



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD AT 14/16 CAXTON STREET, LONDON, ON WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER
2009.

Present:	Heather Dhondy	(Chairman)
	Simon Cochemé	(Vice Chairman)
	Max Bavin	EBU Chief TD)
	Sally Brock	
	Sally Bugden	(EBU Chairman)
	David Burn	
	Gerard Faulkner	(EBU Vice-President)
	Paul Hackett	
	Andrew Petrie	(EBU Vice Chairman)
	Sandra Claridge	(Secretary)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Peter Baxter and Tom Townsend.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2009/10

Heather Dhondy was proposed by Sally Bugden and seconded by Simon Cochemé. There being no other nominations Heather was duly elected. Heather welcomed Sally Brock, a newly elected member of the Committee.

3 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2008/9

Simon Cochemé was proposed by Heather Dhondy and seconded by Andrew Petrie. There being no other nominations Simon was duly elected.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22ND AUGUST 2009

4.1 Accuracy

The minutes were signed as a true record.

4.2 Matters arising

4.2.1 Celebrity speaker for Tunbridge Wells Bridge Club

Sally Brock reported that the event at Tunbridge Wells had been attended by Nicola Smith and Sandra Landy, and had been a great success.

4.2.2 Japanese invitation event

Paul Hackett reported that there were selection constraints in terms of the Open Coaching Group, and he had therefore requested an invitation for Heather Dhondy/Nevena Senior and Fiona Brown/Susan Stockdale for the tournament being played on 8th – 14th February. It was agreed that should the invitation be forthcoming, Sarah Teshome and Catherine Jagger, who had been added to the Women's Coaching Group subsequently, would be the nominated reserves.

It was noted that two rooms and breakfast were being offered by the organisers, in addition to \$2400 for the team towards air fares. The Vice-Chairman said that funds were likely to be available to cover any shortfall.

4.2.3 Mersin Bridge Festival

Nick Sandqvist was thanked for his Playing Captain's report. A criticism that the teams event had been disappointing in terms of the number of boards played, was noted. Paul Hackett concurred, but pointed out that the players had chosen not to participate in three sessions of pairs which were available and of a high standard. He added that tournaments of this nature provided an excellent opportunity to gain experience against recognised international pairs, and that every effort should be made to accept any invitations received.

5 COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

5.1 Review of Committee's Terms of Reference

Sally Bugden said that with the introduction of universal membership in April 2010, the EBU had the opportunity to build on it by investing in education. It was anticipated that in five years' time the Union would be a more stable organisation, and would be able to fund all the activities that a national bridge organisation should carry out. In the interim however, it was addressing all expenditure. Sally explained that part of the Board's financial management plan is to hand over responsibility for the Selection Committee budget and expenditure to the Committee's Chairman and Vice Chairman. She reported that this had been discussed at two meetings between the Officers of the Union and the Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman. She thanked Heather and Simon for agreeing to take this role, and stated that this would give them more control over this aspect of their operations.

Heather Dhondy reported that the budget for 2010 would now be considerably less than that detailed in the 5-year plan.

Given that the Committee has no control over the overheads aspect of their budget, it was likely that to maintain the commitment to the teams for the 2010 European Championships, participation in the Camrose and Lady Milne Trophies would be on a self-funding or part-funding basis from 2011 onwards. The announcement seeking entries and Conditions of Contest for the 2010 Premier League and the programme for the National Women's Teams would be amended accordingly.

Sally Bugden went on to say that the Youth Committee had been disbanded, and the responsibility for selection of youth teams returned to the Selection Committee. The Youth Committee had achieved a great deal for junior internationals and its talented Squad Managers would continue to work with the Selection Committee. The education aspect of the Youth Committee would become part of the responsibility of a new Education Committee that would be set up in the coming year. The Squad Managers would remain under Malcolm Oliver's control until 1st April 2010, and a meeting would be held in January between Malcolm, the Squad Managers, and two appointed members of the Selection Committee, to arrange the handover. From April 2010 the Selection Committee would be responsible for the budgeting and expenditure for junior internationals which would be separate from that of the Selection Committee. It was confirmed that all youth team selections had been made up to the end of March 2010.

There was general agreement that it would be the Selection Committee's ultimate responsibility for selection of youth teams. However, it was recognised that the three highly respected Squad Managers, i.e. Paul Bowyer, Michael Byrne and Susan Stockdale, have a great deal of knowledge in regard to young players and there would be regular feedback and meetings with the representatives of the Selection Committee to discuss their recommendations.

