites indicated that he had been encouraged by the discussions, and was willing to help further if he could. The Chairman thanked him for his contribution.

The Committee went on to consider the suggestion from the shareholders' meeting that contracts or codes of conduct should be introduced for all representative players. It concluded that the requirements were somewhat different in the case of juniors, in view of the considerations of contact with minors. In principle, however, the Committee agreed that it was appropriate to enhance the status of the existing notes for guidance by requiring acceptances of invitations to represent England to include an undertaking to abide by the terms of the notes for guidance. Mr Fleet suggested that they could usefully also include a commitment to specified training dates. Whilst training was considered in some quarters to be expensive, he considered it necessary to maximise the EBU's return on its investment in sending representative teams abroad.

6. Junior events – review of past events

Before proceeding to consider matters of detail the Committee heard Mr Owen's opinions on a number of matters. He said that he had on the whole been impressed with how things are done – youngsters were given the chance to improve their bridge if they wanted to. He was less convinced about the effectiveness of our current preparation for selected teams, and he had tried to make a contribution in this area.

Mr Bowyer explained that preparation had been adversely affected by the change in the international timetable which had meant that there had been two European Youth Championships in successive years. With a traditional two-year cycle now under way, he had been better-placed to plan ahead for how he wanted to deal with things.

Mr Owen said that he had been concerned to note that some members of the team for the World Youth Championships had been affected by jet-lag to an apparently unnecessary degree. A team meeting in advance of a Championship to agree various ground rules was likely to be helpful and could have addressed the problem which had arisen on this occasion. It was agreed that it was important for captains to realise that many juniors, whilst technically adults, are not always mature enough to behave sensibly without fairly detailed instructions or supervision.

Mr Owen informed the Committee that he had been able to arrange for mentoring of some junior players who were at University, by strong players in the locality, and he hoped that wider use could be made of this idea.

[Mr Owen withdrew for the remainder of this item and for the whole of items 7, 8 and 9.]

At the end of the meeting Mr Owen stated that he wished recorded his dissatisfaction with the amount of time he had had to spend out of the meeting (which had approached two hours). He did not consider that the Committee could be dealing with junior matters properly when an elected member with expertise in the area was excluded.

6.1 European Youth Championships, Riccione 2005 – Junior (under-25) Series

The results were noted, as shown in Appendix 1 (A). Mr Dixon was thanked for his report.

The Committee considered two matters of a confidential nature, which are recorded in a separate private minute.

6.2 European Youth Championships, Riccione 2005 – Schools (under-20) Series

The results were noted, as shown in Appendix 1 (B). Mr Starkings was thanked for his report. The need to draw better attention of players to the requirements about accompanying persons was noted.

6.3 European Youth Championships, Riccione 2005 – Girls Series

The results were noted, as shown in Appendix 1 (C). Mr Starkings was thanked for his report. The Committee noted the need for care in line-up decisions when a team not in contention was to play against a leading team at the end of an event, but accepted Mr Starkings' assurance that as far as he was aware none of the other teams in contention had made any criticism on this occasion.

The Committee also noted the comment that attendance at competitions was of minimal value as preparation unless an NPC was present. Leading members of both squads had benefited in recent years from free entry to the Spring Foursomes. The Committee agreed that this was only appropriate as a matter of course in a Championship year, and only if an NPC (and preferably all three pairs) could be present.

6.4 World Youth Championships, Sydney 2005

The results were noted, as shown in Appendix 1 (D). Mr Hackett was thanked for his NPC's report and Mr Bowyer for putting his reflections as Coach in writing.

Whilst the travel arrangements had been made with a view to minimising jet-lag, the Committee felt that the elimination of the stop-over en route in favour of earlier arrival at the site of the Championships might have proved beneficial.

The Committee also noted the suggestion that one team member in particular might have benefited from input from a sports psychologist. It felt it preferable, however, to consider such arrangements (if funding was available) for teams as a whole.

7. Junior events – selection for forthcoming under-25 events

7.1 Trials

The Committee noted the results, as shown in Appendix 1 (E), together with further information provided by Mr Bowyer on performance in squad activities.

7.2 Junior Channel Trophy

The following were selected to represent England:-

John Atthey and Christopher Owen
David Collier and Mark Reeve
Ben Green and Duncan Happer
Reserve pair – Mike Bell and Greg Moss

NPC – Steve Eginton

Reserve NPC – Sandra Landy

The event is to be played in Belgium on the usual pre-Christmas weekend.

