



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007 AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL,  
LONDON.**

<b>Present:</b>	Steve Eginton	(Chairman)
	Gerard Faulkner	(Vice-Chairman)
	Max Bavin	(EBU Chief TD)
	Heather Dhondy	
	Paul Hackett	
	Michael Hill	(EBU Hon. Treasurer)
	Sandra Landy	
	David Muller	
	Sandra Claridge	(Secretary)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Peter Stocken, Sally Bugden, Raymond Brock and Clive Owen.

**2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2007/8**

Steve Eginton was proposed by Sandra Landy and seconded by Heather Dhondy.

Taking the chair, Steve thanked Gerard Faulkner for all the work he had undertaken as Chairman on the Committee's behalf.

**3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2007/8**

Gerard Faulkner was proposed by Sandra Landy and seconded by Heather Dhondy. Gerard agreed to stand for a one-year term.

Taking the chair, Steve outlined the Committee's procedures in regard to conflict of interest, confidentiality, and future lines of communication.

**4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2007**

The minutes were signed as a true record.

***Matters Arising:***

**4.1 Register of U28 players**

It was agreed that the Secretary would obtain a list of U28 players from the Squad Managers, and that the introduction of an U28 event in the Mind Sports Olympiad in Beijing would be publicised on the EBU website. A Trial would be held and applications invited from partnerships under the age of 28 or attaining the age of 28 during 2008, the

aim being to provide experience for the best qualified pairs to move forward into the Open game.

Max Bavin reported that the Open and Women's Olympiad events would now be part of the Mind Sports Olympiad, but that no official confirmation had been received from the Olympic Committee as to whether an invitation would be extended to Great Britain, or the Home Unions individually.

Paul Hackett believed that the World Bridge Federation plans to hold an U25 World Championship for the Ortiz-Patino Trophy and an U20 World Championship for the Damiani Trophy in 2008, as well as an U28 Championship, but this had also to be confirmed, as had the offer of free accommodation for three teams. If these events were to go ahead, it was noted that England might qualify for the U20 World Championship.

Michael Hill said that regardless of budget implications resulting from the above, in future the Board required detailed budgets for each area of the Selection Committee's activity, and concrete justification for the planned expenditure.

#### *4.2 Entry Fee for U25 European Women's Championship*

Max Bavin said that an error had been made by the European Bridge League, which would not be repeated. In view of the amount involved it was agreed that the matter would not be pursued.

#### *4.3 2008 European Seniors Championship team*

An application to amend the team that had qualified for the 2008 European Seniors Championship as of right as winners of the 2007 Gerard Faulkner Salver, was discussed. It was agreed, with some reluctance, to accede to the team's request. The team would, however, be informed that there was currently no budget for a non-playing captain. The team to represent England is:

Victor Silverstone / Chris Dixon  
David Price / Colin Simpson  
Paul Hackett / Ross Harper

It was agreed that the Seniors event was now very prestigious, and that there was no justification to treat the team any differently in terms of support, to the Open, Womens or Junior teams. This matter would be discussed further, as would the selection method for Seniors events, and an appropriate budget produced to provide the necessary support, subject to Board approval.

#### *4.4 Reintroduction of European U35 series*

No response had been received, and the matter would be pursued.

Michael Hill reported that the Chairman was also writing to the EBL to register England's protest at late changes to European events/timetables.

#### *4.5 Table Recorders for the 2008 European Championships*

The Secretary reported that two people had offered to score for English teams at the Championships in Pau, in June 2008. It was agreed that no appointments would be made until arrangements for the Championships were confirmed, and the matter had

been discussed with the captains and coaches. The two would be thanked for their offer and informed that we would contact them again when details were confirmed.

#### 4.6 2008 Olympiad Trials

The following arrangements, produced by Max Bavin, were approved.

##### **Open Series**

1. If the English Open team finish in the top eight places in the 2008 European Championships, then the same team will be selected for the 2008 Olympiad.
2. Otherwise, there will be a play-off on August 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 2008 at Brighton amongst the top four teams of four from the 2007 European/Camrose trials.

It was agreed that the four teams would be asked whether

- (i) they would be able to meet the obligation to play off in Brighton, or withdraw
- (ii) they would be available to go to Beijing if they won the play-off.