The question of self-certification in relation to players selected for international representation was discussed briefly, and would be included on the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime the Chairman would raise the matter with the Honorary Counsel, and any specific conditions contained in the EBU's travel insurance policy would be examined.

Andrew Petrie promised to produce a new draft Terms of Reference for circulation to the Committee, which he hoped would encompass all the Union's international obligations, and vest in the Committee the responsibility for achieving its goals.

5.2 Committee responsibilities for the year 2009/10

<i>Finance :</i>	Heather Dhondy & Simon Cochemé
<i>Youth liaison :</i>	Paul Hackett assisted by Sally Brock
<i>Coaching Group co-ordinators :</i>	Paul Hackett - Women's Peter Baxter - Open
<i>Committee Blog :</i>	Tom Townsend
<i>Scheduling :</i>	Paul Hackett
<i>Proof-reading :</i>	Tom Townsend & David Burn
<i>Sponsorship :</i>	Sue Maxwell & Simon Cochemé
<i>BBO co-ordinators :</i>	

The following assistance would be sought:

Lady Milne Trial	Simon Cope
Premier League – Manchester	Kevin Comrie
Premier League – Solihull	Roger Bryant

6 OPEN EVENTS

6.1 Premier League results

The results were noted as follows. The Chairman reported that correspondence had been received from Richard Fleet pointing out the flaws in Butler scores in a non-balanced movement and that it did not necessarily represent a true reflection of performance. This was agreed.

DIVISION 1

		3	4	8	2	6	1	7	5	Tot	Win
1	Crouch	X	9	24	12	10	17	24	25	120.5	4
2	Hassett	21	X	23	14	18	15	14	14	119	3.5
3	Hackett	6	7	X	18	15	21	21	25	113	4.5
4	Rosen	18	16	12	X	11	13	17	22	109	4
5	Irens	20	12	15	19	X	15	11	15	107	3.5
6	Small	13	15	9	17	15	X	7	24	100	3
7	Howard	6	16	9	13	19	23	X	11	96.5	3
8	Dhondy	3	16	2	8	15	6	19	X	69	2.5

DIVISION 2

		7	6	3	1	2	8	9	5	4	10	TOT	WIN
1	De Botton	X	10	23	19	18	16	19	25	25	18	173	8
2	Wilson	20	X	15	9	16	25	17	25	10	21	158	6.5
3	Senior	7	15	X	19	11	20	18	24	17	22	153	6.5
4	Cope	11	21	11	X	18	14	13	10	21	25	144	4
5	Bowdery	12	14	19	12	X	21	16	5	16	18	132	5
6	Shillitoe	14	0	10	16	9	X	23	13	24	20	129	4
7	Youngs	11	13	12	17	14	7	X	18	9	25	125.5	3
8	Fegarty	3	3	6	20	25	17	12	X	23	11	120	4
9	Pryor	0	20	13	9	14	6	21	7	X	19	109	3
10	Barnett	12	10	8	5	12	10	3	19	11	X	90	1

6.2 Selection of teams for the 2010 Camrose Trophy

Heather Dhondy and Paul Hackett absented themselves during this item.

8th – 10th January

Novotel, Hermiston Gate, Edinburgh

Peter Crouch & Derek Patterson
 Michelle Brunner & John Holland
 David Price & Colin Simpson
 Reserves: Neil Rosen & Martin Jones
 NPC: Paul Hackett

*5th – 7th March
Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast*

Peter Crouch & Derek Patterson
Glyn Liggins & Willie Whittaker
Chris Dixon & Victor Silverstone
Reserves: Paul Hackett & Tony Waterlow
NPC: Heather Dhondy

6.3 Selection of Open team for the 2010 Commonwealth Games

It was agreed that the winners of the first Division of the Premier League would be invited to represent England in the Commonwealth Games Bridge Championship on a self-funding basis as per the Conditions of Contest.

6.4 2010 Premier League dates

Dates were agreed as follows, with venues to be confirmed:

Weekend 1 : Saturday & Sunday 11th & 12th September
Weekend 2 : Saturday & Sunday 25th & 26th September
Weekend 3 : Friday, Saturday & Sunday 12th – 14th November
Reserve weekend : Saturday & Sunday 28th & 29th August

It was agreed to publicise that the reserve date would be used if the England Open team qualified for the Champions Cup by finishing in the top 10 places in the European Championships, and the date of the Champions Cup (as yet unconfirmed) clashed with one of the three weekends of the Premier League.

The Conditions of Contest for 2010 would be clarified and if necessary expanded in relation to substitutions, and a suggested requirement that a pair announce at the table that they are playing a Brown Sticker convention, referred to the Laws & Ethics Committee.

