



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU SELECTION COMMITTEE  
HELD AT 40 BERNARD STREET, LONDON, WC1  
ON TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2006**

<b>Present:</b>	Gerard Faulkner	(Chairman)
	Richard Fleet	(Vice-Chairman)
	Paul Bowyer	Appointed member (for items 1-5)
	Pat Davies	
	Steve Eginton	
	Sandra Landy	
	Tony Priday	Vice-President
	Denis Robson	EBU Chairman
	Bob Rowlands	
	Mel Starkings	Appointed member (for items 1-5)
	Sandra Claridge	Secretary

1. ***Apologies for absence*** Clive Owen and Philip Mason

2. ***Minutes of previous Meeting (22<sup>nd</sup> February)***

The minutes were signed as an accurate record.

**2.1 *Matters arising***

2.1.1 *Seeding of 2006/7 Gerard Faulkner Salver*

The Secretary informed the Committee that on the basis of current Gold Point holdings, the teams captained by Ian Monachan, Clive Owen, Irving Blakey and Paul Hackett would be seeded for the coming year.

2.1.2 *Terms of Reference for the Selection Committee*

The Committee requested that the Board require future potential candidates for election to indicate any possible conflicts of interest. The Chairman of the Union agreed that this would be included on the agenda for the next Board Meeting.

2.1.3 *Venues for Trials for the season 2006/7*

The introduction of Bridgebase Online for Trials, was approved.

The Secretary reported that arrangements had been made as follows:

***Ladies Trials***

7th/8th October                      Young Chelsea BC

11/12th November                  Bradford BC

Entry fee £110 per pair

These bookings were in accordance with the apparent wish of the ladies to have one venue in the North and one in the South. The entry fee includes a mid-session meal at Bradford on the Saturday.

### **Open Trials**

9 <sup>th</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup> September	Stage I	West Midlands BC
14 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup> October	Stage II	West Midlands BC

Entry fee £220 per team

### **Junior Trials**

23 <sup>rd</sup> /24 <sup>th</sup> September (Open)	Loughborough GS
28 <sup>th</sup> /29 <sup>th</sup> October (European)	Loughborough GS

#### *2.1.4 Change to Camrose Trophy format 2006/7*

The Secretary reported that the Extended Committee of Bridge Great Britain had discussed at length the unpopularity of the sit-out in the five-team format over two weekends. It was unanimously agreed at their meeting that the addition of a sixth team was the preferred option, given that the majority of the home NBOs did not feel able to return to the original format. As a one-year experiment, the holders of the competition, the Republic of Ireland, have been invited to field two teams in the coming season, one as the Holders, the other as representatives of the Republic. From the season 2006/7 screens will be used in the Camrose and Lady Milne Trophies.

#### *2.1.5 NPC of Womens Team for the 2006 European Championships*

The Chairman reported that Alan Mould had been unable to accept the invitation to captain the Ladies Team in Warsaw. The Committee had been polled in regard to two further suggestions for Captain, and as a result, Martin Jones had been invited to captain the team, and had accepted.

#### *2.1.6 Report by the Chairman on meeting with Ladies Pair*

The Chairman reported on a very successful meeting between himself, the Chairman of the Union, and a ladies pair who had represented England in international competition. The Committee accepted the pair's assurances that they had put their problems behind them, and the Chairman agreed to inform them that they would be accepted as trialists in future, without reservation.

During the meeting the players had indicated that it would be helpful to both international players and non-playing captains if the appointment of a Sports Psychologist was reintroduced, and it was agreed that this would be drawn to the attention of the EBU Board.

#### *2.1.7 Appointment of Reserve Pair for the Womens Team in Warsaw*

It was agreed that Sandra Penfold and Nevena Senior would be invited to be the reserve pair for the 2006 European Championships in Warsaw, with the caveat that if one player of a selected partnership was unable to play, the Committee reserves the right to appoint a single person in her stead.

**2.1.8**            *Report of Committee decision re a possible increase in the number of teams to be selected for the 2006 Open Trials*

As a matter of report the Chairman said that he had received a suggestion that the number of teams to be selected for the Open Trials be increased to twelve, with four teams being eliminated after the first weekend. The Committee agreed to stand by the decision taken at the last meeting to invite eight teams to contest a two-weekend double round-robin.

**2.1.9**            *Seating regulations in Double Round Robin Trials*

The Committee discussed suggested improvements to the current seating regulations in Double Round Robin Trials over two weekends, and agreed that in future there would be automatic change of opponents on the second weekend. A further suggestion that the teams finishing first and second in the trials each be selected for one Camrose weekend, the third pairs being selected on the results of the Butler scoring, did not find favour.

