



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 18TH JANUARY 2007, AT 40 BERNARD STREET,
LONDON**

Present:	Gerard Faulkner	(Committee Chairman, present from Item 2.2.3 onwards)
	Raymond Brock	
	Sally Bugden	(EBU Vice-Chairman)
	Michael Byrne	(Youth Squad Manager, present for Item 4 only)
	Barry Capal	(EBU General Manager)
	Steve Eginton	(Committee Vice-Chairman, acting Committee Chairman up to item 2.2.2)
	Peter Hasenson	
	Sandra Landy	
	Peter Stocken	(EBU Chairman)
	Max Bavin	(EBU Chief TD and Acting Secretary)

Gerard Faulkner had been delayed owing to travel difficulties. Steve Eginton opened the meeting by welcoming Sally Bugden and Barry Capal to their first meeting of the EBU Selection Committee.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Paul Bowyer (Youth Squad Manager) and David Muller.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 21st NOVEMBER 2006

2.1 Accuracy

Concern had been expressed at the November meeting about the allocation of £34K of overheads (£22K Salaries and £12K Management Charge) which appear as part of the International Budget. The General Manager explained that the matter of overhead allocations was largely historical, and that the figures were, at best, very approximate. Subject to this addition, the minutes were signed by the Committee Vice-Chairman as an accurate record.

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 European Under 25 Girls Championship

It was confirmed that the girls had displayed a lack of interest in this Championship, as many of those who would be eligible preferred to concentrate on playing in the Open

equivalent. It was therefore agreed that England would not be sending a Girls team to the European Junior Championships this year.

2.2.2 Pre-drawn starting positions in Pairs Trials with a half-table

It had been suggested that the draw could be made in advance in order that the 'sitting-out' pair for round 1 could be notified of a later starting time in their case. Max Bavin explained that there were dangers with such an approach; for example a notified withdrawal at the last moment, or another pair experiencing genuine travel difficulties. It was agreed to maintain the status quo, i.e. no pre-draw.

2.2.3 Venice Cup Team

It had been agreed by the Committee subsequent to the last meeting that the Venice Cup Team (including Captain and Coach) would be the team that won the bronze medal in the European Championships in Warsaw, and formal invitations would now be sent. The selection of a reserve pair would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

2.2.4 Bridgebase Online Commentary

It was noted that several members of the Selection Committee were also invited BBO commentators. This being the case, it was stressed that they should avoid making specific comments about any individual player. A similar code of conduct must equally apply to BBO computer operators, EBU Selectors or otherwise.

3 SUGGESTIONS ARISING FROM A MEETING OF THE SELECTION SUB-COMMITTEE

3.1 Presentation to EBU Shareholders

A sub-committee comprising Gerard Faulkner, Steve Eginton, David Muller and Peter Stocken had met on 12th December to undertake a re-examination of the selection and funding process, and to make recommendations to this meeting prior to making a presentation on the subject to the EBU Shareholders.

Following a lengthy discussion by the full committee, it was resolved that Peter Hasenson, in consultation with Steve Eginton and Sandra Landy, would prepare the material for a short presentation to be given by Sandra Landy to the EBU Shareholders at their meeting on 21st February.

The Committee had in mind a report in three parts:

- Historical background (including financial information and the perceived responsibilities of an NBO)
- Current policies
- Possible future alternatives

Sally Bugden observed that it was vital that the membership as a whole should share the Committee's undoubted enthusiasm, as intangible benefits would accrue from international success. This would, however, only be achieved by regular and improved communication with the membership.

3.2 Camrose Trophy

In light of the recent highly successful Camrose weekend in Oxford, the first of its kind under the new 6-team format, the Committee no longer shared the sub-committee's rather dim view of the Camrose Trophy as a meaningful form of international competition.

Peter Hasenson confirmed that the bridge organisation at Oxford had been first class, but was critical of the lack of official representation and hospitality by England in their role as hosts. This view was echoed by Raymond Brock in his Captain's Report. It was agreed that these criticisms should not be seen in any way as negating the extremely favourable impression of the weekend as a whole.

