



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 15TH APRIL 2008, AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL,
RUSSELL SQUARE, LONDON**

Present:

Steve Eginton	(Chairman)
Gerard Faulkner	(Vice-Chairman)
Heather Dhondy	
Paul Hackett	
Sandra Landy	
David Muller	
Max Bavin	(EBU Chief TD)
Sandra Claridge	(Secretary)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Peter Stocken (EBU Chairman), Sally Bugden (EBU Vice-Chairman) and Barry Capal (EBU General Manager).

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st FEBRUARY 2008

2.1 Accuracy

Subject to the first line of page 7 being amended to read...“England had won the Junior Camrose Trophy...” the minutes were signed as a true record.

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 *Gelibolu Peace Cup*

Catherine Jagger being unable to travel to Turkey for personal reasons, the following team was confirmed:

Heather Dhondy (playing captain), Sarah Teshome, Nevena Senior, Fiona Brown, Susan Stockdale,

2.2.2 *Bonn Nations Cup*

The winners of the Open Trial not being available for the Bonn Nations Cup, the runners-up were invited to represent England, as follows:

David Gold & Tom Townsend, Andrew McIntosh & Gunnar Hallberg.

2.2.3 *2008 Channel Trophy*

The Secretary reported that arrangements had been made to view two potential venues on 17th April.

Secretary's note: The venue was confirmed on 17th April as Rosebery Hall, London School of Economics, Rosebery Avenue, Islington.

2.2.4 *Request to EBL for reintroduction of U35 series*

It was noted that no progress had been made. Paul Hackett said that the European Bridge League had ongoing problems finding hosts and venues for junior events. A Junior Pairs event had, however, been arranged for July 2008 in Poland. In light of this difficulty the Committee was surprised to note that two additional events had been added to the 2008 European Championships, i.e. Pairs and Cadet Pairs Championships.

In general the Committee questioned the wisdom of the WBF introducing an U28 series into the Mind Sports Olympiad. While it supported age limited events, its preference would be for a larger catchment i.e. U35. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed again following the U28 event in October.

A statement from the Board was awaited on its policy for hosting of international events.

2.2.5 *U28 Trial arrangements and format*

The Secretary reported that the Trial would be held at West Midlands Bridge Club, Solihull, on 17th and 18th May. The format would be a double round robin of 10 x 10-board matches with 50 boards on each day starting at 11.00 and finishing at 20.15, the winners being guaranteed selection for the Mind Sports Olympiad.

It was noted that funds had been set aside for the services of a Sports Psychologist, and arrangements would be made for her to meet the team after the selection was confirmed.

2.2.6 *National Coach*

The Chairman said that he had no progress to report, though enquiries were ongoing. It was agreed that he and Heather Dhondy would produce detailed terms of reference for a National Coach.

3. 2008 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The teams for the European Championships were confirmed as follows:

- Open:** John Armstrong & John Holland
Paul Hackett & Tony Waterlow
Jason & Justin Hackett
Reserves: David Gold & Tom Townsend
NPC: Bill Hirst
Coach: David Burn
Reserve NPC: To be appointed
- Womens:** Catherine Jagger & Sarah Teshome
Heather Dhondy & Nevena Senior
Catherine Draper & Anne Rosen
Reserves: Susan Stockdale & Fiona Brown
NPC: Alan Mould
Coach: Rob Cliffe
Reserve NPC: To be appointed

(Heather Dhondy withdrew for the above selection)

Seniors: Chris Dixon & Victor Silverstone
David Price & Colin Simpson
Ross Harper & Andrew Thompson
NPC: Peter Czerniewski
Reserve NPC: To be appointed

It was agreed that in the case of the Womens team, which included partnerships either recently formed or new to international competition, the partnerships would be asked to provide the NPC, Coach, and Committee with fully documented details of their proposed programme of preparation for the Championships.

The Secretary was requested to establish what scoring arrangements the NPCs would prefer for the Championships.

Max Bavin confirmed that accommodation for the teams, as close to the venue as possible, had been booked in November 2007.

It was noted that the weekend of 7th/8th June might be used as a practice session for the teams – the NPCs being responsible for the arrangements. The Chairman agreed to ascertain whether the Sports Psychologist would be available to attend.