7.3 Junior Camrose Trophy

The following were selected to represent England:-

John Atthey and Christopher Owen
Michael Byrne and Alex Morris
Simon Cope and Stuart Haring

Reserve pair – Mike Bell and Greg Moss
NPC – Richard Fleet
Reserve NPC – Alan Mould

The event is to be played in Edinburgh on the weekend of 18th-19th February.

7.4 Amsterdam invitation

The Committee confirmed that Mr Bowyer has authority to make selections for this event.

8. Junior events – selection for forthcoming under-20 events

8.1 Trials

The Committee noted the results, as shown in Appendix 1 (F), together with further information provided by Mr Starkings on performance in squad activities.

8.2 Junior Channel Trophy

The following were selected to represent England:-

Ed Jones and David Rogers
Ben Paske and Tom Paske
Tom Rainforth and James Thrower

Reserve pair – Nicola Macdougall and Alex Morton
NPC – Mel Starkings
Reserve NPC – Sandra Landy

8.3 Peggy Bayer Trophy

The following were selected to represent England:-

Ed Jones and Shivam Shah
Nicola Macdougall and Alex Morton
Bingyuan Yang and Songtao Ye

Reserve pair - Anthony Cowan and Joe Mela
NPC – Mel Starkings
Reserve NPC – Alan Mould

8.4 Amsterdam invitation

The following were selected to represent England:-

Tom Andrews and Minesh Shah
Tom Dessain and Joe Mela
Bingyuan Yang and Songtao Ye

Reserve pair – Nicola Macdougall and Alex Morton
NPC – Mel Starkings

9. Junior events – other matters

9.1 Squad composition and activities

Mr Bowyer drew the Committee's attention to his plan to concentrate on the two-year international cycle with the aim of producing the best possible team for the European Youth Championships in odd-numbered years. To this end he proposed a fairly formal trial in even-numbered years which he hoped would lead to the selection at a quite early stage of four pairs who would comprise the team and reserves for the ensuing European. He hoped that the NPC would be selected at a similarly early stage and would be able to work closely with the team in the run-up to the selection of the three pairs to make up the team, and then on towards the Championship itself.

In his view this did call into question the role of the Channel Trophy, the Junior Camrose and the Spring event in the Netherlands to which invitations are regularly received. In the season immediately prior to a European (i.e. for the Channel Trophy of even-numbered years and the Junior Camrose of odd-numbered years), he would expect to select from the four pairs emerging from the trials as the prospective European team. In other seasons he considered that it was not necessarily appropriate to select the strongest possible teams, but to blood youngsters of genuine promise. Otherwise there was a tendency for there to be a vicious circle – players who would be likely to progress to the elite squad in the future were denied the opportunity to gain international experience which would help them make that progress. He was not proposing the selection of weak teams – just not necessarily the strongest available. The Committee considered that there was merit in the proposal, and commended it to shareholders.

Mr Bowyer's proposals would require an NPC who was prepared to work with the prospective European team over a period, but the Committee was pleased to note that Mr Dixon had indicated willingness to continue to be involved, and that the respondents to an informal survey of leading players conducted by Mr Eginton had revealed an almost universal willingness to get involved in the training of junior teams.

Mr Bowyer said that one of his priorities was to give aspiring international representatives experience of long (i.e. 20-board) stanzas and play with screens. He hoped to be able to commission some screens at modest cost, which would have considerable advantages.

Mr Starkings expressed the view that it was desirable to pick teams for the European Youth Championships earlier than had previously been the case, perhaps at the October meeting, so that subsequent preparation could be better planned to avoid exam commitments.

9.2 Other issues

The Committee noted that the Squad Managers had held a meeting the previous day with John Pain. They felt that the support from Aylesbury was good.

The Committee noted that Mr Bowyer proposed to hold under-25 trials each September, open to all, with further trials in October of even-numbered years, with some filtering of entrants to eliminate the very inexperienced. Mr Starkings proposed to hold under-20 trials in May, although squad members were informed that performance in all squad events counts towards selection.

10. Open events – review of past events

10.1 European Champions Cup, Brussels 2005

Due to lack of time this item was deferred.