Consideration would be given to the provision of all systems to Aylesbury in advance, for the benefit of BBO.

7 WOMEN'S EVENTS

7.1 Lady Milne Trialists

It was agreed to accept all 20 applications as listed below:

Susanna Gross & Sally Brock
Jill Feldman & Heather Dhondy
Michelle Brunner & Rhona Goldenfield
Catherine Seale & Cath Jagger
Fiona Brown & Susan Stockdale

Carole Kelly & Sandy Davies
Gillian Fawcett & Jane Moore
Alice Kaye & Sarah Teshome
Christine Duckworth & Nicole Cook
Sandra Penfold & Nevena Senior
Helen Erichsen & Margaret James
Kath Nelson & Tracy Capal
Carrie Oliver & Laura Perryman
Sarah Dunn & Fiona Hutchison
Pauline Cohen & Ruth Henig
Audrey Hartley & Bridget MacDougall
Laura MacDougall & Heather Bakhshi
Gitte Hecht-Johansen & Terry Hewett
Stefanie Rohan & Chantal Girardin
Muriel Bailey & Valerie Benson

7.2 Format

It was agreed that 19 matches would be played over Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday 22nd – 24th January at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club. The trial would be cross-imp-scored, screens would be used, and 1 or 2 tables would be presented on BBO. Max Bavin agreed to confirm the number of boards to be played against each pair, and the timings.

8 SENIORS EVENTS

8.1 Results of World Championship

The Committee congratulated the team and NPC on winning the D'Orsi Bowl, and thanked the NPC for his report. Paul Hackett reported that the hotel, playing venue and organisation had been excellent.

England team

Ross Harper & Paul Hackett
David Price & Colin Simpson
Gunnar Hallberg & John Holland
NPC Peter Baxter

8.2 Seniors Trial

It was confirmed that the Trial being played at the Young Chelsea BC on the weekend of 18th – 20th December, would comprise the following four teams, the leading team qualifying to play a 96-board match against the winners of the D'Orsi Bowl. The winners of the match would be invited to represent England in both the Seniors Camrose and the European Seniors Championship, on a self-funding basis.

Richard Palmer, Carole Mueller, Phil Thornton, David Perkins
Tony Waterlow, Ian Panto, Chris Dixon, Victor Silverstone
Graham Jepson, David Musson, Sandy Davies, Tom Gisborne
Denis O'Donovan, John Short, Patrick Collins, David Kendrick, John Cullingworth

The format of the Trial was confirmed as a triple round robin i.e. 16 boards against each of the other three teams each day. Scoring is by IMPs converted to VPs on the WBF 48-board scale.

Paul Hackett reported that Ross Harper had sustained a fairly serious injury in an accident in Australia, and as yet it was unclear when he would be fit to travel home. The Committee sent their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

9 COACHING GROUPS

9.1 Open Group

Simon Cochemé said that he had received reports from all the pairs in the Group, though there had been limited activity since the last meeting. It was agreed that guidelines should be provided prior to the January meeting on the information required. A request had been made for on-line matches, and David Burn offered to pursue this by providing dates.

It was agreed to invite Peter Crouch and Derek Patterson to join the Group.

9.2 Women's Group

Sally Brock and Heather Dhondy absented themselves during the review of the Group.

Paul Hackett reported that Sally Brock's availability for the European Championships was still to be confirmed, and that this must be declared by the 5th January meeting when the team and reserves would be selected. Catherine Draper and Anne Rosen had left the Group, and Sarah Teshome and Catherine Jagger had accepted the invitation to join the three remaining pairs. No further changes would be made to the Group at this time.

9.3 Review of the Coaching scheme

The Committee agreed that although there was no obligation to select teams for the European Championships from the pairs in the Coaching Groups, not to do so would seriously call into question the purpose of the scheme and as such would be almost inconceivable.

As a matter of policy it was agreed to keep the Coaching Groups active, but that funding between January and July 2010 would be restricted to the pairs selected for the European Championships. Thereafter, the groups would continue to be reviewed on a regular basis, as would the success of the scheme.

10 PUBLICITY

Sally Bugden said that it was hoped that each Committee would have an electronic newsletter, and that in the case of the Selection Committee it would be targeted at a "Supporters Club". Each Committee would be responsible for creating the content, with Matt Betts producing the format.

Sally said that she would be meeting with Sue Maxwell to discuss fundraising for international activities and would discuss the idea of a Supporters Club and how to publicise it. This may take place in Tournament Focus and via the EBU website and BBO operators.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 5th January at the CCPR offices, Burwood House, 14-16 Caxton Street, London SW1H 0QT commencing at 12.30 pm.