Peter Stocken apologised for the lack of official representation at the Camrose weekend in Oxford, and said that suitable arrangements would be made in the future.

3.3 Junior Squad

It was agreed that the Junior Squad Sub-committee would be reformed to comprise the two Squad Managers (Paul Bowyer and Michael Byrne), Steve Eginton (Chairman) and David Muller.

The sub-committee's role would be to devise suitable selection formats and select teams subject to ratification by the main Committee, using the relevant sections of the current Terms of Reference as their brief.

3.4 Entry Fees for Trials

It was noted that currently approximately 50% of the costs incurred in staging Trials was recovered by way of entry fees. The Committee agreed that it should seek to achieve 100% return by means of a series of fairly substantial increases in entry fees over the next few years. Max Bavin was asked to re-examine costings and implement this policy with immediate effect.

4 JUNIOR EVENTS

4.1 Junior Channel Trophy

The results, contained in Appendix A, were noted.

4.2 Confirmation of the U25 team for the Carousel Cup

The recommendations of the Squad Manager were accepted as follows:

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

4.3 Confirmation of the U20 team for the Carousel Cup

Following a short debate, the Squad Manager's recommendations were accepted as follows:

Ed Jones & Ben Paske
Rob Myers & Daniel McIntosh
Liam Jones & Mark Dessain
NPC Michael Byrne

4.4 Selection of NPC for the Under25 Team for the 2007 Junior European Championships

Chris Dixon was appointed.

4.5 Replacement Reserves for the Peggy Bayer Trophy

Ed Jones and Bingyuan Yang were selected as the reserve pair.

4.6 Squad Managers' Reports

Michael Byrne reported that the Under-20 Squad now comprised 25-30 players, with about 6-8 regular partnerships amongst them. There were five specific pairs in the 'super squad'. Training weekends are held every two months, the next dates being 27th/28th January in Manchester, 10th/11th March in Loughborough, and 21st/22nd April (venue to be announced). It was confirmed that all squad members have signed formal contracts and undertake "homework" in addition to attending training weekends. Michael expressed his gratitude for the voluntary assistance provided by Duncan Happer and Alan Shillitoe.

The recent 'free entry for junior squad members to EBU congresses' policy adopted by the Board had been extremely helpful, particularly at the lower end of the ability range, with many members taking the opportunity to play at the recent Year End Congresses in Blackpool and London.

4.7 Correspondence between the Committee Chairman and a junior player

A recent exchange of correspondence regarding the non-selection of a particular junior player was noted, and the Committee fully endorsed the Chairman's response.

5 OPEN EVENTS - CAMROSE TROPHY

The results of the first weekend of the Camrose Trophy as contained in Appendix A, were noted, and Raymond Brock was thanked for the prompt production of his Captain's Report.

The Committee congratulated BGB on the new 6-team format, though whether the sixth team should continue to be "the holders" or should come from elsewhere, should perhaps be debated further. The 15-minute interval between stanzas was noted to be rather tight, and these points would be brought to the attention of the England BGB representative, as would other matters contained in the Captain's Report.

6 FUTURE TRIALS

6.1 General

Correspondence from various members had been circulated in advance.

It was resolved to continue to organise Trials in the forthcoming season on the same basis as at present. However, the Committee did not feel that the “Gold Point Scheme” was fulfilling its objective, and it was therefore decided to return to selecting teams or pairs to compete in Trials without reference to Gold Point holdings. All applicants would be required to produce a bridge curriculum vitae, including details of current form. Applicants would also be requested to declare in advance their availability for the two Camrose weekends (or Lady Milne weekend) and for the European Championships.

The selection process for the Olympiad in Autumn 2008 would not be determined until after the European Championships had taken place earlier that year. Consequently the 2007 Trials would be for the Camrose/Lady Milne Trophies and the European Championship. Entry fees would be determined as previously minuted.

6.2 *OpenTrials*

The Trials would be for teams of 4, and the closing date for entries 30th June 2007. Up to 12 teams would be selected, of whom up to four would be exempted to Stage II.

Stage I: 15th/16th September 2007 (West Midlands BC). A single weekend, qualifying sufficient teams to produce 8 teams in Stage II (including the exempted teams).

Stage II: 27th/28th October (Young Chelsea BC) and 10th/11th November 2007 (West Midlands BC). 8 Teams competing over two weekends, the top 4 qualifying for the Semi-final knock-out.

The teams for the Camrose Trophy would be selected at this stage, with the winners being guaranteed at least one match. Provided that the winners are available for both Camrose weekends, they will be guaranteed to be selected together for the same weekend. The Conditions of Contest would otherwise be those published for a similar format in 2005.

Semi-final/Final: A single long weekend on 23rd/25th February 2008 (Saturday/Monday – Young Chelsea BC). 60 Boards per day to be played in stanzas of 20 on a European/World timetable, with an early morning start. 80-board Semi-final; 100-board Final.

The winning team to be selected for the 2008 European Championships **with a 3rd pair to be selected from amongst bona fide applicants to the Trials.**

6.3 *Womens' Trials*

Pairs Trials, with no exemptions. Two weekends, with the possibility of dropping some pairs after the first weekend, but otherwise scores over the two weekends are cumulative, cross-imped. Closing date for entries, 31st October 2007.

First weekend: 5th/6th January 2008 – Possibly Young Chelsea BC, though further enquires are ongoing.

Second weekend: 3 days in February 2008, Saturday – Monday. (Young Chelsea BC)
Subsequent to the meeting Max Bavin & the Secretary agreed 16th/18th February.

As with the Open Trials, it is envisaged that ‘long’ matches (16-20 boards) will be played, at least on the second weekend. The top two pairs will be selected for the Lady Milne. No guarantees will be made in regard to the European Championships.

6.4 Seniors Trials

The current Seniors Knock-out (for the Gerard Faulkner Salver) is already published as the qualifying event for the European Championships. However, trials in a format to be decided at the next meeting would be held for the Olympiad.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 11th July 2007 at 12.30. Venue to be confirmed.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Peter Stocken said that 28th March 2007 will be the Committee’s 70th Anniversary. The first Committee met in 1937 to select a team for the Camrose Trophy.

These minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting

APPENDIX A

Junior Channel Trophy : 15th - 17th December 2006 - Lille

Final Results U25:

1 st	Netherlands	122 VPs
2 nd	France	89 “
3 rd	Belgium	74 “
4 th	England	72 “

England:

Simon Cope & Stuart Haring
Tom Slater & Andrew Murphy
Susan Stockdale & David Cropper
NPC Mel Starkings

Final Results U20:

1 st	France	120 VPs
2 nd	England	95 “
3 rd	Netherlands	77 “
4 th	Belgium	61 “

England:

Tom & Ben Paske
 Ed Jones & Bingyuan Yang
 James Thrower & Tom Rainforth
 NPC Michael Byrne
 Coach Duncan Happer

Camrose Trophy : (1st weekend) 5th – 7th January 2007 - Oxford

	NI	SCO	ENG	ROI	WALES	HOLDERS	FINES	TOTAL
N IRELAND	X	13	15	25	9	10		72
	X	(-11)	(+3)	(+71)	(-35)	(-31)		
SCOTLAND	17	X	10	11	15	3		56
	(+11)	X	(-29)	(-28)	(+1)	(-76)		
ENGLAND	15	20	X	21	18	14	-2	86
	(-3)	(+29)	X	(+37)	(+17)	(-8)		
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND	4	19	9	X	19	13		64
	(-71)	(+28)	(-37)	X	(+23)	(-15)		
WALES	21	15	12	11	X	11		70
	(+35)	(-1)	(-17)	(-23)	X	(-23)		
HOLDERS (ROI)	20	25	16	17	19	X	-2	95
	(+31)	(+76)	(+8)	(+15)	(+23)	X		

England:

John Holland & John Armstrong
 Jason & Justin Hackett
 Nick Sandqvist & Artur Malinowski
 NPC : Raymond Brock
 Assistant NPC : Janet de Botton