10.2 Bermuda Bowl, Estoril 2005

Due to lack of time this item was deferred (although the results had been circulated in advance and the NPC report was tabled, so that Committee members had the opportunity to raise any matters which they considered pertinent to the selections to be made in the following item: no such matters were actually raised).

11. Open events – selection for forthcoming events

11.1 Open trials 2005/06

The results were noted, as shown in Appendix I (G and H).

The Committee noted that one of the teams due to contest the semi-finals of the Open Trials contained a player who wished to play in the Women's European Championship Trial, which was scheduled for the same date. The team had asked for the Committee's sanction to play its semi-final on a different date. The Committee approved the request, subject to the following conditions:-

- that the team's semi-final opponents agree and dates can be found on which both teams are prepared to play;
- that in other respects the match is played under the conditions specified in the Conditions of Contest; and
- that the team making the request reimburses the EBU for any additional expenses occasioned by the change of date.

The Committee considered a suggestion that the knock-out stages should be broadcast on the internet via Bridgebase Online, as this would enable Committee members to follow the play even if unable to be physically present. The Committee had no objection and Mr Doe was asked to investigate the practicalities.

11.2 Camrose Trophy fixtures

The Committee noted that the draw had been made, as follows:-

First weekend (6th-8th January, hosts Republic of Ireland) – England's opponents Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland; other matches Northern Ireland v Scotland, Republic of Ireland v Wales, Scotland v Wales.

Second weekend (3rd-5th March, hosts Wales) – England's opponents Scotland and Wales; other matches Northern Ireland v Wales, Republic of Ireland v Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland v Scotland

No details were yet known concerning actual venues.

11.3 Selection of England Camrose teams, reserves, NPCs and reserve NPCs

The following were selected to represent England:-

v Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland

John Armstrong and John Holland
David Gold and Tom Townsend
Paul Hackett and Tony Waterlow

Reserve pair – Espen Erichsen and Brian Senior

NPC – Raymond Brock

Reserve NPC – John Williams

v Scotland and Wales

David Gold and Tom Townsend
Artur Malinowski and Nick Sandqvist
David Price and Colin Simpson

Reserve pair – David Bakhshi and Andrew Robson

NPC – Raymond Brock

Reserve NPC – John Williams

12. Women's events – review of past events

12.1 Venice Cup, Estoril 2005

Due to lack of time this item was deferred (although the results and the NPC report had been circulated in advance, so that Committee members had the opportunity to raise any matters which they considered pertinent to the selections to be made in the following item: no such matters were actually raised).

13. Women's events – selection for forthcoming events

13.1 Trials

The results of the Lady Milne Trial were noted, as shown in Appendix 1 (I).

13.2 Lady Milne Trophy - arrangements

Beyond the fact that the event is to be held in Ballymena (Northern Ireland) over the weekend of 31st March to 2nd April, no details are currently available.

13.3 Selection of third pair for England Lady Milne team, reserves, NPCs and reserve NPCs

The following were selected to represent England:-

Michelle Brunner and Rhona Goldenfield

Heather Dhondy and Nicola Smith*

Cath Jagger and Sarah Teshome*

Reserve pair – Tracy Capal and Catherine Draper

NPC – David Burn

Reserve NPC – John Williams

*The two pairs marked * had qualified as of right.

14. Miscellaneous matters for future discussion

Due to lack of time this item was deferred.

15. Dates and venues of future meetings

The next meeting was fixed for Wednesday 22nd February, in London (Bernard Street if available). Consideration was given to holding a further meeting before then, in view of the amount of business not completed at the present meeting, but it was decided to fix further meetings as necessary after the February meeting.

[Secretary's note – Bernard Street is confirmed as the venue. The starting time (which was not actually discussed) is provisionally set for 12.30 pm.]

16. Future trials

16.1 Open trials 2006/07

The Committee briefly considered correspondence from a range of leading players critical of the decision not to hold trials, and urging that the matter be reconsidered. The Committee noted the suggestion that performance in specified events might be taken into account. Due to lack of time a full discussion was deferred to the next meeting, although it was clear that several Committee members had sympathy with what the players had to say. In the meantime Mr Doe was asked to proceed as follows:-

- respond to all players who had taken the trouble to write;

- indicate that the Committee would reconsider the matter at the next meeting, and was likely to see its way to putting something in place which did not amount to straight selection from applying pairs; and
- ensure that provisional dates for up to four weekends of trials were included in the forward calendar, and that such dates were appropriately publicised.

