



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, LONDON, ON
TUESDAY 15TH JULY 2008

Present:

Steve Eginton	(Chairman)
Gerard Faulkner	(Vice-Chairman)
*David Harris	(EBU Honorary Counsel)
Tony Priday	(EBU Vice-President)
Peter Stocken	(EBU Chairman)
Heather Dhondy	
Sandra Landy	
David Muller	
Max Bavin	(EBU Chief TD)
Sandra Claridge	(Secretary)

*Due to prior engagement David Harris had to leave before conclusion of meeting.

All present paid tribute to the enormous contribution made to bridge in England by John Armstrong, who would be sadly missed.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH APRIL 2008

2.1 Accuracy

Item 8 Line 5 to read "The announcement already on the EBU website in relation to the Women's Trial..." Subject to this amendment, the minutes were signed as a true record.

Sandra Landy requested that Minutes circulated with the agenda for the following meeting be annotated with progress on each item as appropriate. This was agreed.

2.2 Matters Arising

1.2.1 Item 9.3 of 21st February 2008

Extract of the Board Minutes of 6th March 2008:

“A proposal that the Union’s policy that, with the exception of Home Internationals, it would not host international events for the foreseeable future unless there were financial arrangements in place to safeguard the EBU membership, was agreed.”

2.2.2 *Accommodation for Beijing*

Max Bavin reported that the situation in regard to accommodation remained confusing. Youth teams would be accommodated in the Olympic village free of charge, but otherwise it was believed that free accommodation would only be offered to countries with a demonstrable lack of funds. The England Open and Women’s teams had been booked into a 4* hotel close to the conference centre venue, and the Seniors’ team had been advised of their options.

2.2.3 *Terms of Reference for National Coach*

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

2.2.4 *Croatian Atlantic Cup*

A report from John Armstrong which acknowledged the valuable experience for the team prior to the European Championships, was noted. The team designated by the organisers as ‘England II’ was noted to comprise Paul and Jason Hackett, Ross Harper, David Levy and Richard Probst.

2.2.5 *Committee Policies and Procedures*

Gerard Faulkner noted that no specific Captains’ allowance had been agreed by the Board for Home International Championships. It was agreed that Sandra Landy would produce proposals.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 4TH JUNE 2008

The minutes were signed as a true record.

It was reported that Paul Hackett intended to seek to reclaim the cost of entering the Seniors’ Trials as a result of being denied a play-off for Beijing despite the European team finishing 6th equal in the European Championships, and losing out on a split tie.

David Harris said that the current situation had arisen out of relatively poor results in Pau, and the level of expectation about going on to Beijing. His opinion on the 2008 Trials was as follows:

- **Women’s Trials.** The straightforward purpose of the Trials was to select teams for the Lady Milne Trophy and the 2008 European Championships, with the normal qualification for the Venice Cup, and pairs entered on that basis. There were no contractual obligations in the Conditions of Contest to warrant anyone believing that they had a right to be selected for Beijing.
- **Seniors’ Trials.** The winners of the Gerard Faulkner Salver had automatically qualified to represent England in the European Championships, and would have automatic right to represent England in Beijing if the team finished in the top six places. The Seniors’ Trial was therefore primarily for selection for the Seniors’ Camrose Trophy.

David advised the Committee to be cautious with future publicity for its Trials, and offered to approve the wording.

4 SENIORS CAMROSE TROPHY

John Williams was thanked for his NPC report, and England was congratulated on winning the inaugural event. The results are contained in Appendix A.

Tony Priday said that he had thoroughly enjoyed the weekend, and hoped that it would continue. The Chairman of the Union said that sponsorship had been pledged for a further four years. The Secretary reported that as the result of a questionnaire completed by all the teams, there would be a BBO presentation of one match next year, but the introduction of screens was not supported.

5 2008 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

5.1 NPC Reports

A discussion took place on the availability of a captain's report, outside of the Committee, which is currently ambiguous.