**2.1.10**          *Report from the Camrose Trophy*

The Secretary was asked to seek the permission of the Match Manager for her report be copied to the English NPC, prior to the matter being discussed further.

**3**                *Panel of Non-playing Captains*

The Secretary reported that the following had indicated a willingness to be included on the panel for the coming year:

Paul Bowyer, Raymond Brock, Chris Dixon, Steve Eginton, Richard Fleet, Paul Hackett, Bill Hirst, Martin Jones, Sandra Landy, Alan Mould, Colin Simpson, Ian Spoons, Mel Starkings and John Williams.

**4**                *Junior Matters*

**4.1**            *Report by Squad Managers*

It was reported that despite the current squad list totalling 48, training weekends rarely attracted more than 3-4 tables, and the last weekend was cancelled due to lack of interest. Training weekends will continue, possibly run concurrently with the “elite” pairs selected for the European Trials. All the players from last year’s squad plus the four tables who attended the first weekend of the next cycle had been invited to join the coming year’s squad, and the next squad weekend will include a friendly international against a Scottish representative side.

It was noted that there had been a very disappointing response to the Squad Managers’ request for mentors, and further efforts will be made by contacting the larger clubs. In so doing it would be stressed that anyone willing to assist the U20 Squad was required to be CRB checked.

Mel Starkings reported that he plans to take some of the junior squad to a Mensa weekend in October.

The Committee noted that the female members of the Squad are being encouraged to be more proactive in forming partnerships, but so far the level of interest had been very disappointing.

The Committee had some reservations about the initiative, expressing the view that more valuable experience might be gained in mixed partnerships. Paul Bowyer reported that Alison Nicholson is having a meeting at Brighton to try to establish the level of interest, and a report would be put to the next meeting which would take into account the results of the Under 25 Trials.

#### *4.2 Junior Trials*

Paul Bowyer reported that arrangements had been finalised for both U25 Trials, as follows:

The Open Trial on 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> September for selection to the Junior Camrose is open to all U25 players. No guarantees will be made in terms of selection, though it is highly likely that the winning pair will be selected with pairs finishing second and third having strong claims.

The 2007 European Trials on 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> October are open to selected pairs only, who will be required to produce evidence of current form. In principle four pairs will be selected, and subsequent training weekends will determine which three pairs will represent England and which will be the reserve pair. Screens will be in use for these Trials. The early selection of an NPC is viewed as paramount in terms of preparation and training.

The Committee noted that an U25 pair indicated their intention to enter the Trials. It was agreed that the pair would be eligible for selection for an international event, subject to a satisfactory independent evaluation of one of its members.

#### *4.3 Vu-graph and Online commentary*

Paul Bowyer said that he viewed with great concern reports that a member of the Junior Squad had made a number of unfortunate comments on Bridgebase Online during the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer Trophies, despite the organiser specifically requesting that no personal comments be made about the players. The Committee agreed that it was inappropriate that members of the Junior Squad and Girls Squad commentate on members of the same Squad, and supported the inclusion in the Contract for Squad Members a warning that anyone contravening this regulation could suffer a period of exclusion from their own squad.

#### *4.4 Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer Regulations*

Squad Managers again requested that Bridge Great Britain strengthen their regulations in terms of the provision of alcohol at the Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer.

#### *4.5 Library*

Every effort is being made to encourage young players to read bridge books, and John Pain will advertise on the EBU website for unwanted books for a library, which will be housed at Loughborough GS.

#### *4.6 Carousel Cup*

Mel Starkings said that the U25 and U20 teams who had competed in the Carousel Cup, organized by the Dutch Bridge Federation, had very much enjoyed the experience. Despite being run on a shoestring, with players put up in youth hostels, most of the European NBOs had fielded strong teams, and the competition had been played in an excellent, relaxed spirit.

The appointment of John Pain as NPC of the U25 team had proved very successful, and he was congratulated on his report. The results are shown in Appendix A item 1.

Both Squad Managers were thanked for their reports.

The Committee expressed its appreciation of the enormous amount of work and effort put in by Mel Starkings, who retires on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007. Mel has offered his assistance to a successor and will continue to be available as a captain or coach. It was agreed that the Chairman of the Union would liaise with Mel to produce a suitable advertisement for his successor.