17. Panel of non-playing captains

Due to lack of time this item was deferred.

18. Friendly internationals and invitations

18.1 Commonwealth Bridge Championship 2006

The Committee noted that following a poll of Committee members between the two teams which had put themselves forward, the following had been selected to represent England:-

Michelle Brunner and John Holland
John Hassett and Bill Hirst

18.2 Invitation from the Netherlands

The Committee noted that an invitation had been received from the Dutch for a return practice match for Open and Women's teams, following the practice matches which had been held at Brighton earlier this year. Mr Doe was asked to inform qualifiers for the semi-finals of the Open Trials and entrants to the Women's European Championship Trial of the proposed dates.

19. Any other business

19.1 Data Protection and access to contact details

Mr Doe gave Committee members details of the contact details held for them on the EBU membership database, and sought approval for them to be combined into a directory for circulation to fellow Committee members. This was agreed.

19.2 Women's European Championship Trial

The Committee noted that seven pairs had entered by the closing date, and agreed that any late entries should be accepted, subject to not creating a half table unnecessarily.

19.3 Publication of minutes on website

The Committee noted the Board's decision to publish minutes as "awaiting approval" until the minutes were approved at the subsequent meeting. It was happy to follow suit, provided that the minutes did not appear on the website until Committee members had actually received them and had at least 48 hours to raise any queries.

Appendix 1 – Results

A. European Youth Championships, Riccione 2005 – Junior (under-25) Series

| Position (of 22) | Team | VPs | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Poland | 421 | Q |
| 2 | Italy | 396.5 | Q |
| 3 | France | 379 | Q |
| 4 | Norway | 377 | Q |
| 5 | Hungary | 375.5 | Q |
| 6 | Israel | 371 | Q (poss) |
| 7 | England | 352 | |
| 8 | Denmark | 335.5 | |
| 9 | Netherlands | 329.5 | |
| 10 | Belgium | 328.5 | |

England team

Michael Byrne and Alex Morris
 Ollie Burgess and Andrew Woodcock
 Ben Green and Duncan Happer
 NPC – Chris Dixon

B. European Youth Championships, Riccione 2005 – Schools (under-20) Series

| Position (of 14) | Team | VPs | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------|----------|
| 1 | Poland | 248 | Q |
| 2 | Israel | 238 | Q |
| 3 | Norway | 233 | Q |
| 4 | Sweden | 227 | |
| 5 | Latvia | 227 | |
| 6 | Italy | 208 | |
| 7 | Denmark | 206 | |
| 8 | Germany | 202 | |
| 11 | England | 173 | |

England team

John Atthey and Christopher Owen
 Ed Jones and Dave Rogers
 Joe Mela and Shivam Shah
 NPC – Mel Starkings

C. European Youth Championships, Riccione 2005 – Girls Series

| Position (of 10) | Team | VPs |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Netherlands | 177 |
| 2 | Sweden | 165 |
| 3 | Austria | 164 |
| 4 | Poland | 157 |
| 5 | Russia | 153 |
| 6 | Germany | 134 |
| 8 | England | 116 |

England team

Suzanna Morton and Elizabeth Roberts
 Laura Macdougall and Sarah Whitehead
 Susan Stockdale and Bryony Youngs

NPC – Mel Starkings

D. World Youth Championships, Sydney 2005

| Position (of 18) | Team | VPs | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------|----------|
| 1 | Poland | 345 | Q |
| 2 | France | 333 | Q |
| 3 | USA 1 | 311.8 | Q |
| 4 | Canada | 299 | Q |
| 5 | Hungary | 276 | |
| 6 | Chinese Taipei | 272 | |
| 7 | Australia | 270 | |
| 8 | Israel | 265.7 | |
| 13 | England | 245 | |

Semi-finals

France 116 - 172 Poland

Canada 115 - 181 USA 1

Final

Poland 194 - 209 USA 1 (after extra boards)