Tony Priday said that in the past reports were made available to players as well as the Committee. It was his personal view that it was beneficial for players to learn from what was said, and it was paramount that the report was totally honest. There was general agreement that feedback between NPCs and players was vital, as was a debriefing following a Championship.

David Harris's opinion was that a report was requested by the Committee for its benefit, but the Captain could express a view on its circulation, provided that by extending the right for players to have sight of it, he isn't guarded in what he writes. However, the right of Committee members who played in the team to see the report was not in doubt.

It was agreed that an NPC may make any section of a report available to the players, but the players do not have the right to demand to see the full report. David Harris agreed to advise on Data Protection issues for the next meeting.

5.2 Open Team NPC Report

Bill Hirst was thanked for his report. The results are contained in Appendix A. An overview of the team's performance produced by the Chairman, was noted.

5.3 Women's Team NPC Report

Alan Mould was thanked for his report. The results are contained in Appendix A. A further report by Sandra Landy following discussion with team members, was discussed.

A number of diverse views having been expressed about team harmony in Pau, a proposal that an independent enquiry be undertaken, with the NPC's report being made available to all members of the team and the coach, was carried by 3 votes to 2.

The question of pursuing the head-to-head match between the European team and other applicants to form a team to challenge it, was debated. David Harris advised the Committee that it was under no contractual obligation to hold a Trial, as publicised.

It was noted that only two pairs had applied, and one pair of the European team had declared itself unavailable for Beijing. It was therefore concluded that the Committee was unable to arrange a match, for the following reasons:

- Not all of the European team was available for Beijing, so the team of six could not be played as specified;
- Although a number of pairs was available for selection, only four pairs (including the two European pairs) were available for the challenge match (which was advertised as teams of six);
- The Committee felt that it could not arrange even a teams of four match that was sufficiently competitive, without splitting the remaining European pairs.

5.4 Senior's Team NPC Report

Peter Czerniewski was thanked for his report. The results are contained in Appendix A. The team had finished in joint sixth place, losing on a split to tie to have a final ranking of seventh. The Committee had agreed that their performance had warranted selection for Beijing.

Following discussions with the team at the conclusion of the Championships, Gerard Faulkner reported that team spirit had been excellent, and that the team had very much enjoyed the experience.

All three teams had found the bridge playing conditions excellent, but the hotel very disappointing, the lack of air conditioning causing major problems for some. Max Bavin said that it was the best accommodation available in a town more usually frequented by walkers.

David Harris said that while there is no contractual requirement as a member of the WBF and EBL to compete in all categories of international championships, there is an expectation that England, as a highly respected NBO, will continue to be fully represented. Tony Priday concurred, and said that it was his belief that such was supported by the EBU membership. David also said that from 2010 onwards it was likely that there would be a greater emphasis on the requirements in terms of nationality. In England's case this would be likely to mean players born in England, or who have a British passport, or be able to produce a certificate to say that he/she is entitled to a British passport.

6 2008 OLYMPIAD

6.1 Selection of NPC and Coach for the U28 team

The following selections were made:

NPC: David Greenwood
Reserve NPC: David Gold
Coach: Diane Greenwood

6.2 Selection of Women's team, NPC and Coach
(Heather Dhondy absented herself for this item)

A proposal by Gerard Faulkner that the following team and reserves be selected, was carried nem con with one abstention:

Heather Dhondy & Nevena Senior
Anne Rosen & Catherine Draper
Nicola Smith & Sally Brock
Reserves: Susan Stockdale & Fiona Brown

The NPC, reserve NPC and Coach were selected, as follows:

NPC: Martin Jones
Reserve NPC: John Williams
Coach: Sandra Penfold

6.3 Selection of Senior's team and NPC

A proposal from the chair that the European Seniors team and NPC be confirmed as the team for Beijing, was carried as follows, and that the team be invited to nominate their reserves:

Ross Harper & Andrew Thompson
Chris Dixon & Victor Silverstone
Colin Simpson & David Price
NPC: Peter Czerniewski

6.4 Selection of Coach for the Open Team, and arrangements for selection of Open Team and NPC

David Burn was selected as Coach. The team, reserves and NPC would be selected at the conclusion of the four-team Trial at Brighton on 11th-14th August.