4.7 *11<sup>th</sup> World Youth Bridge Team Championships*

Subsequent to the meeting it was established that there would be no change to the number of teams competing, and that England's only prospect of being invited was the withdrawal of a team having qualified by right.

5 *Date of next meeting*

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2006 at the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, London, commencing at 12.30 pm.

6 *Open Events – Review*

6.1 *Friendly match v Netherlands*

John Williams and Christine Duckworth reported that while the experience had been useful, the organization had been something of a nightmare. In answer to concerns expressed by the Womens team on the subject of new uniforms, the Secretary said that she was aware that the necessary orders had now been placed.

6.2 *Bonn Nations Cup*

Tom Townsend reported that the experience had been worthwhile and the team had performed reasonably well given an unfavourable draw, finishing second in their group behind The Netherlands, and fourth in the Consolation Swiss. The Netherlands defeated Poland in the Final.

6.3 *Disclosure of NPC's Reports*

The Chairman said that he had received a request from a pair that they be allowed access to an NPC's report from an international event in which they had participated. The Captain in question confirmed that the report had been written for the Committee's benefit only, and he did not therefore wish the contents to be disclosed. The Committee felt that it would be unfortunate if Captains felt in any way inhibited in writing their reports, and it was agreed that the status quo be maintained i.e. that it is the Captain's decision as to whether details can be disclosed to other parties.

6.4 *Commonwealth Games*

It was noted that the England team (Michelle Brunner, John Holland, Bill Hirst, John Hasset) had won a play-off for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. While some players supported a play-off for 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> place in international events, the general feeling appeared to be that it was something of a meaningless anti-climax.

6.5 *Camrose Trophy – Second weekend*

The general feeling of the Committee was that England's performance had been disappointing, particularly on the first weekend. While the format was not popular with the players, this clearly was no excuse. The results are shown in Appendix A item 2.

A suggestion by Richard Fleet that the Chairman of Appeals for a match in the Home International Series should be appointed from an NBO other than the host country, was approved, and the matter referred to Bridge Great Britain.

7 *Selection of Teams to participate in the Camrose Trials*

Twelve applications were received, and the eight selected to compete in a two-weekend, double round-robin Trial are as follows:

**John Armstrong**, John Holland, Tony Waterlow, Paul Hackett  
**Michael Byrne**, Andrew Woodcock, Ben Green, Duncan Happer  
**Janet de Botton**, Gunnar Hallberg, Colin Simpson, David Price  
**Jeremy Dhondy**, Keith Bennett, Heather Dhondy, Rob Cliffe  
**Glyn Liggins**, David Bakhshi, Martin Jones, Neil Rosen  
**Nick Sandqvist**, Artur Malinowski, Jason & Justin Hackett  
**Tom Townsend**, David Gold, Jack Mizel, Andrew McIntosh  
**Geoff Wolfarth**, Nevena Senior, Brian Senior, Espen Erichsen

**Reserves:** David Burn, Brian Callaghan, Simon Gillis, Norman Selway

*(Secretary's note: The De Botton team has withdrawn. The following team now becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> Reserve: Ian Monachan, Victor Silverstone, Gus Calderwood, Dick Shek)*

8 *Women's Events*

8.1 *Lady Milne Trophy*

The Northern Ireland's Match Manager's report was noted. No report had been received from the England NPC, and the Secretary agreed to pursue the matter. The results are shown in Appendix A item 3.

8.2 *Invitation from Chinese Bridge Federation*

The Chairman reported that an invitation had been received to send a Women's team to a prestigious 8-team event in Shanghai from 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> October. The Chinese offered full board hospitality for 8 people and both the teams event and a subsidiary pairs event carried fairly substantial prize money. Subject to the approval of the EBU Board, it was agreed to invite the Women's team and NPC selected for the European Championships in Warsaw to go to China, and Sandra Penfold and Nevena Senior as reserves, on the same basis as contained in item 2.1.7.

It was agreed that should any prize money be won, 50% of it, or the cost of the flights to Shanghai whichever was the lesser, would be payable to the EBU.

