



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, LONDON, ON
THURSDAY 8TH JANUARY 2009

Present:	Heather Dhondy	(Chairman)
	Simon Cochemé	(Vice-Chairman)
	Max Bavin	(Chief TD)
	David Burn	
	Paul Hackett	
	Andrew Petrie	(EBU Vice-Chairman)
	Tom Townsend	
	Sandra Claridge	(Secretary)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Sally Bugden (EBU Chairman), Steve Eginton and Gerard Faulkner (Vice-President).

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2008

2.1 Accuracy

Item 3.1.2

It was noted that the additional sentence applied to the 4th June 2008 minutes, which would be amended accordingly.

2.2 Matters arising

2.2.1 Committee Responsibilities

The following areas of responsibility were agreed, subject to acceptance by Committee members not present:

Finance - Heather Dhondy

Youth Liaison Officer - David Muller with assistance from Tom Townsend

Legal matters - David Burn & Heather Dhondy

Squad Liaison - Simon Cochemé

Publicity - Steve Eginton

Scheduling - Paul Hackett

Proof-reading - Tom Townsend, Simon Cochemé, & David Burn

It was agreed that as an experiment, a Committee blog would be produced following each event for which teams had been selected, which would be co-ordinated and

vetted by Steve Eginton. The first event to be covered would be the 2009 Camrose Trophy.

2.2.2 Confidential matter

The Chairman reported that no further action would be taken in this case. She did, however, stress the importance of security, and any breach of confidentiality in future would be treated as a serious matter. The Vice-Chairman of the Union added that the Board is currently producing specific guidelines for all its Committees.

2.2.3 Captains' Allowance for Home Internationals

The Chairman of the Union having suggested a suitable level of hospitality for Home International events, it was agreed that the captain should use his/her discretion in regard to modest expenses, but that these should in general be limited to £50, plus a further £50 if the team were to win the event.

It was noted that during the current EBU Chairman's period office, an official EBU representative would attend all Home International events.

2.2.4 Committee's Terms of Reference

Amended Terms of Reference produced by the Chairman, were approved.

It was noted that whilst seeding of knock-out events at the request of the Tournament Committee remained in the Terms of Reference, seeding was generally based on Gold Point holdings, with a provision that the Chief Tournament Director would make amendments in the case of obvious anomalies.

3 WORKING PARTY PROGRESS ON PAPER BY P. STOCKEN, & 5-YEAR BUDGET

Opening the discussion, the Vice-Chairman said that the working party had considered the feasibility of using a squad system for international players, with a manager responsible for development and selection, the aim being to produce successful English teams. The working party's paper, represented the current thinking of the Committee, but did not necessarily contain specific final recommendations.

In general terms the Working Party identified that a Women's squad system with a Manager would be ideal, but that further discussion was needed in terms of the value or feasibility of an Open squad. In either case training would be tailored to the needs of the squad, and the role of the Manager would be paramount.

It was agreed that a Women's squad system, already announced, could be set up as a one-year experiment almost immediately at a cost of around £27K, subject to resolving the following issues:

- Finalising the structure and detail of a squad system
- Availability of the necessary finance
- Attracting the most suitable Manager

➤ Convincing the players of the value of the scheme

Two specific elements of Peter Stocken's paper which were not supported by the working party were:

- (a) the appointment of a single Chef de Mission for major international events to replace the current procedure whereby an NPC and Coach are appointed for each team. This was not considered to be feasible in terms of workload or scheduling.
- (b) the restriction of international participation to Home Internationals and EBL/World Championships. It was noted that international invitation events attract top European teams, and provide excellent opportunities for preparation and training.

The Vice-Chairman agreed to make minor amendments to the paper which would be presented to the Board by the Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman, possibly on 15th January.

Andrew Petrie thanked the working party for the work they had undertaken in producing a very useful document.

4 PREMIER LEAGUE

David Burn, Heather Dhondy, Paul Hackett and Tom Townsend declared an interest. It was agreed that all committee members would take part in the discussion and participate in the preliminary voting, but that the committee members without an interest would have the final vote on the details once the 2009 Conditions of Contest had been drafted.

It was agreed that to avoid a clash with the Jewish New Year, the dates would be amended as follows:

3rd & 4th October

31st October & 1st November

13th – 15th November

Reserve date: 19th & 20th September

Applications for the 2009 League will be invited via *English Bridge* and the EBU website, and by email to captains of the 2008 teams. The closing date for entries is 15th April.

A lengthy discussion took place on the Conditions of Contest for 2009, and substantive decisions were taken as follows:

- (a) The League will not be the sole basis for selecting the Open team for the 2010 European Championships. This announcement will be published in the April issue of *English Bridge* and on the EBU website.

- (b) Winners of the League will earn selection to represent England in the Commonwealth Nations Cup in September 2010, on a self-funding basis, save that the EBU will pay the entry fee, and provide team uniforms.
- (c) To be a qualified player for the purposes of automatic Camrose selection, the player must play at least 10 of the 21 sets. There is no requirement that a player must play against every team. An individual player failing to fulfil the playing requirement above does not disqualify his team-mates.

Any pair of the team winning the First Division of the League who has met the playing requirements is guaranteed to be offered at least one Camrose match. Moreover, if the winning team contains two or three pairs who have all met the minimum playing requirements and who are available for both Camrose matches, it will be selected in its entirety for at least one of the Camrose weekends. The remaining places (if any) in the England team for the two Camrose Trophy weekends will be selected from amongst the eligible teams who have competed in the League.

If a team of five wins the First Division then a sixth player may be added for the Camrose Trophy subject to Selection Committee approval.

- (d) All players in the First Division must be members of the English Bridge Union in good standing, and qualify to represent England under the current regulations of the World Bridge Federation, the European Bridge League and Bridge Great Britain.
- (e) Entries are welcomed from teams containing players not qualifying to represent England as detailed in (d) above, but such teams will not be eligible to participate in the First Division. A team can contain any number of such players.
- (f) The winners and runners-up of the Second Division shall earn promotion to the First Division. If an ineligible team (see (e) above) finishes in the top two places in the Second Division, promotion will pass automatically to the third placed team. The bottom two teams in the First Division shall be relegated to the Second Division. Lower divisions, if any, will function similarly.
- (g) Details of composition of future divisions and team continuity were confirmed.

The Committee thanked Tom Townsend for producing recommendations based on the results of the Enquiry into the 2008 event, having first declared an interest.

5 COMMITTEE'S CODE OF CONDUCT

The paper on proposed policy for the EBU Selection Committee on decisions where committee members may have, or be perceived to have, a conflict of interest was approved.

6 LADY MILNE TROPHY

6.1 Results of Women's Trial

The results were noted as follows:

1 st	Susan Stockdale & Fiona Brown	43.9
2 nd	Catherine Seale & Catherine Jagger	37.4
3 rd	Kath Nelson & Tracy Capal	25.4
4 th	Jill Feldman & Heather Dhondy	15.5
5 th	Helen Erichsen & Nevena Senior	-16.9
6 th	Mandie Campbell & Sonia Griffiths	-23.2
7 th	Laura Perryman & Carrie Oliver	-28.3
8 th	Audrey Hartley & Stefanie Rohan	-53.8

6.2 Selection of team and reserves

The Chairman having declared an interest, the Vice-Chairman polled the remaining Committee members in advance of the meeting, and the following team was selected to represent England in the Lady Milne Trophy in Ireland on 17th – 19th April:

Susan Stockdale & Fiona Brown
Catherine Seal & Catherine Jagger
Kath Nelson & Tracy Capal
Reserves: Jill Feldman & Heather Dhondy

6.3 Selection of Non-playing Captain

Paul Hackett declared an interest and absented himself.

Martin Jones was invited to captain the team.

6.4 Panel of NPCs

It was agreed that the panel would be reviewed at the next meeting.

7 SENIORS CAMROSE TRIAL

The Secretary reported that entries had been received as follows:

PAUL HACKETT, Ross Harper, Ian Panto, Tony Waterlow, Gunnar Hallberg, Peter Czerniewski

JEFFERY ALPER, Ivor Miller, Jerry Harouni, Malcolm Harris

RICHARD PALMER, Carole Mueller, David Perkins, Phil Thornton

Max Bavin would determine the format for the Trial.

8 PUBLICITY & PROMOTION OF NATIONAL TEAMS

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

9 POLICY ON FUNDING FOR JUNIORS ENTERING OPEN/WOMEN'S TRIALS

The Chairman agreed to discuss the policy on entry fees for juniors in respect of the Premier League and Women's Trials with the Chairman of the Union and the Chairman of the Youth Committee.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was fixed for Thursday 30th April in the Fountain Room, Imperial Hotel, London, commencing at 12.30 p.m.