It was agreed that due to the tragic death of John Armstrong, Paul Hackett's request to change the pairings of his team and add a substitute player or pair for the four-team play-off, be granted.

The need for accreditation and submission of systems for all players was noted as a priority.

7 PLAYERS CONTRACTS & NPC/ COACH GUIDANCE

Peter Stocken said that as part of the Board's review of the Union's way forward, an intensive discussion had taken place on selection matters, and a paper would be produced on strategic long-term plans. The discussion had highlighted the need for some form of contractual arrangements between the Union and its representatives.

David Harris agreed that a change in legal status must be addressed, suggesting that a requirement should be introduced for a contractual document and declaration of availability and eligibility to be signed on entry to a Trial. He offered to examine and adapt the current Guidelines accordingly.

8 PREMIER LEAGUE

The Secretary reported that Ken Ford's team had withdrawn from the League, and it was agreed that Simon Gillis's team take their place.

In 2008, teams will carry forward to the third weekend their entire scores against teams in their own group.

Gold Point awards (only) were agreed for 2008 as follows:

Round robin and Division 2 per win : $\frac{1}{4}$ gold point

Division 1 per win : $\frac{1}{2}$ gold point

Bonus awards:

Division 1 : 4, 2, 1, $\frac{1}{2}$ gold point

Division 2 : 1, $\frac{1}{2}$ gold point

Decisions were taken on the regulations for the 2009 Premier League as follows:

1. The 1st division of the Premier League 2009 will consist of the top 7 teams from the 2008 1st division, plus the leading team from the 2nd division, subject to the qualifying criteria below:
 - 4 players remain from a team of 6, or 3 players remain from a team of 4 or 5, without needing Committee approval.
 - A team consisting of non-eligible players will not be allowed in Division 1.
2. A team, which does not fulfil the criteria, can apply to enter the league and may expect to be put in the bottom division. The bottom two teams in Division 1 will be demoted and the top 2 teams in Division 2 promoted. If a team drops out at the end of the season or fails to make the criteria for it to remain eligible, the next team in the lower division will be promoted.
3. The winners of Division 1 will be offered a Camrose match. A proposal that the European team be decided by a semi-final and final between the top four teams, the winners having choice of opponents in the semi-final, was carried by 3 votes to 2.
4. The format as to whether there will be round robins or head-to-head matches will be decided after the end of the 2008 season. Players who are unable to play on a particular day need to inform the Selection Committee when the team is entered, but exceptionally before the draw is made.

5. Eligible teams wishing to add an eligible player or an eligible pair must get the permission of the Selection Committee.
6. The formula for Division 2 and possibly a third division will be decided after the number of entries is known. It is expected that the teams finishing the near the bottom of the 2008 season will either be demoted or have to reapply for a place.

The proposed dates for the 2009 Premier League are:

19th/20th September

2nd/4th October

24th/25th October

Default date: 14th/15th November

9 COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR TO 31ST MARCH 2009

The budget, as approved by the Board, was noted. The Chairman said that it had been based on the appropriate year's actuals, and included £1K for a national coach's expenses, and £2K for the services of a Sports Psychologist.

10 COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

11 YOUTH COMMITTEE

Sandra Landy reported as follows:

The Terms of Reference for the Youth Committee had now been approved by the Board, and the Board had supported the categories of annual awards suggested.

Dates had been arranged for U25 Trials, which avoided clashes with the Premier League.

The World Junior Pairs commenced on 15th April, and a number of pairs had been supported by the Educational Trust for British Bridge. Results would be available on the EBU website.

Peter Stocken said that a donation of £60K over three years had now been received for a teaching programme for children, and further proposals would be produced for support of youth events by the Portland Club.

