



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 24TH JULY 2007 AT 40 BERNARD STREET, LONDON.**

Present: Gerard Faulkner (Chairman)
Raymond Brock
Michael Byrne
Steve Eginton
Peter Hasenson
Sandra Landy
David Muller
Max Bavin (EBU Chief TD)
Sandra Claridge (Secretary)

Apologies for absence were received from Peter Stocken (EBU Chairman), Mrs Sally Bugden (EBU Vice-Chairman) and Paul Bowyer.

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 19TH APRIL 2007

1.1 Accuracy

1.1.1 A typographical error on page 4 referring to Sandra Landy as “he”, was amended to “she”.

1.1.2 A further sentence was added to paragraph three on page 5 to read...“Raymond Brock and others disagreed”.

Subject to these amendments, the minutes were signed as a true record.

It was agreed that there must be improved communication between the Selection Committee and the Board, and the presence of at least one member of the Board, in whatever capacity, was desirable. The Chairman confirmed that the current legal position was that the EBU Chairman, and Vice-Chairman, as ex officio members of the Committee, had full voting rights, and that Sub-committees’ Terms of Reference were approved by the Board on the recommendations of the individual Sub-committees.

1.2 Matters Arising

1.2.1 Swedish Bridgefestival

The Secretary reported that she had contacted the 2007 Trialists to offer them the opportunity of playing in the Swedish Bridgefestival in August. Janet de Botton confirmed that her team had already entered the Festival, and given that no other

trialists wished to accept the invitation, it was agreed to inform the organisers that her team would represent England.

1.2.2 Reserve pair for the match v Norway at Brighton

John Holland and John Armstrong having had to withdraw as reserves, it was agreed that Colin Simpson and David Price take their place. Max Bavin confirmed that the match, with a vu-graph presentation, would comprise 90 boards, with two sessions on Thursday 16th August, and one on Friday 17th.

1.2.3 Appointment of Coach for the Venice Cup

The Secretary had sought availability from Alan Mould and David Burn to act as Coach to the Venice Cup team. Alan Mould was unable to meet the necessary deadline, and David Burn was therefore invited to accompany the team as Coach, which he accepted.

1.2.4 Arrangements for Sports Psychologist for Venice Cup Team

The Chairman reported that arrangements had been made for a Sports Psychologist to meet with the Venice Cup team at the National Womens Teams in September.

1.2.5 Lady Milne and Junior Camrose Trophies

The Secretary reported that at its recent meeting, Bridge Great Britain had decided to discuss at its 2008 meeting the possibility of expanding the Lady Milne and Junior Camrose Trophies to a six-team format.

1.2.6 Venice Cup Team Hotel

It was noted that the Board had approved an upgrade to a hotel with swimming facilities at an additional cost of £3K.

The Committee wished the team every success.

1.2.7 Item 1.1.6

Steve Eginton apologised for not having compiled a list of players for invitation events, which he would rectify as a priority.

Michael Byrne offered to produce a detailed database of players under the age of 28.

1.2.8 Mind Sports Games

No clarification having been received as to the Games planned to be held in Beijing in 2008, the Secretary was asked to pursue the matter again with the EBU Chairman.

1.2.9 Appointment of NPC for European Schools Championship

Mike Amos had been appointed as Non-playing Captain for the Schools Team.

1.2.10 Entry Fee for European U25 Womens' Championship

The Secretary was asked to enquire of the EBU Chairman whether the disproportionate entry fee for the U25 Womens' event had been raised with the European Bridge League during his visit to Turkey.

1.2.11 Peggy Bayer Trophy

The Secretary reported that the Bridge Great Britain Home International Regulations contained a recommendation to Home Unions that no free alcohol be provided at the closing dinner for the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer Trophies.

2 REPORT ON SUGGESTED COMPOSITION OF EBU JUNIOR COMMITTEE

The Chairman reported that he and the Committee Vice-Chairman had met with the EBU Chairman and Vice-Chairman to seek to ensure that the difficulties experienced in terms of communication would be taken in hand, and that areas of responsibility particularly in relation to Youth Development, currently the responsibility of Jeff Morris and Graham Jepson, would be clearly defined. While this was agreed at the meeting, subsequently the Board experienced difficulties in defining the role of the Board members responsible for Youth Development, and decided that a Junior Committee would be set up comprising two Board members, one member of the Selection Committee, the two Squad Managers and the Youth Development Officer.