## 9 *Seniors Events*

### 9.1 *Seniors Teams – Warsaw 2006*

The results of the semi-final round for selection to the European Seniors event in Warsaw were noted as follows:

1st	Keith Stanley, Derek Rue, Bill Hirst, John Hassett	53 VPs
2nd	John Greenhalgh, Andrew Parker, Tony Parkinson, Ian Thompson	52
3rd	Ian Monachan, Andrew Thompson, Gunnar Hallberg, Victor Silversone	43
4th	Brian Crack, Patricia Crack, Diana Avis, Colin Wilson	30

The head-to-head final between the Stanley and Greenhalgh teams was won by Greenhalgh, by 31 Imps. The addition of Bill Hirst and John Hassett as a third pair for the European Seniors Championship was approved. A request that a Non-playing Captain of the team's choosing be funded by the EBU was not approved, and it was suggested by the Committee that Bill Hirst, a member of the panel of NPCs act as playing captain, if acceptable to the team as a whole.

### 9.2 *Format of future Trials*

Comments by a member of the Committee on the format and arrangements for the trial were noted, as was correspondence with a team member. Tony Priday said that the European Seniors events were now treated very seriously by other European NBOs, who in general fielded very strong teams. It was agreed to look at an alternative method of trials for the future, but the 2008 events would be selected from the winning team in the Gerard Faulkner Salver, if eligible.

## 10 *Matters for general discussion*

### 10.1 *Correspondence between a Committee member and the previous Secretary*

Correspondence on the current method of selection, and the rights of members of the Selection Committee, was noted, but the views expressed were not supported.

### 10.2 *Notification of Selections*

It was noted that the current method of informing players of selections was to make sure anyone selected, including a captain, was informed immediately, then publicise the selections, primarily via the EBU website. The Committee recognized the importance of also notifying those **not** selected immediately, and it was agreed that notification would be sent by email, where possible, from the meeting.

### 10.3 *Designation of unofficial "England" teams*

The practice of English players accepting invitations to play abroad, and being described in publicity material as "England" was discussed. The Committee conceded that it was likely to be the organizers of the competition who had assumed that the team name would be "England", but nevertheless disapproved of the practice. Players should be aware that organizers seeking to invite an English representative team should contact the EBU direct.

## **11**            *Internationals*

### *11.1*            *Cost Analysis for International Team Development Plan*

Presenting his paper outlining proposals for future team development on a squad scheme basis with a full-time coach, Steve Eginton said that he had discussed his ideas with Max Bavin, and had tried to provide as conservative an estimate as possible of the likely costings. He felt that the proposals could be adopted piecemeal, possibly with sponsorship, and had made efforts to attract funding, though as yet had not received a positive response.

The Committee approved the notion of the scheme, and thanked Steve for the work he had undertaken in putting it together. Tony Priday offered to assist with attracting funding once a lucid Development Plan had been produced which would appeal to potential sponsors. Steve agreed to produce fuller objectives, taking into account the needs of the EBU and the players, for consideration by the Board at its forthcoming meeting, which he would attend for the purpose at Mr Robson's invitation.

Denis Robson said that the EBU Treasurer would welcome guidelines on likely costings, given his concern at the escalating budget for Internationals.

### *11.2*            *Possible appointment of P-O Sundelin*

The Committee discussed P-O Sundelin's offer to act as Assistant Coach to the Open and Ladies teams at the European Championships in Warsaw, at a likely cost to the Union of around £1.7K.

The general view was that pre-tournament preparation, rather than an additional coach on site, would be very valuable, but there was no guarantee that the players would have enough time available beforehand. It was agreed that at the Championships themselves, the role of the coach was not to seek to improve the players existing methods, but to provide the players with detailed information on opponents' systems and recommended methods of defence to them. The Committee agreed that the coaching personnel already selected have a very impressive track record, and that the appointment of an Assistant Coach was not the best use of the EBU's resources. A proposal by Steve Eginton, seconded by Richard Fleet, that P-O Sundelin be invited to act as Assistant Coach in Warsaw was defeated by 5 votes to 2.

### *11.3*            *5-year Budget for Internationals*

Max Bavin's estimate of costs on Internationals for the coming five years, was noted. It was agreed that the level of support for English international teams would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

## **12**            *Membership Development*

A paper by Philip Mason on exploring what action could be taken by the Selection Committee to support the drive on membership development, was noted. A suggestion was included that players selected for Home Internationals and other international events make time available to appear/play/participate at selected club/local congress events at least twice per annum as a condition of selection. Given the limited time that international players have to



practice, this was considered to be both unenforceable and unrealistic, though obviously the players could be encouraged to do as much as possible to promote the EBU.

Further suggestions put by the Committee on the subject of membership development included the provision of bridge DVD/videos for clubs/counties, and a significantly improved results service e.g. for local journalists.