It was agreed that details of clubs who do not support junior players should no longer be published.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Steve Eginton drew attention to his response to an editorial in Bridgeworld which used England as an example of allegations of potential match-fixing. He had pointed out that a slur on the integrity of our players was wholly inappropriate, in that they would not have any involvement in betraying the interests of their country.

13 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Friday 15th August at 4.30 pm. Brighton.

Friday 21st November at 12.30 pm (venue to be arranged)

Gerard Faulkner thanked Steve Eginton for all his hard work as Chairman, in what had been a difficult year.

ACTION LIST

Minute	Action	Responsibility
2.1	Annotation of Minutes	Secretary
2.2.3	Terms of Reference for National Coach	Chairman
2.2.5	Proposals for Captains' allowance for Home Internationals	Sandra Landy
5.1	Data Protection issues of NPC Reports	Honorary Counsel
5.3	Arrangements for independent enquiry	Chairman
6	Notification of selections	Secretary
7	Examination of Player, NPC & Coach Guidelines	Honorary Counsel
10	Committee Responsibilities	Chairman

APPENDIX A

BONN NATIONS CUP

Position 8th : **England**

David Gold & Tom Townsend
Gunnar Hallberg & Andrew McIntosh

CROATIAN ATLANTIC CUP

Position 3rd in the round robin, 3rd in the Swiss Teams :

England

John Armstrong & John Holland
Catherine Jagger & Sarah Teshome

GELIBOLU PEACE CUP

	Tur	Ger	Can	Fra	Eng	S Afr.	Total	Posn.
Turkey		16	18	18	24	24	100	1
Germany	14		20	24	24	15	97	2
Canakkale	12	10		15	23	25	85	3
France	12	6	15		16	15	64	4
England	6	6	7	14		20	53	5
South Africa	6	15	4	15	10		50	6

England

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

SENIORS CAMROSE TROPHY

	c/f	Eng	Pat	Sco	Wal	ROI	N I	Total
England	103		24	25	13	16	25	206
Patron	89	6		16	15	14	16	156
Scotland	85	5	14		7	14	20	145
Wales	52	17	15	23		21	17	145
Republic of Ireland	68	14	16	16	9		15	138
Northern Ireland	50	2	14	10	13	15		104

England

Ross Harper & Paul Hackett
Ian Panto & Tony Waterlow
Gunnar Hallberg & John Holland
NPC: John Williams

U28 TRIALS

	CF	B/S	M/C	W/B	B/B	H/H	Total
Fiona Brown & Susan Stockdale	72		18	16	13	17	136
Andrew Murphy & Simon Cope	55	12		17	16	21	121
Andrew Woodcock & Ollie Burgess	68	14	13		9	17	121
Michael Byrne & Michael Bell	55	17	14	21		12	119
Alex Hydes & Ben Handley-Pritchard	49.5	13	9	13	18		102.5

2008 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Open Series

Position		Total
1	Norway	299
2	Russia	287
3	Germany	286
4	Bulgaria	285
5	Italy	279
6	Netherlands	273
7	Denmark	269
8	Iceland	265
12	England	242

England

John Armstrong & John Holland
Paul Hackett & Tony Waterlow
Jason & Justin Hackett
NPC: Bill Hirst
Coach: David Burn

2. Women's Series

Position		Total
1	France	466
2	Italy	450
3	Spain	442
4	Sweden	435
5	Germany	426
6	Netherlands	273
7	Poland	423
8	Netherlands	416
9	England	416

England

Heather Dhondy & Nevena Senior
Sarah Teshome & Catherine Jagger
Catherine Draper & Anne Rosen
NPC: Alan Mould
Coach: Rob Cliffe

3. Senior's Series

Position		Total
1	Turkey	348
2	Sweden	333
3	Belgium	327
4	Poland	325
5	Netherlands	322
6	Italy	314
7	England	314

England

Chris Dixon & Victor Silverstone
David Price & Colin Simpson
Ross Harper & Andrew Thompson
NPC: Peter Czerniewski