3. There will also be a play-off if more than one pair from the European team is unwilling/unable to play in the Olympiad, in spite of having finished in the top eight places in the European Championships. [If precisely one pair is unavailable, then the nominated reserve pair for the European Championships will take their place, and a new reserve pair will be nominated for the Olympiad; if two pairs are unavailable then the team will be withdrawn from the play-off process but the one pair which remains will automatically become the 3<sup>rd</sup> pair for the Olympiad provided that they were from the team-of-four which won the original trial].
4. If one of the top four teams from the trials, is unable/unwilling to play in the play-off and/or play in the Olympiad, then the 5<sup>th</sup> placed team from the trials will be invited to take their place. If the 5<sup>th</sup> placed team is unavailable, then the committee will select a team to take part in the play-off.
5. If two of the top four teams are unavailable, then the play-off will be amongst the two teams which remain (a 100-board match – see below). If three of the top four teams are unavailable, then the one team which remains will be deemed to be the winner of the play-off.
6. A four team play-off will be in the form of a double round-robin over two days; 3 x 20-board matches per day, with a compulsory change of opponents on the second day. Scoring by IMPs converted to VPs on the 40-board match scale at the conclusion of the second round-robin.

The top two teams will then play a 100-board play-off: 60 and 40 boards per day respectively (5 stanzas of 20-boards) with no carry-over from the round-robin.

7. The winning team of four from the play-off will be selected to play in the Olympiad. A third pair will be added to the team as per the conditions for selecting the original European Championship team.

### **Womens Series**

A trial will 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, on a format to be determined. The Committee will cancel the Trials in the event that the Womens Team finishes in the top six of the European Championships, and that team will be selected.

### **Seniors Series**

Teams of six Trials would be held on 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> January and 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> March for the 2008 Seniors Camrose and the 2008 Olympiad, the winners of the Trial qualifying for the Seniors Camrose.

The first weekend will be a four-team double round robin of 3 x 20-board matches with compulsory change of opponents. All players must play at least 20 boards against each other team.

The second weekend will be a 100-board play-off between the leading two teams from the first weekend, with 60 boards on Saturday and 40 boards on Sunday. All players must play at least 40 boards in the second weekend.

In the event that the European Seniors team finishes in the top six of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, 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.

The age limit for Seniors for World and European events, which would apply from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010, was noted to be anyone born in or before 1950.

### **Conditions for all Series**

It was agreed that alternative times and venues could be arranged if Brighton was found to be unsuitable for the players. In the case of substitutes, there would be no one-player rule, i.e. if a pair withdrew they would be replaced by a substitute pair.

It was regretted that it had been necessary to amend arrangements for the Open and Women's Trials for the current season. The Committee reserved the right to make changes to format in future for a technical or other reason, if it was perceived to be for the benefit of players, but only if such a change was totally unavoidable.

No changes will be made to dates of Trials in future within two months of the announced date.

#### *4.7 Panel of NPCs*

A review was undertaken of the current Panel of Non-playing Captains, and further applications. It was agreed that, as soon as practicable, experience would be offered to new applicants.

#### *4.8 2008 Premier League*

It was agreed that an announcement would be published in the February issue of *English Bridge*, and on the EBU website, to the effect that the Premier League would replace the

existing schedule of Trials for Open events and would be used for selection for the Camrose Trophy and other international events. Two alternative formats were discussed, as follows:

- 6 teams, replicating the format of the Camrose Trophy, i.e. two 3-day weekends, all-play-all each weekend.
- 8 teams, playing whole matches each day, over two 2-day weekends and one 3-day weekend.

To cater for either contingency, three 3-day weekends would be reserved.

It was suggested that e.g. 8 teams would play 3 weekends of 3 days each in Autumn 2008. The entry fee would be determined by Max Bavin.

#### 4.9 *Report from the Bonn Nations Cup*

Tom Townsend was thanked for his report. Some general comments will be passed to other appropriate committees.

#### 4.10 *Coaching*

The Chairman said that proposals for a coaching programme would be discussed at the next meeting. In the meantime he would be approaching top players who might be available to offer their services. In addition, a list would be compiled of possibilities for practice as a training tool, and the logistics of accessing the facilities. Sandra Landy said that it was imperative to consider how this approach to training can best be used, and for someone to devise suitable material which can be used by all teams.

#### 4.11 *Future matters arising*

Updates on matters arising should be forwarded to the Secretary in future, at least two weeks in advance of meetings, for inclusion with agenda papers.

