



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2013**  
**AT BAKER TILLY MANAGEMENT LIMITED, LONDON**

Present:            Andy Bowles                    (Chairman)  
                      Simon Cochemé                (Vice-Chairman)  
                      Heather Dhondy  
                      Jeremy Dhondy                (EBU Chairman)  
                      Paul Hackett  
                      Dawn Mertens                 (Secretary)  
                      Gordon Rainsford            (EBU Chief Tournament Director)  
                      Nick Smith  
                      Tom Townsend

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Ian Payn (EBU Vice-Chairman) and David Burn

**2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2013/14**

Andy Bowles was proposed by Simon Cochemé, seconded by Paul Hackett and duly elected. Andy Bowles expressed thanks to Heather Dhondy for all her past work as Chairman.

**3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2013/14**

Simon Cochemé was proposed by Paul Hackett, seconded by Tom Townsend and duly re-elected.

**4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013**

4.1 Accuracy

1            A minor typographical error to be corrected.

4.2. Matters arising

3.1        Sinead Bird and Sarah O'Connor had thanked the committee for the opportunity of playing in the Ladies Pairs in Ostend and reported that the experience had been valuable.

8.6        The EBU have improved office procedures to ensure prompt delivery of email invitations to the correct recipients.

Paul Hackett reported that the Azores event did not taken place due to financial problems.

10.2      Some of the player profiles on the EBU website had been updated.

10.4      Problems arose in Bali extending the Hotel booking for the Open team. In future bookings should include an additional night at the end of the round robin stage, to ensure time to rearrange travel plans, if the team is knocked-out. Any upgrades made by players should be for the same period as that booked by the EBU.

10.6 JD reported a meeting due to take place next week to discuss the EBU hosting an international event as outlined in the document *Bidding for the Future 2013-18*.

## **5. REVIEW OF DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS**

- 5.1 Premier League Conditions of Contest issued.
- 5.2 Alex Roberts appointed as coach to U25 team for the Junior Europeans.
- 5.3 Two teams selected to send to the 1<sup>st</sup> Paris Junior Teams event.
- 5.4 Welsh Invitational -Tom Townsend and David Bakhshi given funding of £200 each for this event as preparation for Bali.
- 5.5 Senior European Trials formal agreed.
- 5.6 Sport Accord – Sarah O’Connor and Sinead Bird invited to attend as reserve pair.
- 5.7 Alan Shillitoe’s recommendations for U25 Women’s team accepted for Junior Channel Trophy
- 5.8 It was agreed that no funding should be offered to the team for the Hua Yuan Cup.
- 5.9 The team of Small & King, Bell & Hydes were selected to represent England in Mersin.
- 5.10 No interest was expressed attending the Dehli Tournament and therefore no team selected.
- 5.11 Applications from players partnering players from outside of the pool of invited players are acceptable for Invitational events

## **6. FINANCES**

6.1 Report from Vice-Chairman on Open/Women's/Seniors' budgets to date and forecast  
SC tabled a report but pointed out that the figures were correct up to the end of September 2013. (The Bali figures show the same allowances for Open and Women’s team when in fact additional allowances were paid after the event in October). The Senior Trials will run over budget due to being held over two weekends, resulting in additional hire costs. It was suggested that in future the advertised entry fee should be for one weekend and should a second weekend be required an additional fee be charged. The accrued amount for the Simultaneous Pairs will need to be spent this year as it cannot be carried over for a further year – it was agreed that this could be put towards funding a second Junior team for the White House. The accounts otherwise are expected to be in budget.

JD advised that the allocations of funds to particular categories within the Committee's budget were not binding. The Committee was free to spend the budget as it saw fit. For example, it would be acceptable to transfer funds between the Open/Women's/Seniors' budget and the Junior budget, to use the underspend from Bali on training, or to use for other purposes money that had been intended for fund-raising. The only constraints were that the Committee should not make a decision not to participate in a major event (such as the Camrose) for which funds had been provided, and that the Committee's overall spending should not exceed its overall budget. There were also some headings over which the Committee held no sway, e.g. management charge and money for hosting a home international.

6.2 Report on Junior budgets to date and forecast

HD reported that the Junior Europeans had gone over budget. DM stated this was due in part to the teams travelling out a day earlier as the only available flights times meant a very late arrival; the Polish Bridge Federation recommended accommodation was more expensive than anticipated and although a cheaper alternative was found last minute changes of plan regarding dining arrangements then incurred extra costs.