4. LADY MILNE TROPHY

The Committee congratulated the English team on their win in the Lady Milne Trophy, and thanked the NPC for his preliminary report. The results are included in Appendix A.

5. INVITATION TO THE CROATIAN ATLANTIC CUP

(Paul Hackett withdrew for this item)

It was agreed that as practice for the European Championships, the following team would represent England at the Atlantic Cup in Opatija from 23rd-25th May:

John Armstrong & John Holland
Jason & Justin Hackett

The team would pay the entry fee and would be responsible for any upgrade of accommodation. The EBU would provide four air fares, or equivalent. It was agreed that Paul Hackett could be a last-minute substitute in the case of a medical emergency, or a 5th (unfunded member). However, if a player withdrew beforehand, a substitute pair would be selected.

6. 2008 CAMROSE TROPHY

David Price was thanked for his report. The final results are included in Appendix A.

7. 2008 SENIORS CAMROSE TROPHY

The results of the final weekend of the Trials are included in Appendix A.

It was noted that Peter Czerniewski was not available to play in the Seniors Camrose Trophy, and it was agreed that John Holland would be selected as his substitute. The team to play at Oxford on 30th May – 1st June was confirmed as follows:

Paul Hackett & Ross Harper
Tony Waterlow & Ian Panto
Gunnar Hallberg & John Holland
NPC: To be appointed

8. ARRANGEMENTS FOR BRIGHTON TRIALS

The specific dates for the possible Trials at Brighton, were confirmed as follows:

Open: 11th – 14th August
Womens: 14th & 15th August
Seniors: 14th & 15th August

The announcement already on the EBU website in relation to the Women's Trial would be repeated in the June edition of *English Bridge*, and the Secretary was requested to contact everyone who played in the 2008 Trials.

In the event that a player qualifies for both the Open and Seniors Brighton Trials, the opposing team in the Seniors Trial will accommodate the trial being played beforehand.

Having qualified as of right to compete for the Seniors Camrose Trophy and the European Seniors Championship, it was agreed that Ross Harper and his partner would be automatically selected for the 2008 Olympiad.

9. 2008 PREMIER LEAGUE

(Paul Hackett, David Muller and Heather Dhondy withdrew for this item)

Having polled the team captains on three options in regard to format, the following arrangements would be notified, which would apply for the 2008 season only:

- Three weekends, with all-play-all on weekends 1 & 2, i.e. 15 x 20-board matches against all other teams.
- On the third weekend the top 8 and bottom 8 will divide into two divisions. Each team will play 7 x 20-board matches against every other team in their division, starting on Friday evening. Butler scoring with seating predetermined.
- Final scores will be based on both matches against the teams in the same division.
- The top two English teams in division 1 will be guaranteed a Camrose match.

- At the conclusion of the final weekend the bottom team in division 1 will be relegated to division 2 for the next season, and the top team in division 2 promoted.
- The leading English team would represent England in the Champions Cup, from 2009 onwards.
- Subject to venue availability the three-day weekend will be on 24th/26th October.
- The entry fee will be £500 per team.
- Max Bavin will determine Gold Point awards.

The Secretary was asked to seek confirmation from captains of the final composition of the teams if different to that notified.

It was agreed that teams whose composition was changed by the inclusion of one non-qualified pair would be accepted, but that such teams would lose their automatic rights in regard to qualification for the Camrose. In the case of the addition of two non-qualified pairs, all rights would be lost.

10. COMMITTEE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

A number of small changes were made to the Chairman's draft Policies & Procedures document, and the following changes to the EBU's Expenses and Allowances – Representing England in International Championships – would be requested:

- From 2009 there should be full funding for Seniors events
- Representation in the Champions Cup would be the leading English team in the Premier League
- The Union should endeavour to accommodate teams in the venue hotels (as applicable) in European Championships, the Bermuda Bowl, the Venice Cup and the Seniors Bowl.
- In the case of British Championships, the Captains' allowance should be more clearly specified.

The Chairman reported that he had produced a budget for the year which had been presented to the Board of Directors. This would be circulated to the Committee.

The Secretary was asked to ensure that all Committee members were provided with details of the EBU's revised expenses structure which came into force on 1st April.

11. COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chairman tabled individual responsibilities for Committee members. A comprehensive document would be produced once comments had been received and any changes made.

12. YOUTH COMMITTEE

Sandra Landy reported as follows:

- Terms of Reference had now been approved for the Youth Committee, which would be circulated to the Selection Committee as soon as possible.
- Funds had been offered by a sponsor for promotion of youth bridge, and proposals were sought for an ongoing project.
- The Match Manager's Report from the 2008 Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer Trophies outlined a number of administrative problems in terms of accommodation and communication with the Home Unions.

13. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Wednesday 4th June at 11.30 in the Atrium Lounge, President Hotel, Russell Square, London.

Tuesday 15th July at 12.30 – McAlpines Offices, 40 Bernard Street, London.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Mind Sports Olympiad

Paul Hackett reported that the latest information on support for Mind Sports Olympiad teams was that on the basis of entering a Women's team the U28 would be provided with flights and accommodation, and the Women's team accommodation only.

The Secretary was asked to obtain availability for NPCs and Coaches for the Open, Women's, Seniors and U28 teams.

14.2 March 2009 Camrose

The Chairman reported that a possible venue in London for the Camrose match in March 2009 had been investigated, but unfortunately it had not been suitable.

14.3 Committee "blog"

The request from the EBU's webmaster for each sub-committee Chairman to produce a "blog" was noted. David Muller offered to produce ideas for promoting and publicising events other than national competitions which would hopefully show international issues in a more favourable light.

14.4 2009 Lady Milne Trials

It was agreed that the weekend of 17th/18th January 2009 would be publicised as the reserve date for a Lady Milne Trial, in addition to 6th/7th December 2008 and 7th/8th February 2009.

ACTION LIST

Item	Action	Responsibility
2.2.5	Notification of format of Trial to trialists & venue	Secretary
3	Notification of selection of Womens team	Secretary
	Seek availabilities for Reserve NPC	Secretary
	Appointment of scorers (as appropriate)	Secretary
	Attendance of Sports Psychologist at training weekend	Chairman
4	Letter to Lady Milne team and NPC	Secretary
5	Notification of Atlantic Cup team	Secretary
6	Letter to David Price	Secretary
7	Notification of substitute for the Seniors Camrose	Secretary
8	Notification of dates of Brighton Trials	Secretary
	Publicity of possible Brighton Womens Trial	Secretary
	Notification to European & Camrose Seniors teams re conditions for Olympiad Trial	Secretary
9	Notification of Premier League format	Secretary
	Venue arrangements for Premier League	Max Bavin / Secretary
	Gold Point awards for Premier League	Max Bavin
10	Circulation to Committee of EBU Expenses & Allowances	Secretary
	Circulation of Committee budget	Chairman
14.1	NPC availabilities for Mind Sports Olympiad	Secretary
14.3	Suggestions for Committee “blog”	David Muller
14.4	Notification of reserve weekend for Lady Milne Trials	Secretary

APPENDIX A

CAMROSE TROPHY

2nd weekend results and final scores

Team	C/F	Scot	NI	Wales	Host	Eng	Irel	Total
Scotland	62		16	15	25	8	12	138
N Ireland	49	14		8	12	2	8	93
Wales	84	15	22		23	11	13	168
Hosts - Ireland	61	5	18	7		21	14	126
England	94	22	25	19	9		7	176
Ireland	90	18	22	17	16	23		186

England:

John Armstrong & John Holland
 Peter Crouch & Glyn Liggins
 Martin Jones & Neil Rosen
 NPC: David Price

SENIORS TRIALS

2nd weekend results and final scores

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

Richard Palmer, Carole Mueller, Chris Burley, Steve Gore and Phil Thornton
 By 131 IMPs over 80 boards.

2008 LADY MILNE TROPHY

	Wales	England	Scotland	N Ireland	Republic	Total
Wales		20	9	25	25	79
England	40		26	42	46	154
Scotland	46	34		34	34	148
N Ireland	35	18	26		34	113
Republic	35	14	26	26		101

England:

Catherine Jagger & Sarah Teshome
 Catherine Draper & Anne Rosen
 Audrey Hartley & Stefanie Rohan
 NPC: Alan Mould