## Appendix A.

### 1 *Carousel Cup - The White House, Amsterdam 20-25<sup>th</sup> March 2006*

#### *Final Ranking List*

<b>Position</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Netherlands Juniors I	312
2	Norway	307
3	France	307
4	Poland	295
5	Belgium	290
6	Sweden	280
7	Italy	278
8	Germany	273
9	Czech Republic	270
10	Netherlands Juniors II	259
11	Netherlands Girls	256
12	England Juniors	253
13	Netherlands U20	221
14	Romania	211
15	Spain	210
16	Scotland	203
17	Lithuania	168
18	England U20	166

#### *Knock-out Stages*

Semi-Finals: Poland beat Netherlands; Norway beat France  
Final: Norway beat Poland  
3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>: France beat Netherlands

#### *England Teams:*

**U-25** Ben Green & Duncan Happer  
Simon Cope & Stuart Haring  
Greg Moss & Mike Bell  
NPC John Pain

**U-20** Tom Andrews & Minesh Shah  
Tom Dessain & Joe Mela

**2 2006 Camrose Trophy Final Results Table**

		RI		Wales		NI		England		Scotland		Total
1	<b>R of Ireland</b>			23	15	19	16	22	22	8	15	<b>140</b>
				50	0	23	5	43	46	-43	1	125
2	<b>Wales</b>	7	15			24	21	9	16	24	13	<b>129</b>
		-50	0			55	40	-37	4	55	-12	55
3	<b>N Ireland</b>	11	14	6	9			11	19	25	22	<b>117</b>
		-23	-5	-55	-40			-25	23	82	42	-1
4	<b>England</b>	8	8	21	14	19	11			17	17	<b>115</b>
		-43	-46	37	-4	25	-23			13	11	-30
5	<b>Scotland</b>	22	15	6	17	3	8	13	13			<b>97</b>
		43	-1	-55	12	-82	-42	-13	-11			-149

*England 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend:* David Gold & Tom Townsend  
Artur Malinowski & Nick Sandqvist  
David Price & Colin Simpson  
NPC Raymond Brock

**3 2006 Lady Milne Trophy Results Table**

<b>First Round Robin</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>N Ireland</b>	<b>Rep Ireland</b>	<b>Scotland</b>	<b>Wales</b>	<b>Total</b>
England		19	24	14	25	<b>82</b>
Northern Ireland	11		14	7	15	<b>47</b>
Rep of Ireland	6	16		8	18	<b>48</b>
Scotland	16	23	22		18	<b>79</b>
Wales	5	15	12	12		<b>44</b>
<b>Second Round Robin</b>						
England		23	11	22	25	<b>81</b>
Northern Ireland	7		16	11	19	<b>53</b>
Rep of Ireland	19	14		16	17	<b>66</b>
Scotland	8	19	14		20	<b>61</b>
Wales	0	11	13	10		<b>34</b>

<b>Final Totals</b>	<b>RR1</b>	<b>RR2</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Position</b>
England	82	81	163	<b>1</b>
Scotland	79	61	140	<b>2</b>
Rep of Ireland	48	66	114	<b>3</b>
Northern Ireland	47	53	100	<b>4</b>

Wales	44	34	78	<b>5</b>
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**England:**  
 Michelle Brunner & Rhona Goldenfield  
 Heather Dhondy & Nicola Smith  
 Cath Jagger & Sarah Teshome  
 NPC David Burn

**Appendix B - Action Points**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
2.1.2	Terms of Reference - submission to Board	Denis Robson
2.1.6	Letters to ladies pair	Gerard Faulkner
	Possible appointment of Sports Psychologist	Denis Robson
2.1.9	Change to seating regulations in Round-Robin Trials	Secretary to Max Bavin
2.1.10	Camrose Match Manager's Report	Secretary
4.3	Junior Commentators	Paul Bowyer
4.4	Hospitality arrangements at Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer	Secretary to BGB
4.5	Junior Library	John Pain
4.6	Advertisement for Squad Manager Replacement	Denis Robson/ Mel Starkings
6.5	Camrose Appeals Chairmen	Secretary to BGB
8.1	Lady Milne Trophy NPC's report	Secretary
8.2	Invitation from Chinese CBA	Denis Robson/Secretary
9.2	Format of Seniors Trials	Agenda for next Meeting
11.1	Development Plan - Summary	S Eginton
11.2	Letter to P-O Sundelin	S Eginton (assumed)
11.3	Support for English international teams	Agenda for next Meeting
12	Costing of DVDs/Videos	Aylesbury administration

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT  
 SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING**