



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE HELD  
ON THURSDAY JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> 2013  
AT BAKER TILLY MANAGEMENT LTD., LONDON**

Present: Heather Dhondy (Chairman)  
 Andy Bowles  
 Sally Bugden (EBU Chairman)  
 David Burn  
 Simon Cochemé (Vice-Chairman)  
 Gerard Faulkner (EBU Vice-President)  
 Paul Hackett  
 John Pain (Minute Taker)  
 Nick Smith  
 Tom Townsend

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Jeremy Dhondy (EBU Vice-Chairman), Gordon Rainsford (EBU Chief TD) and Dawn Mertens (Secretary).

**2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012**

2.1 Accuracy

A minor typographical error was corrected. The minutes were signed as a true record.

2.2. Matters arising

8.1 GF suggested that the wording could be stronger – changing from ‘should be asked to complete a report’ to ‘be required to complete a report’. No problem has so far been reported and it was agreed that either the Captain or his nominated team member would do it.

8.2 GF asked about the EBL and IMSA response to HD’s letter. It was reported that the response had been positive.

13 Timing of meetings. The committee questioned the 12.30pm start. It was agreed that future meetings would start at 1pm.

14.1 SB questioned the reference to passing on email addresses. It was confirmed that this related to the Premier League players.

14.4 The Chairman had written to the BBO commentator, who had not taken kindly to the criticism. His BBO commentaries are currently being monitored but there had been no repetition. BBO usually take whoever they can as commentators as they were often short of suitable people.

**3. REVIEW OF DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS**

3.1 Ladies Pair for Ostend

Sinéad Bird and Sarah O’Connor had been chosen to go.

3.2 Chairman’s Cup

Team Hinden would be going and had been offered some funding.

3.3 German Bridge Trophy, Bonn

A Junior team had represented England and had performed well.

3.4 Junior European Bridge Championships

Ed Jones had withdrawn as Coach due to work commitments. David Gold had suggested alternatives which were being investigated.

#### 4. FINANCES

4.1 SC reported that the final result for 2012-13 would show the figures coming in at £18K under budget. For 2013-14 the income for the Premier League would be down as there were only 15 entries including 1 junior team. He said that Premier League represented excellent value for money compared with other EBU events working out at 45p per board and was in fact the cheapest event in the EBU calendar.

Questions to be raised:

- a. Why was the figure for salaries up from £9704 to £12000? SC to check with Andrew Petrie.
- b. A figure of £2600 was in the budget for Fund Raising. SB said this was funding set aside should the Committee wish to undertake any activity relating to *Bidding for the Future 2013 – 2018*, the new EBU strategy document.
- c. Sponsorship of the Teltscher Trophy. It was noted that should the event be played in Northern Ireland in 2014, two possible sponsors had been identified. It was unclear whether there would be an entry fee in future.
- d. SB was unclear why the Board budget differed from the Committee's budget, Andrew Petrie and SC to resolve this.

#### 4.2 Report from TT on Junior budgets to date and forecast

TT reported verbally on the Junior budgets. There had been no girls European team, but funding had been used on the White House and Ostend tournaments. The funding for Bonn had come from the Open budget. He judged that it was marginally more likely, for the first time in many years, that two teams would qualify for the World Championships than none.

#### 5. OPEN EVENTS

5.1 DB tabled his report on the Camrose 1<sup>st</sup> weekend. The report was noted.

5.2 The report on the Camrose 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend was noted.

5.3 Preparation of Open team for Bali. SC said a practice match had not yet been organised. He said the sports psychologist was available with funding available but had not yet been used. The training budget was not currently being spent. Regarding events such as Ostend, the team captain needs to approach the committee if funding assistance is desired.

#### 5.4 Premier League

5.4.1 There were 15 teams entered, so one more team would be desirable, and more would be considered. The plan was to have 2 8-team divisions.

5.4.2 The Committee considered the replies received to the questionnaire on format. 24 had voted for Option 3 – a triple round robin played in 20-board matches. Option 1 – the status quo – was the second choice (12 votes), with Option 2 – three 20-board matches on the same day – receiving 3 votes. The committee agreed to change the format to Option 3.

The Committee then considered whether to add a condition requiring every player to play at least one stanza against each team for qualification purposes (to be included in the requirement to play at least 10 of the 21 stanzas). After discussion this was rejected on a vote.

It was agreed to leave the timings the same for 2013.

A couple of responses had criticised the Manchester venue. It was agreed to continue to use it as a venue maintaining the geographical desirability to play one in the South, one in the Midlands and one in the North and to use suitable bridge clubs.

PH noted that the Commonwealth Games Bridge Tournament was to be held in Glasgow on September 8 – 14 2014. It was agreed that the Premier League winners would be offered this as well.

#### 5.4.3 Divisions

The Committee agreed that the vacancy in Division 1 should be taken by Team Small, from a vote of non-participating members.

It was agreed that SC would ask Michael Clark to update the website asking for a 16<sup>th</sup> team or interested pairs and to indicate the line-ups for the two divisions.

#### 5.4.4 Conditions of Contest

Gordon was asked to produce the Conditions of Contest based on 2 x 8-team divisions, but also for a 7-team second division if an eighth team couldn't be found. It was suggested that the CoC should have a version number on each page to ensure the latest version was being used. (The Committee had been sent an older version, which caused some confusion).

It was agreed to use the new continuous scale of VPs.

AB agreed to be a proof-reader for the new CoC.

5.4.5 It was agreed to have a similar process for the selection of the team for the 2014 European Championships as before.

### 6. WOMEN'S EVENTS

6.1 The NPC and Player reports from the Lady Milne were noted.

SB congratulated all teams on their international success which was endorsed by the committee. They had won the Lady Milne, Camrose, Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer.

6.2 It was hoped to have a warm up match for the Venice Cup team before going to Bali.

6.3 Hua Yuan Cup. The Women's Bali team would be going, but with no captain or coach. HD withdrew while the Committee considered whether any funding should be made available. The Committee deferred their decision until more information about event-sponsored funding and prize money was available.

6.4 Lady Milne 2014 trials process.

It was agreed to carry on with the pairs trial for next time.

6.5 It was agreed to have a similar process for the selection of the team for the 2014 European Championships as before.

### 7. SENIORS EVENTS

7.1 Teltscher trophy

SC was thanked for his report. It was noted that the event would no longer be called the Seniors Camrose. It is now to be called the Seniors Home International or the Teltscher Trophy.

7.2 Teltscher Trophy trials for 2014

The trials would be advertised on the website with a closing date of August 31<sup>st</sup>. The plan is to hold the trials over Nov 16-17 with Nov 15 as an optional third day. Gordon to produce formats and CoC based on the entries received.

7.3 Seniors European trials

The trials would be advertised on the website with a closing date of September 30<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to hold the trials over December 20-22 with December 20 as an optional third day, and January 4-5 as an optional extra week-end, if needed. The format and CoC would be discussed once entries had closed.

It was agreed that the format be kept as open as possible for both the Teltcher Trophy and the Senior Europeans, until the level of entries was known.

## **8. JUNIOR EVENTS**

8.1 The NPC reports from the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer were noted.

8.2 Tom Paske's report on the White House tournament was noted. The Committee disagreed with his comment about not sending an NPC.

8.3 Dan McIntosh's report on the German Bridge Team trophy was noted.

8.4 PH gave an update on the Paris Tournament. Two teams were likely to go – the U20s were putting a team together. Only 2 players were available from the U25 team. There was funding available for travel if required and the remaining costs would be covered by the organisers.

The chairman also reported on a late invitation to send a team to Finland just before the Junior Europeans. The U20 team were likely to go. There were some issues regarding personnel on Friday afternoon, but that could be resolved before the start of the main tournament.

8.5 Antwerp International Bridge Festival.

AB reported that we may be invited to send a junior team in May 2014 and that this year's event had included players from France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and other countries, including several junior teams.

8.6 Invitation to Rhodes

TT asked why an invitation to this event (and also in 2012) had not been passed on from the 'postmaster' email postbox at the EBU. He wondered whether any other invitations had been similarly lost. SB said that Michael Clark had been monitoring the 'postmaster' but it may have been pressure of work had meant it had not been forwarded. It was suggested that emails of this nature should be automatically forwarded although it appeared not to be possible given the current Aylesbury set up. In the meantime Barry Capal has arranged for all such emails to come to him.

TT reported that a team would be sought to go to the event in the first week of September. There was funding available for the air fares if required.

Azores tournament – PH said an invitation to send a team was expected.

## **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Meeting to be held at Baker Tilly Management Offices, 2 Bloomsbury Street London  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 1pm (note new time)

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

10.1 Camrose 2014

SC noted that a second team would be needed for 2014 as England host the second weekend. It was agreed that an EBU team would be selected from the teams participating in the Premier League.

10.2 Raising the profile for Bali

SC said he has discussed with the Editor of *English Bridge* the desire to raise the profile. Blogs had not been widely read. SB said that now *English Bridge* was available online it was possible to include more information in the online edition. It was agreed that Elena Jeronimidis would be asked to investigate doing this – pinpointing the pride of the EBU in the achievement of getting both teams to Bali.

### 10.3 Fundraising Simultaneous Pairs

NS said that the 2013 event had raised £2500 and asked whether the Committee favoured an event in 2014. It was agreed to hold an event on February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 2014 with a different set of hands on each night. NS would be responsible for getting the hand commentary prepared. Commentators would be advised which night their commentaries would be used to avoid any potential problem of playing hands already commented upon.

### 10.4 Decisions requiring EBU authority

With Max Bavin no longer having authority for EBU expenditure SC said it was necessary to have a procedure in place to authorise EBU expenditure at events. In the past Max was able to authorise expenditure where he was TD. In particular when a team was eliminated from an event authorisation could be needed to amend flights home and to cancel hotel accommodation. SC to talk to Andrew Petrie to see what is required.

HD said the normal expectation was for the team to leave two days after it was knocked out.

### 10.5 Premier League dates for 2014

PH gave notice that it would be very difficult to fix dates in Autumn 2014. There were not enough free weekends in the period Sept 1<sup>st</sup> to Nov 15<sup>th</sup> given all the other events: Crockfords final, the Commonwealth Games event, Autumn Congress, three weekends of the World Championships (dates not yet known) and the Champions Cup.

HD suggested possibly having a midweek date for one the 1<sup>st</sup> division matches or even a date during Brighton Midweek. TT suggested the possibility of a long weekend to include a Thursday.

It was agreed that PH would prepare a range of alternatives for the committee to consider.

### 10.6 SB asked the Committee to take time to read the new EBU Strategy document *Bidding for the Future 2013-18* which was available on the website.

She also noted that this would be her last Selection Committee as EBU Chairman as she was standing down in October. She wished the Committee the best of luck for the future. The Committee thanked her for her hard work as Chairman and serving on the Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.10pm

### Action List

4	SC to resolve finance queries with AP	SC
5.4.3	Website to be updated re PL	SC
5.4.4	C of Cs to be produced for PL	GR
6.3	Investigation of Hua Yuan prize money structure	HD
7	Website to updated with Senior trials info	SC
8.4	Teams to be arranged for Paris	PH/TT
8.6	Team to be arranged for Rhodes	TT
10.2	Raising the profile for Bali	SC/SB/NS
10.3	Progress the 2014 sims	NS
10.5	Prepare alternatives for PL scheduling	PH

