



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, LONDON,
ON TUESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2006.**

Present:	Gerard Faulkner	(Chairman)
	Paul Bowyer	Appointed member (for items 1-5)
	Raymond Brock	
	Steve Eginton	
	Peter Hasenson	
	David Muller	
	Mel Starkings	Appointed member (for items 1-5)
	Peter Stocken	(EBU Chairman)
	Sandra Claridge	(Secretary)

1. Apologies for absence

Sally Bugden (EBU Vice-Chairman), Sandra Landy, RA Priday (Vice-President)

2. Election of Committee Chairman for the Year 2006/7

The Secretary called for nominations for Chairman. Raymond Brock proposed Gerard Faulkner and the nomination was seconded by Peter Stocken. There being no other nominations Gerard Faulkner was elected. Thanking the Committee, Mr Faulkner welcomed Messrs. Hasenson and Muller to their first meeting, and Raymond Brock on his return to the Committee, and announced that Richard Fleet had resigned from the Committee shortly after the Annual General Meeting.

3. Election of Committee Vice-Chairman for the Year 2006/7

Nominations having been made for Steve Eginton and Raymond Brock a ballot took place, and Steve Eginton was elected as Vice-Chairman for the year.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th July 2006

Subject to 'Gerald' being amended to 'Gerard' in Appendix B, the minutes were signed as an accurate record.

4.1 Matters arising

4.1.1 Appeals Chairmen for Home International Series

The Secretary reported that Bridge Great Britain had not adopted the suggestion that Appeals Chairmen should be appointed from an NBO other than the host country. Raymond Brock

asked that Home Unions be instructed that appeals should be reported in full, detailing the relevant Law which determined the decision.

4.1.2 *Camrose Trials 2006/7*

The Chairman reported that of the eight teams selected for the Trials, the teams captained by Janet de Botton and Simon Gillis had subsequently withdrawn, and Glyn Liggins had withdrawn himself. Reserves had accordingly been brought in, and the teams not originally selected were contacted to ascertain whether they would still be available to take part in the Trials. None being available, the Committee acceded to the request of the remainder of the Liggins team that David Price be permitted to join them, thereby returning the Trials to eight teams. Full results of the Trials are contained in Appendix A.

4.1.3 *NPCs Report from the Lady Milne Trophy*

The Secretary reported that despite numerous requests, a report by the England NPC had not been forthcoming. It was generally agreed that the production of a report was not a particularly onerous task, and the Secretary was asked to inform the Captain in writing that if he wished to remain on the NPCs Panel he must abide by the Committee's requirement in this regard.

4.1.4 *Notification of Selections*

The Chairman said that the Secretary would prefer to inform all triallists of the Committee's selections soon after the meeting, and Committee members were reminded not to disclose selections until the following day.

4.1.5 *Designation of unofficial "England" teams*

It was agreed that teams invited to compete abroad as "England" could only do so if formally accredited by the EBU Selection Committee. The Secretary was asked to publish on the EBU website and inform current triallists that should such an invitation be received, formal approval must be sought from the Committee.

4.1.6 *International Team Development Plan*

Steve Eginton reported that he had presented his Plan to the EBU Board, who had stressed that any expenditure could only be sanctioned if it was within the current International budget. Subsequently he had produced, with Max Bavin, an updated budget to facilitate the appointment of a permanent part-time coach.

4.1.7 *Appointment of Assistant Coach for Warsaw*

Steve Eginton explained the circumstances surrounding the appointment of an Assistant Coach for Warsaw, despite both the Selection Committee and the EBU Board deciding that such an appointment was unwarranted on economic grounds. He had been put in an invidious position when contacted by a member of the England Open team who indicated that it was the team's wish to employ P-O Sundelin, and that they would pay some of his expenses. He believed that the decision was taken by the team as a whole, and agreed to fund a proportion of P-O Sundelin's accommodation costs personally. He subsequently found that three members of the team, including the NPC, had not been included in the discussions, and were justifiably irritated by the appointment. With hindsight the appointment had not represented value for money given the lack of opportunity for tournament preparation, which would have been the advantage of employing someone with P-O's undoubted experience.

It was agreed that due to a lack of communication the appointment may have proved divisive, and that in general terms a team was not empowered to make its own arrangements without full consultation.

5. JUNIOR EVENTS

5.1 *3rd World University Championships – China*

The results were noted, as shown in Appendix A. John Probst was thanked for his NPC's report and appreciation was shown for the student's very entertaining report on the EBU website. The Chairman said that the team's efforts in raising a significant amount of sponsorship had been very impressive, and that they had proved to be excellent ambassadors for Great Britain.

5.2 *Results of Junior Camrose and Junior Channel Trophy & 2007 Junior European Trials*

The results of both Trials were noted, as shown in Appendix A. Paul Bowyer reported that an Under-25 super squad had been formed comprising Ben Green & Duncan Happer, Susan Stockdale & Dave Cropper, Tom Slater & Andrew Murphy and Simon Cope & Stuart Haring, who are invited to special training weekends in 2007.

Mel Starkings provided further information on performance in Under-20 squad activities.

5.3 *Selection of Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer Trophy teams (Republic of Ireland 17th-18th February 2007)*

The following were selected to represent England:

Junior Camrose:

Dave Cropper & Susan Stockdale
Mark Reeve & David Collier
Alex Foley & David Hodge
Reserves: Simon Cope & Stuart Haring
NPC: Steve Eginton

Peggy Bayer Trophy:

Ben Paske & Tom Paske
Rob Myers & Dan McIntosh
Mark Dessain & Liam Jones
Reserves: James Thrower & Tom Rainforth
NPC: Michael Byrne

5.4 *Selection of Channel & Junior Channel Trophy teams (Lille 15th-17th December 2006)*

The following were invited to represent England:

Channel Trophy:

Dave Cropper & Susan Stockdale
Stuart Haring & Simon Cope
Tom Slater & Andrew Murphy
Reserves: Ben Green & Duncan Happer
NPC: Mel Starkings

Junior Channel Trophy:

Ben Paske & Tom Paske
Ed Jones & Bing Yang
James Thrower & Tom Rainforth
Reserves: Mark Dessain & Liam Jones
NPC: Michael Byrne

5.5 *Captain for Junior European Events*

It was noted that the date for the 2007 Junior European Championship had not yet been confirmed, and it was agreed that the appointment of an NPC would therefore be deferred, as would the appointment of an NPC for the Carousel Cup in Amsterdam in March. In the meantime the Secretary was asked to write to all members of the NPC's panel who had offered to captain junior teams to elicit their help with training weekends.

After further discussion the Committee decided to invite Chris Dixon to undertake the captaincy of the Junior European team, and taking account of his possible unavailability when the dates are confirmed, Mel Starkings said that he would be available as a stand-in NPC as necessary. He also planned to attend the first weekend of the Carousel Cup. Mel indicated that his wife would be happy to continue as companion for junior female team members.

It was agreed that in all cases it was the responsibility of the NPC to determine the mode of transport for the players.

5.6 *Girls' partnerships*

It was noted that insufficient interest had been shown for a get-together with Alison Nicholson at the Brighton Summer Meeting. The entry deadline for the U-25 Girls European Championship would be investigated, though there was currently no apparent enthusiasm for a girl's Trial.

The Chairman thanked Mel Starkings for his excellent contribution as a Squad Manager. In response Mel said that he was grateful for the support he had received and had benefited greatly from the experience.

6. OPEN EVENTS - REVIEW OF PAST EVENTS

6.1 *European Teams Championships*

The NPC was thanked for his comprehensive report. It was noted that the Coach had been invited to prepare the Swiss Open team for the Championships, and due to flights being cancelled to London in July, had travelled to the Championships with the Swiss team.

The results are detailed in Appendix A.

6.2 *Champions Cup*

The team was congratulated on its performance, and the playing Captain was thanked for his comments, which would be pursued by the EBU Chairman. The results are shown in Appendix A.

7. OPEN EVENTS – SELECTION FOR FORTHCOMING EVENTS

7.1 *Camrose Trials 2006/7*

The results of the Trials are shown in Appendix A. The format and dates of 2007 Open Trials would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

7.2 *Camrose Trophy – Selection of teams, reserves, NPC & reserve NPCs*

The following were selected to represent England:

1st weekend – Oxford 5th-7th January

Jason & Justin Hackett
Nick Sandqvist & Artur Malinowski
John Holland & John Armstrong
Reserves: David Gold & Tom Townsend
NPC: Raymond Brock
Assistant NPC: Janet de Botton
Reserve NPC: John Williams

2nd weekend – Aberdeen 2nd-4th March

Martin Jones & Neil Rosen
David Price & David Bakhshi
David Gold & Tom Townsend
Reserves: Heather Dhondy & Rob Cliffe
NPC: Colin Simpson
Reserve NPC: Steve Eginton

8. WOMENS EVENTS – REVIEW OF PAST EVENTS

8.1 *Women's Invitation Teams – China*

The Committee congratulated the team on a fine performance, and the captain was thanked for his report. The results are shown in Appendix A.

8.2 *European Womens Team Championship*

The team was congratulated on winning the bronze medal, and the captain was thanked for his report. The results are shown in Appendix A.