England team

Michael Byrne and Alex Morris
 Ben Green and Duncan Happer
 Andrew Woodcock

NPC – Paul Hackett

E. Junior trials (under-25s)

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| John Atthey and Chris Owen | 56 |
| Mike Bell and Greg Moss | 37 |
| Simon Cope and Stuart Haring | 35 |
| Jon De Souza and Hugo Steckelmacher | 32 |
| Ollie Burgess and Tessa Greenslade | 31 |
| Michael Byrne and Alex Morris | 27 |
| Philip Andrews and Michael Graham | 18 |
| Ben Green and Duncan Happer | 1 |
| Ian Green and Steve Raine | -5 |
| Owen Cotton-Barratt and James Rogers | -6 |
| Ged Pfeifer and Stuart Rutter | -10 |
| Adam Dickinson and Luke Porter | -19 |
| Nick Firth and Jon Matthews | -19 |
| Anthony Cowan and Bingyuan Yang | -22 |
| Andrew Murphy and Tom Slater | -46 |
| Dom Maloney and Laura Perryman | -109 |

F. Junior trials (under-20s)

First Trial

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Songtao Ye and Bing Yang | 60 |
| Jack Morgan and David King | 60 |
| Alex Morton and Nicola Macdougall | 49 |
| Shivam Shah and Joe Mela | 37 |
| Justin Bell and Graeme Robertson | 36 |
| Danielle Sissaman and Tom Copeland | 32 |
| Dan Caton and Jonathan King | 32 |
| Tom Rainforth and James Thrower | 28 |
| Andrew North and Stephen Rodgers | 27 |
| Ed Jones and David Rodgers | 24 |
| Jon Matthews and Anthony Cowan | 22 |
| Tom Dessain and Elizabeth Roberts | 22 |
| Douglas Yeong and Oliver Benjamin | 18 |
| Guiseppe Fiorentino and M Dessain | 16 |
| Arthur Wolstenholme and Keiran Tilley | 14 |
| Rob Myers and Liam Jones | 11 |
| Minesh Shah and Tom Andrews | 6 |
| Jenny Johnson and Dominic Borrows | 5 |

First Trial (ctd.)

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Tammy Woodford and Duncan | 4 |
| Katy Lee and Sianead Budd | 4 |
| Alex Roberts and Craig Stewart | 4 |

Second trial

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Ben and Tom Paske | 66 |
| Nicola McDougall and Tom Dessain | 62 |
| Tim O'Connor and Richard O'Coonor | 49 |
| Ed Jones and Shivam Shah | 32 |
| Tim Eagle and Phillip Bao | 21 |
| Sinead Bird and Rob Myers | 20 |
| Arthur Wolstenholme and Keiran Tilley | 19 |
| Dan Caton and Jonathan King | 16 |
| Katy Lee and Simon Mattison | 13 |
| Ajay and Naren Ratan | 12 |
| Jenny Marvin and Amy Stout | 11 |
| Danielle Sissaman and Tom Copeland | 7 |
| Tom Rainforth and James Thrower | 7 |
| Jack Morgan and David King | 9 |

Third trial

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Ben Paske and Tom Paske | 51 |
| Song Tao Ye and Bing Yang | 47 |
| Tom Rainforth and James Thrower | 40 |
| Ed Jones and David Rogers | 39 |
| Joe Mela and Tom Dessain | 25 |
| Jenny Marvin and Amy Stout | 19 |
| Anthony Cowan and Tom Copeland | 19 |
| Sinead Bird and Rob Myers | 9 |
| Shivam Shah and Vicky North | 6 |
| Rajinder Poonian and Philip Bao | 4 |

G. Open Trials Stage II

| | IIA | | IIB | | Overall | | |
|--|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------|
| | Tot | Rank | Tot | Rank | Tot | Rank | |
| Gus Calderwood and Dick Shek, Martin Jones and Neil Rosen | 130 | 1 | 78 | 2 | 208 | 1 | Q |
| Espen Erichsen and Brian Senior, Nevena Senior and Geoffrey Wolfarth | 70 | 2 | 73 | 3 | 143 | 2 | Q |
| John Armstrong and John Holland, Paul Hackett and Tony Waterlow | -14 | 7 | 139 | 1 | 125 | 3 | Q |
| Jeffrey Allerton and Frances Hinden, Jon Cook and Graham Osborne | 63 | 3 | 39 | 4 | 102 | 4 | Q |
| Keith Bennett and Jeremy Dhondy, Rob Cliffe and Heather Dhondy | 39 | 5 | 13 | 6 | 52 | 5 | Q |
| David Burn and Brian Callaghan, Ian Monachan and Victor Silverstone | 56 | 4 | -34 | 7 | 22 | 6 | |
| Ben Green and Duncan Happer, Peter Heatherington and Glyn Preece | -35 | 9 | 27 | 5 | -8 | 7 | |
| Michael Byrne and Alex Morris, Craig Fisher and Andrew Woodcock | -14 | 7 | -76 | 8 | -90 | 8 | |
| Tony Forrester and Jack Mizel, Gary Hyett and Alan Mould | 36 | 6 | -133 | 10 | -97 | 9 | |
| Philip Andrews and Michael Graham, Jon De Souza and Hugo Steckelmacher | -78 | 10 | -128 | 9 | -206 | 10 | |
| Mike Bell and Greg Moss, Andrew Murphy and Tom Slater | -250 | 11 | withdrawn | | N/A | | |

H. Open Trials Stage III

| | IIIA | | IIIB | | Overall | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| | Tot | Rank | Tot | Rank | Tot | Rank |
| David Gold and Tom Townsend, David Price and Colin Simpson | 13 | 4 | 152 | 1 | 165 | 1 |
| John Armstrong and John Holland, Paul Hackett and Tony Waterlow | 43 | 2 | 118 | 2 | 161 | 2 |
| Jason Hackett and Justin Hackett, Artur Malinowski and Nick Sandqvist | 149 | 1 | -16 | 4 | 133 | 3 |
| Espen Erichsen and Brian Senior, Nevena Senior and Geoffrey Wolfarth | -43 | 6 | 55 | 3 | 12 | 4 |
| Alexander Allfrey and Andrew McIntosh, David Bakhshi and Andrew Robson | 36 | 3 | -43 | 5 | -7 | 5 |
| Jeffrey Allerton and Frances Hinden, Jon Cooke and Graham Osborne | -26 | 5 | -79 | 6 | -105 | 6 |
| David Burn and Brian Callaghan, Ian Monachan and Victor Silverstone | -61 | 7 | -102 | 7 | -163 | 7 |
| Keith Bennett and Jeremy Dhondy, Rob Cliffe and Heather Dhondy | -111 | 8 | -113 | 8 | -224 | 8 |

I. Lady Milne Trial

| | 1st weekend | | 2nd weekend | | Overall | |
|--|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| | Total | Rank | Total | Rank | Total | Rank |
| Cath Jagger and Sarah Teshome | 71 | 1 | 85 | 1 | 156 | 1 |
| Heather Dhondy and Nicola Smith | 51 | 4 | 15 | 4 | 66 | 2 |
| Michelle Brunner and Rhona Goldenfield | -21 | 8 | 83 | 2 | 62 | 3 |
| Tracy Capal and Catherine Draper | 57 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 61 | 4 |
| Catherine Seale and Jacqui Tobias | 12 | 6 | 21 | 3 | 33 | 5 |
| Sandra Penfold and Nevena Senior | 47 | 5 | -16 | 6 | 31 | 6 |
| Susan Stockdale and Bryony Youngs | 52 | 3 | -31 | 8 | 21 | 7 |
| Catherine Smith and Eva Turner | -1 | 7 | -42 | 9 | -43 | 8 |
| Sally Brock and Kitty Teltscher | -24 | 9 | -47 | =10 | -71 | 9 |
| Suzanna Morton and Elizabeth Roberts | -93 | 10 | -28 | 7 | -121 | 10 |
| Sue Oakford and Nadia Stelmashenko | -158 | 11 | -47 | =10 | -205 | 11 |

Appendix 2 – Action Points

| Item | Action | Responsible |
|--------------|--|--|
| 4.2.1 | Minutes of 20.4.05 / shareholders' minutes of 20.7.05 – clarification for shareholders | Chairman |
| 4.2.3 | Gerard Faulkner Salver - seeding | Secretary (for Tournament Committee) |
| 4.2.9 | Costs of new Camrose format | Secretary |
| 5 | Guidance for junior and other international players | Chairman & Secretary (plus John Pain) |
| 9.1 | Selection policy for junior events – flag for shareholders | Chairman |
| 11.1 | Arrangements for Open Trials semi-finals (including BBO) | Secretary (referring to Chairman as necessary) |
| 16.1 | Response to feedback on Open Trials; provisional dates | Secretary |
| 18.2 | Invitation from Netherlands – information for players | Secretary |
| 19.1 | Committee directory | Secretary |