#### 4.12 *Item 2.7 Junior European Championships*

**Chairman's Note:** It has been pointed out that in the minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> August, a note about the validation of a Junior's team NPC's expenses may have given the wrong impression. The NPC in question had made a number of payments for which no repayment was expected, in effect acting as an unofficial sponsor for the team. Being unaware of what would be reimbursed, the full account was submitted on the basis that a full repayment was not expected, and the Board had asked the Selection Committee to carry out this assessment.

It should be noted that the Selection Committee is extremely grateful to the captain, not only for the wonderful job done in preparing the team, but also in the considerable generosity in providing the best of services and facilities at little additional cost to the EBU.

## 5 JUNIOR MATTERS

### 5.1 **Junior Trials**

The results of the Trials were noted, as contained in Appendix A.

### 5.2 **Selection of U25, U20 and U25 Women's team, reserves and NPCs for the Junior Channel Trophy**

The teams were confirmed, as follows:

**U25:**

Mike Bell & Alex Morris  
Ed Jones & Ben Paske  
John Atthey & Chris Owen  
Reserves: Steve Raine & Dave Cropper  
NPC: Steve Eginton

**U20:**

James Paul & Graeme Robertson  
Tom Paske & Adam Hickman  
Daniel McIntosh & Rob Myers  
Reserves:  
NPC: Michael Byrne

**U25 Women:**

Susan Stockdale & Fiona Brown  
Elizabeth Roberts & Jenny Marvin  
Laura McDougall & Alice Kaye  
Reserves: Emily Middleton & Laura Perryman  
NPC: Sandra Landy

It was noted that extra funding had been made available to send the U25 Women's team. It was agreed that a decision on whether U25 Women's teams would be included when the event is hosted by England next year would be taken in light of this year's experience.

**5.3 Selection of team, reserves and NPC for the Junior Camrose Trophy**

Mike Bell & Alex Morris  
Dave Cropper & Steve Raine  
Fiona Brown & Susan Stockdale  
Reserves: Ian Angus & James Rogers  
NPC: Steve Eginton  
Reserve NPC: Mel Starkings

**5.4 Selection of NPC and reserve NPC for the Peggy Bayer Trophy**

NPC: Michael Byrne  
Reserve NPC: Mel Starkings  
*The team will be selected in December 2007*

**5.5 Squad Managers' Reports**

The Squad Managers were thanked for their reports. It was noted that it had been the policy to give international experience to as many pairs as possible.

**5.6 Report on the first meeting of the EBU Youth Committee**

Sandra Landy reported that the meeting had been well conducted, and that there had been a useful and productive discussion. Future issues were raised, in particular the cost of training weekends and the provision of accommodation.

The Committee was keen to ensure that every offer of sponsorship, from an approved source, would be taken up.

Sandra was appointed as the Selection Committee's representative on the Youth Committee for the coming year, and David Muller as alternate.

## **5.7 Correspondence**

Correspondence from a Board member was noted.

## **5.8 University Championships (FISU)**

It was reported that England might be approached to host a future University Championship. Michael Hill said that whilst the Board would be happy to help facilitate the staging of a universities championship, it would not be prepared to make funding available.

## **6 OPEN EVENTS**

### **6.1 Results of Open Trials**

The results of the Trials were noted, as contained in Appendix A.

### **6.2 Selection of teams for the 2008 Camrose Trophy**

**11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> January : Northern Ireland  
Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast**

Neil Rosen / Martin Jones  
Tom Townsend / David Gold  
Andrew McIntosh / Gunnar Hallberg  
Reserves: John Holland / John Armstrong  
NPC: David Price  
Reserve NPC: Chris Dixon

**7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> March : Republic of Ireland  
Venue to be announced**

Glyn Liggins / Peter Crouch  
Neil Rosen / Martin Jones  
John Holland / John Armstrong  
Reserves: Paul Hackett / Tony Waterlow  
NPC: David Price  
Reserve NPC: Chris Dixon

### **6.3 Personnel for 2008 European Championships**

The need for the involvement as early as possible of captains and coaches for major championships in all series, was identified, in consultation with the selected teams. It was also viewed as beneficial to have personnel appointed at the start of the Premier League.

## **7 WOMEN'S EVENTS**

### **7.1 Venice Cup**

The results were noted, as contained in Appendix A, and the team and captain congratulated on reaching the quarter-finals. The NPC was thanked for his report. Correspondence from a member of the team was noted.