9. WOMENS EVENTS – SELECTION FOR FORTHCOMING EVENTS

9.1 *Lady Milne Trials 2006/7*

The results of the Trials are shown in Appendix A.

The Chairman reported that in view of travel difficulties for some triallists on Sunday evening, the Trial had been reduced to 12-board rounds, and the timetable rejigged. Although concerns had been expressed in advance regarding the choice of Bradford Bridge Club as a suitable venue, everything had been done to make the weekend a success, and the club had been congratulated on the hospitality extended.

It was suggested that where it is known in advance that there will be a half-table, consideration should be given to a pre-draw. Noting comments about the suitability of Butler scoring, the Committee agreed that this method was not appropriate in an unbalanced field.

It was reported that a complaint had been received about remarks made by an English commentator on Bridge Base Online, and the Chairman of the Union agreed to investigate the matter.

The format and dates of 2007 Womens Trials would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

9.2 *Lady Milne Trophy – Wales 13th-15th April 2007*

The following were selected to represent England:

Susan Stockdale & Bryony Youngs
Heather Dhondy & Nicola Smith
Catherine Jagger & Sarah Teshome
Reserves: Michelle Brunner & Rhona Goldenfield
NPC: Martin Jones
Reserve NPC: John Williams

10. SELECTION PROCESS

The Chairman of the Union opened the discussion by saying that considerable disquiet had been expressed by Shareholders at the recent Annual General Meeting by the lack of success in some areas of international representation, the manner in which the selection process is conducted, and the cost of Internationals as a whole, and those concerns must be answered.

The Chairman said that the role of a selector in any sport is not an easy one, and the way forward might be to appoint a Selector/Manager *supremo*, with a combination of top class experience as a player and administrative ability. Whilst the Committee agreed that our womens' team had been very successful, our Open team's results had been disappointing. In general players had been unwilling or unable to give sufficient time to preparation, and consequently had been ill-prepared for major events. In addition, closer scrutiny must be made of expenditure on Internationals, which accounted for a considerable proportion of the Union's income. Peter Hasenson said that the international spend was 5% of the Union's income/turnover. Concern was expressed regarding the allocation of £34K of overheads (£22K Salaries and £12K Management Charge) which appear as part of the International Budget.

The Vice-Chairman considered that there might be some value in having a Womens Squad on similar lines to the Junior Squad, but he was not convinced that it would be appropriate in the case of the Open team players. However, the players were fully aware of the value of pre-tournament preparation, in terms of research and analysis.

There was support for the view that with the exception of the Spring Foursomes and the Brighton Summer Meeting, the domestic calendar is somewhat weak, with too many Swiss events, and that every effort should be made to provide events which would better prepare players for international competition. A suggestion was made that the Premier League might be reintroduced, provided that it was self-financing.

Correspondence from a member of the Union was noted.

It was agreed that a sub-committee comprising the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and David Muller would meet to produce recommendations and costings for discussion at the next meeting.

11. SENIORS EVENTS - REVIEW OF PAST EVENTS

11.1 *European Seniors Championship*

The playing captain was thanked for his report. The results are shown in Appendix A.

11.2 *Format of future Trials*

The Chairman reported that the previous Committee's decision to use the Seniors Knock-out as the procedure for selecting the team to represent England in the 2006 European Seniors Championship had not proved popular. An announcement had already been made that the winners, or if ineligible the runners-up, of the 2007 Seniors Knock-out would be guaranteed selection for the 2008 European Seniors Championship. A format for Seniors Trials for the following season would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

These minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting

**Date of next meeting
18th January 2007 at 12.30 pm
McAlpine Offices, 40 Bernard Street, London.**

Appendix B - Action Points

Item	Action	Responsible
4.1.1	Home International Appeals advice	Secretary
4.1.3	Letter to Lady Milne Trophy NPC	Secretary
4.1.4	Notification of selections	Secretary
4.1.5	Letter to trialists and publicity on EBU Website re designation as "England"	Secretary
5.1	Letters to NPC and University team	Secretary
5.5	Letters to Panel Referees	Secretary
5.6	Establish deadline for entries to U25 Girls European Championship	Secretary
6.1	Letter to NPC	Secretary
6.2	Letter to playing Captain	Secretary / EBU Chairman
7.1 & 9.1	Format & dates of Trials	Agenda for next meeting
8.1 & 8.2	Letter to NPC	Secretary

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9.1	Advice on pre-draw and scoring method	Secretary to Max Bavin
9.1	Complaint re Bridge Base Online	Peter Stocken
10	Arrangements for Sub-committee meeting	Gerard Faulkner
11.1	Letter to playing Captain	Secretary
11.2	Format for Seniors Trials	Agenda for next meeting
	Announcement of all selections	Secretary