## **7. COMMITTEE PROCEDURES**

7.1 Committee responsibilities for the year

Committee members were given the following responsibilities:

Finance: Open/Women/Seniors – Simon Cochemé, Juniors – Tom Townsend

Youth Co-Ordinators: U20s/U25s – Tom Townsend, U25 Women – Paul Hackett

Website & Blog: Simon Cocheme

Scheduling of events: Paul Hackett

Proof Reading: Andy Bowles and David Burn

Player Database: Heather Dhondy

Fund raising Sims: Nick Smith, Proof reading Sims – Tom Townsend

Conditions of Contest: Andy Bowles and Gordon Rainsford

(It was suggested in future a general set of Conditions of Contest be issued as each event is announced with a supplementary section published as the final numbers are known.)

Invitational events: Andy Bowles

AB suggested that one person take responsibility for liaising with the EBU office regarding the arrangements for each of the Premier League/Women's Trials/Senior Trials: Premier League – Heather Dhondy, Women's Trials – Simon Cochemé, Senior Trials – Paul Hackett.

## **8. OPEN EVENTS**

### **8.1 Captains report from Mersin Bridge Festival**

A report from Phil King was tabled and the Committee congratulated Cameron Small and Phil King on winning the pairs event. PH advised that a further invitation will be forthcoming for 2014.

### **8.2 NPC report from Chairman's Cup, Orebro**

The Hinden team had achieved a reasonable result.

### **8.3 NPC and Players reports from Bali**

The Committee congratulated the team on their performance. The Committee agreed that for future events where jetlag might be a problem, consideration should be given to travelling one or more days earlier. This also applied to the Women's team.

### **8.4 Premier League results**

Congratulations to the Allfrey Team on winning Division 1 and the Dhondy team winners of Division 2.

### **8.5 Selection of teams for January and March Camrose**

*(Tom Townsend left the room for this item)*

The following teams were selected:

#### **England – 1<sup>st</sup> Weekend**

Ben Green & John Holland

Norman Selway & Derek Patterson

Brian Senior & Nevena Senior

#### **England – 2<sup>nd</sup> Weekend**

Alexander Allfrey & Andrew Robson

Tony Forrester & David Gold

Tom Townsend & David Bakhshi

#### **EBU – 1<sup>st</sup> Weekend**

Catherine Curtis & Paul Fegarty

David Kendrick & Jonathan Mestel

Jeffrey Allerton & Chris Jagger

#### **EBU 2<sup>nd</sup> Weekend**

Phil King & Cameron Small

Frances Hinden & Graham Osborne

Jeffrey Allerton & Chris Jagger

SC to check funding available to subsidise players for the event.

8.6 Selection of reserves for January and March Camrose

**1<sup>st</sup> weekend England**

Not selected at present

**2<sup>nd</sup> weekend England**

Norman Selway & Derek Patterson

**1<sup>st</sup> Weekend EBU**

Frances Hinden & Graham Osborne

**2<sup>nd</sup> Weekend EBU**

Catherine Curtis & Paul Fegarty

Captains for all events to be determined after consulting the teams.

8.7 Review of format for next year's Premier League

It was suggested that in future the format should be consistent with the number of boards (16) being played in European and World Championship events. However the Committee agreed that, as the format had just been changed for this year and players seemed to be happy, that the format of a triple round robin of 20-board matches held over three weekends remain the same for the time being. The draw for the third round-robin to be made after the second weekend, with the objective of reducing the chance that teams at opposite ends of the table play each other late in the event.

It was agreed that the automatic rights to selection be removed if the player did not play at least one match against each other team. A player failing to meet this requirement could still be selected if the Committee so decided.

PH suggested adopting the American system regarding mobile phones (you are allowed to have phone on your person switched off but must leave it on the table if you have to leave the room). It was agreed however that our policy should be consistent with BGB, EBL and WBF events whereby no mobile phones are allowed.

Electronic cigarettes would be prohibited from trials organised by the Selection Committee, including the Premier League.

8.8 Open team for Europeans

The selection of the Open team for the Europeans was deferred until the next meeting. SC to check the budget available for the Commonwealth Games before the team is selected.

**9. WOMEN'S EVENTS**

9.1 NPC and Players reports from Bali

The Committee congratulated the Women's team on their performance in this event. Following the NPC's recommendation it was agreed consideration should be given in future to funding accommodation upgrades.

9.2 Lady Milne Trophy trialists and Trials format

Ten pairs have entered to date and an email reminder had been sent to previous participants reminding them of the closing date for entries.

9.3 Women's team for Europeans

*(Heather Dhondy left the room for this item)*

The following team was selected:

Heather Dhondy & Nevena Senior

Nicola Smith & Sally Brock

Fiona Brown & Susan Stockdale.

NPC to be selected after consultation with the team.

## **10. SENIOR EVENTS**

### **10.1 Teltscher Trophy Trials**

The Trials will be taking place this weekend and six teams have entered.

### **10.2 Senior European Trials**

Six teams have entered for the European Trials. It was agreed that the players could be polled in the future regarding the desirability of holding two separate trials for the Senior events.

## **11. JUNIOR EVENTS**

### **11.1 NPC report for U20 team from Wroclaw**

Michael Byrne was thanked for his report. The U20 team had a disappointing result in Wroclaw. However, it was felt that both Michael Byrne and Alan Shillitoe were doing an excellent job with the U20 squad.

### **11.2 NPC report for U25 team from Wroclaw**

David Gold was thanked for his report. It was felt that it would be beneficial to hold more training weekends and do more work on developing future partnerships. AB agreed to discuss the matter with David Gold and Alan Shillitoe

### **11.3 NPC report for U20 team from Paris**

Alan Shillitoe was thanked for his report.

### **11.4 NPC report for U25 team from Paris**

Jason Hackett was thanked for his report and congratulated on the result. The team, having just failed to qualify for the semi-finals of the event, went on to win the BAM event.

### **11.5 Selection of teams and NPCs for Channel Trophy (U20s, U25s and U25 Women)**

The Committee have already approved Alan Shillitoe's recommendations for the U25 Women's team. Michael Byrne will make recommendations for the U20 team after his next training weekend.

### **11.6 Selection of teams and NPCs for Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer**

Selection deferred until after training weekend.

### **11.7 Selection of team/s and NPC/s for White House, Amsterdam**

Selection deferred until after the training weekend. As previously agreed there will be sufficient funding to send two teams in 2014.

## **12. DATES FOR NEXT SEASON**

### **12.1 Premier League. The following provisional dates were agreed:**

20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> September 2014

27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> September 2014

14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Reserve weekends: 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> November

or 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> August.

PH is still waiting for email confirmation of several international events so as to avoid a clash of dates.

*Secretary's Note - Confirmed dates: 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> September, 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> November, Reserve weekend 31<sup>st</sup> October – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2014*

### **12.2 Senior Trials**

19<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> December 2014

### **12.3 Lady Milne Trials**

30<sup>th</sup> January – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015

*Secretary's note: Confirmed date 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> January 2015*

### **13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting to be held at the Baker Tilly Management Offices, London on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 1.00pm.

### **14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **14.1 Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs update**

As reported NS advised that he was still waiting for hand commentaries from several players. It was agreed that the entry fee for the event would be £2.60 and the hand commentary an additional £0.40 (as with other EBU Simultaneous Pairs events). Alternatively the commentary would be available to download free from the website.

#### **14.2 Bridge Base Online Operators**

GR raised the question of the need to cover events on BBO. This year coverage was incomplete, depending on the availability of operators, and some changes were made at short notice. The operators are all volunteers and only receive expenses.

PH felt we should cover all the trials as it was an aid to selection and the added pressure of being on BBO equated to competition conditions. However, the committee considered that Vugraph coverage was a useful feature rather than being essential. It was agreed that the Premier League and the Lady Milne Trials would take priority over other events, and the coverage should be as professional as possible.

However, coverage would continue to be subject to availability of operators, and availability of someone local to recruit and organise suitable operators. For each venue we would aim to have a local BBO coordinator, who would take responsibility for arranging operators. Before each event, the committee member responsible for the event would contact the BBO coordinator to confirm their availability. The BBO coordinator would be expected to manage the rest of the process. Such coordinators already exist in Manchester and Solihull. SC is sometimes available to act as coordinator in London. SC agreed to co-ordinate the operators for the forthcoming Lady Milne Trials.

#### **14.3 Use of the 'England' name**

It was agreed that a team could only use the 'England' name if they had been selected by the Committee, or in the case of an invitation being received by a team directly, by asking the permission of the Committee.

#### **14.4 Prize money in events where Selection Committee provides funding**

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

#### **14.5 Appeals**

As previously minuted, if required the Appeals Committee for the Premier League should be made up from players from the other division (i.e. uninterested parties), unless it was after the end of the event, when uninterested players from the same division could be selected. Appeals relating to the first two weekends could be held during the week following the weekend.

The use of referees would be avoided if possible.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.55pm.

Actions List:

8.5	Invite players to participate in Camrose Trophy Check funding available	DM SC
8.6	Invite reserves and poll players re NPCs for Camrose Trophy	DM
8.8	Check budget for Commonwealth Games	SC
9.5	Invite players for Women's European Team	DM
11.2	Speak to David Gold and Alan Shillitoe re Junior Squad	AB
12.1	Confirm Premier League dates	PH
14.2	Co-ordinate Lady Milne Trial BBO operators	SC