### **7.2 2007/8 Trial applications**

The Secretary reported that six applications had been received to date. The closing date for applications was noted to be 30<sup>th</sup> November. The Committee was pleased to note that organised play and instruction meetings had been held for potential trialists which represented a positive move to increase interest in women's bridge.

An application by a pair to be permitted to play only the first weekend of trials due to holiday commitments on the revised dates for the second weekend, was considered. It was agreed to grant the request, but that the automatic right for selection for the Lady Milne Trophy, would be lost.

## **8. SENIORS TRIALS**

Four applications were accepted as follows. The format and conditions for the Trial are contained in Item 4.6 above.

**Paul Hackett**, Ross Harper, Tony Waterlow, Ian Panto, Gunnar Hallberg, Peter Czerniewski

**Keith Stanley**, Irving Gordon, Richard Edwards, Bill Townsend

**Richard Palmer**, Chris Burley, Steve Gore, Carole Mueller, Phil Thornton

**Tony Parkinson**, Andrew Parker, John Greenhalgh, Ian Thompson

## **9. COMPETITIONS CALENDAR**

To avoid Trials clashes, the Secretary was asked to produce a calendar of meaningful domestic and international competitions.

## **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Date : Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008 at 12.30.

Venue : McAlpines Offices, 40 Bernard Street, London.



## ACTION LIST

Minute		Action
4.1	Obtain list of U28 players	Secretary
	Publish U28 trials announcement trials on EBU website	Secretary
	Seek confirmation of Junior World Championships	Secretary/D Harris
4.3	Confirmation of Seniors team Letter to team member	Secretary Secretary
4.4	Reintroduction of European U35 series	Secretary/D Harris
4.6	Contact four teams	Secretary
4.6/8	Confirm format of Seniors Trials to trialists	Secretary
4.8	Publish announcement of Premier League on EBU website and in February EB	Secretary
4.10	Approach to possible coaches and list of practice opportunities	Chairman
5.2	Announcement of JC Selections	Secretary
5.8	University Championships	Secretary to EBU Chairman
6.2	Announcement of Camrose selections	Secretary
6.3	Letter to ladies trialists	Chairman
9	Competitions Calendar	Secretary

## APPENDIX A

### 2007 JUNIOR TRIALS

1	Mike Bell & Alex Morris	172
2	Ed Jones & Ben Paske	139
3	Steve Raine & Dave Cropper	81
4	Fiona Brown & Susan Stockdale	65
5	John Atthey & Chris Owen	7
6	Ian Angus & James Rogers	-14
7	Joe Mela & Tommy Dessain	-26
8	Rob Myers & Dan McIntosh	-39
9	Sinead Bird & Stuart Haring	-46
10	Joe Clacy & Emily Middleton	-47
11	James Thrower & Tom Rainforth	-93
12	Ant Edwards & Giles Ip	-98
13	Jonathan Lillycrop & Daniel Cardnell	-101

**2007/8 STAGE I OPEN TRIALS RESULTS**

	<b>Ligg</b>	<b>Tow</b>	<b>Arm</b>	<b>Sand</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Dho</b>	<b>Pen</b>	<b>Byrn</b>	<b>Simp</b>	<b>Bye</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Liggins</b>		17	14	16	19	19	18	22	25	18	168
<b>Townsend</b>	13		17	19	13	15	19	25	25	18	164
<b>Armstrong</b>	16	13		16	12	19	25	21	22	18	162
<b>Sandqvist</b>	14	11	14		16	14	18	24	23	18	152
<b>Allfrey</b>	11	17	18	14		14	25	17	16	18	150
<b>Dhondy</b>	11	15	11	16	16		12	17	19	18	135
<b>Penfold</b>	12	11	3	12	0	18		16	21	18	111
<b>Byrne</b>	8	4	9	6	13	13	14		17	18	102
<b>Simpson</b>	5	4	8	7	14	11	0	13		18	89

**2007 VENICE CUP**

1	USA 1	400
2	Germany	383
3	China Global Times	382
4	USA 2	358
5	France	354
6	Egypt	344
7	Canada	343
8	England	342

**Quarter-finals**

China Global Times 218      England      128

**England:**                      Heather Dhondy & Nicola Smith  
    Michelle Brunner & Rhona Goldenfield  
    Catherine Jagger & Sarah Teshome  
    NPC: Martin Jones  
    Coach: David Burn