It was suggested by the Selection Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman that the new Committee should have five members elected by the Shareholders, no ex officio Board members, the two Squad Managers as ex officio members with full voting rights, and the Youth Development Officer as Secretary with no voting rights. This was rejected by the Board, but the EBU Chairman agreed to canvass shareholders' views at the AGM in October as to whether the new body should be elected or non-elected.

The Committee was unanimous in recognising the logic of Junior matters being dealt with by those directly involved in youth bridge, and the importance of suitable preparation for events and ongoing support.

The following proposal by Raymond Brock, seconded by Sandra Landy, was carried nem con.

“This Committee believes it should have ultimate responsibility for the selection of England teams and their ongoing support. In the event that this is not acceptable to the Board we ask that a new Junior Sub-committee, responsible for selection of all designated junior teams (currently Under-28) should be elected annually by the Shareholders, with the Squad Managers as ex officio voting members and the Youth Development Officer (non-voting) as Secretary. The Sub-committee should also be responsible for Youth Development and all other youth matters in accordance with Terms of Reference to be supplied by the Board.”

It was noted that despite an undertaking to the Board in September 2006 by Jeff Morris and Graham Jepson that a policy document would be produced detailing disciplinary procedures for cautioning and excluding from the Junior Squads, no progress appears to have been made.

3 JUNIOR EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

3.1 *Results and Report of U25 event*

The results were noted, as shown in Appendix A. The Captain was thanked for his full and very prompt report.

Steve Eginton reported that there had been some criticism by the players of the uniform provided, and a sponsor had offered free polo-shirts and T-shirts sporting a new design, which had been much appreciated. It was agreed that the Committee's recognition of the gesture would be published, along with photographs of the teams, on the EBU's website.

Problems had been experienced with the teams' hotel, particularly in relation to the provision of meals at suitable times, and that there had been no airport transfers, but otherwise the arrangements for the tournament had been faultless.

There appeared to be some uncertainty amongst the England teams as to when official uniforms would be worn. It was agreed that the wearing of official uniforms would be mandatory at all Opening Ceremonies, but that thereafter it would be a matter for the Captain in discussion with the team.

It was noted that there was no official England presence at the Championships.

3.2 *Results and Report of Schools Event*

The results were noted, as shown in Appendix A. The Captain was thanked for his very prompt report.

Michael Byrne reported that due to exams there had been little opportunity for training in the run-up to the Championships, and the third pair, who played only one match in the Championship had, despite a lot of encouragement, not progressed. However, the team had performed well and proved to be a credit to their country, and without one member of the team becoming ill, it was likely that they would have won a medal. There was a possibility that England might qualify for the World Schools Championships, though Max Bavin expressed some doubt that the Championships would take place unless a suitable host could be found.

With hindsight it was felt that it might have been a better decision to take the two pairs who were automatic selections, and an extra player in case of illness. The Committee agreed that in future it would be made clear that selection would be subject to continued commitment to the team.

The Committee congratulated the team, and agreed that for the future more in-depth help should be provided prior to the event, and that 20-board practice matches should be adopted as standard strategy.

Steve Eginton said that Ireland was not represented in any of the three Championships, but that Wales should be congratulated on sending a team to the Schools Championship to gain experience.

3.3 U25 Womens' Event

The results were noted, as shown in Appendix A. Sandra Landy was thanked for her comprehensive report, and the enormous amount of work she had undertaken in forming and arranging training for the Squad.

Sandra reported that the experience of the European event had been worth all the effort. The team had sought to get the best value out of the event, and it was clear that all the players wished to remain as a Squad. To maximise potential for the future our overview should be broadened, and a training programme put into place now for 2009.

Steve Eginton reported that he had asked the three NPCs to provide a more comprehensive review so that a 2-year plan could be formulated. The Chairman agreed to inform the EBU Chairman that a full day's meeting would be arranged between Chris Dixon, Mike Amos, Sandra Landy, David Muller, Michael Byrne and Heather Dhondy to discuss strategy for the next campaign.

4. OPEN TRIALS 2007/8

The Committee noted that eight teams had entered via the Secretary, and it was subsequently confirmed that a further entry had been submitted direct to the EBU prior to the closing date. The full list is as follows:

Glyn Liggins , Peter Crouch, Martin Jones, Neil Rosen
Nick Sandqvist , Artur Malinowski, Justin & Jason Hackett
Tom Townsend , David Gold, Gunnar Hallberg, Andrew McIntosh
Michael Byrne , Andrew Woodcock, Ben Green, Duncan Happer
Alexander Allfrey , Andrew Robson, Tony Forrester, David Bakhshi
John Armstrong , John Holland, Tony Waterlow, Paul Hackett
Jeremy Dhondy , Heather Dhondy, Rob Cliffe, Keith Bennett
Sandra Penfold , Nevena Senior, Espen Erichsen, Brian Senior
Colin Simpson , David Price, Janet de Botton, David Burn

It was agreed that the first weekend Pretrial would be cancelled, and that all nine teams would be exempted to Stage II, the format to be determined by Max Bavin. The Semi-finals and Finals would be played on 10th-12th November.

It was noted that unfortunately the date of the Champions Cup, for which the winners of Crockfords Cup had qualified, had now been announced as the weekend of 10th November. As the dates of the Trials had been announced for some time it was agreed that it was impossible for them to be changed, and that the team must decide in which event it would compete.

It was confirmed that the 2008 European Championships would be held on 21st June – 5th July in Pau, France.

5 FUTURE QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

Following a discussion, there was general agreement that the current limitations on qualification for membership of the Committee should be relaxed, and that it would be beneficial to have the views and experience of players who have aspirations to represent England, and those who have done so previously.

It was agreed nem con that sections 3.1 and 3.2 of the Committee's current Terms of Reference should be deleted and that section 3.3 should be amended to read...

"No elected member of the Selection Committee may participate in the discussion of, or voting on, any item in respect of which they have any material or financial interest, unless the Chairman so rules."

It was also agreed that to recommend that ex officio members of the Committee should have the right to attend and discuss but not vote, save on a matter of principle, at the Chairman's discretion.

6 TRIALS

6.1 Format, dates and venues for Open Trials for 2008 Olympiad

It was agreed that a Trial would be held on 11th-14th August 2008 at the Brighton Summer Meeting. The Committee reserved the right to cancel the Trials in the event that the Open Team finished in the top eight in the European Championships. If the Open Team did not finish in the top eight, the three remaining semi-finalists from the European Championship Trial would have the right to challenge the winners, the format being determined by Max Bavin.

The Chairman and Max Bavin agreed to produce a clause to cover a situation where a team of four that had reached the Semi-finals of the European Championships Trials, was no longer functioning as a team.

6.2 Format, dates and venues for Womens Trials for 2008 Olympiad

It was agreed that a Trial would be held midweek at the 2008 Brighton Summer Meeting comprising up to four teams of four, over a minimum of two days, and a maximum of four days, the format to be determined by Max Bavin. The Committee reserved the right to cancel the Trials in the event that the Womens Team finished in the top six in the European Championships.

6.3 Format and dates for Trials for 2008 Seniors Camrose & 2008 Olympiad

It was confirmed that the winners of the 2007 Gerard Faulkner Salver would qualify for the 2008 European Seniors event, if eligible.

Teams of six Trials would be held on 25th-27th January and 28th-30th March for the 2008 Seniors Camrose and the 2008 Olympiad, the winners of the Trial qualifying for the Seniors Camrose. The closing date for entries will be 31st October 2007, and the number of boards required to be played will be announced when the number of teams for the Trial has been determined.

In the event that the European Seniors team qualifies for the Seniors World Championships it would automatically be selected for the Olympiad. If not, it would play a 96-board knock-out match against the winners of the Seniors Camrose Trial.

7 PROPOSAL FOR REINTRODUCTION OF EBL U35 SERIES

A proposal that a recommendation be put via the EBU Board to the European Bridge League that it introduces an U35 series, was carried nem con. This, it was hoped, would bridge the gap between the Junior and Open series.

8 PREMIER LEAGUE

It was agreed that the Premier League would be reintroduced, and that it would be used as a Trial for the 2009 Camrose Trophy, and as a selection process for other representative events. The format would be identical to that of the Camrose Trophy, played over two weekends. It was agreed that the Secretary and Max Bavin would research archive material and produce costings.

9 LOOKING FORWARD

There being insufficient time to discuss this item in depth, it was agreed that the Chairman would produce a paper for circulation to the Committee. If it was then decided that a full debate was necessary, a meeting would be held on Thursday 16th August at Brighton.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 16th August at Brighton if necessary, otherwise Wednesday 7th November in London, commencing at 12.30 pm.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Max Bavin reported as follows:

- an invitation to send a team to compete in the Vilnius Cup at the Lithuanian 34th Bridge Festival had received no support.
- the date of the Carousel Cup in Amsterdam had been announced as 9th-15th March 2008, and it was likely that England would be invited to send two teams.
- England would be the hosts for the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer Trophies in February 2008, and for the Channel Trophy in December 2008.

Closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked the Committee for all their hard work during the year. The Committee agreed that Max Bavin's attendance had been invaluable and it was hoped that he would be present at as many future meetings as possible.

Peter Hasenson was joined by the Committee in expressing his gratitude to Gerard Faulkner for his contribution as Chairman, particularly during the past year.

ACTION POINTS

Minute		Action
1.2.7	Compilation of players' details	S Eginton & Secretary
	Compilation of U28 players' details	M Byrne
1.2.8	Clarification o Mind Sports Games	Secretary / EBU Chairman
1.2.10	Entry fee for European U25 Womens event	Secretary / EBU Chairman
2	Composition of EBU Junior Committee	Chairman
3.1	Recognition of sponsorship	Secretary
3.3	Notification of Planning Meeting	Chairman
4	Open Trials format	Max Bavin
5	Qualification for Committee membership	Chairman
6.1	Open Olympiad Trials format	Max Bavin
6.1	Clause to cover possible team change	Chairman & Max Bavin
6.2	Womens Olympiad Trials format	Max Bavin
6.3	Announcement of Trials & venue booking	Secretary
6.3	Seniors Olympiad Trials format	Max Bavin
7	Proposal for EBL U35 Series	Secretary / EBU Chairman
8	Premier League research	Secretary / Max Bavin
9	Looking Forward	Chairman
10	Arrangements for next meeting(s)	Secretary

APPENDIX A

21st European Youth Team Championships

Girls Teams - 12 Entrants

<i>Final Rankings</i>		
Rank	Team	VPs
1	Poland	225.5
2	Netherlands	210
3	Sweden	204
4	Israel	197.5
5	Germany	174
6	Norway	163
7	Italy	154
8	England	152

England:

Fiona Brown & Nicola McDougall
 Alice Kaye & Laura McDougall
 Jennifer Marvin & Elizabeth Roberts
 NPC: Sandra Landy
 Coach: Heather Dhondy

U25 Teams - 22 Entrants

<i>Final Rankings</i>		
Rank	Team	VPs
1	Netherlands	415.5
2	Italy	410
3	Poland	384
4	Norway	376
5	Germany	369
6	Denmark	365
7	France	349
8	Russia	335.5
9	Latvia	321
10	England	320

England:

Ben Green & Duncan Happer
 David Cropper & Susan Stockdale
 Simon Cope & Stuart Haring
 NPC: Chris Dixon
 Coach: David Muller

Schools Teams – 16 Entrants

<i>Final Rankings</i>		
Rank	Team	VPs
1	Poland	316
2	Bulgaria	259.5
3	France	249
4	England	248

England:

Ed Jones & Rob Myers
Ben & Tom Paske
Tom Rainforth & James Thrower
NPC: Mike Amos
Coach: Michael Byrne

**Bonn Nations Cup
18th – 20th May**

3rd overall

England: Tom Townsend & David Gold
Michael Byrne & Andrew Woodcock