



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2014
AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, LONDON

Present: Andy Bowles (Chairman)
 David Burn
 Simon Cochemé (Vice-Chairman)
 Paul Hackett
 Dawn Mertens (Secretary)
 Gordon Rainsford (EBU Chief Tournament Director)
 Tom Townsend

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Jeremy Dhondy, Ian Payn and Nick Smith.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 22ND APRIL 2014

2.1 Accuracy

There were no matters of accuracy.

2.2 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. REVIEW OF DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

Decisions taken by the committee 22nd April 2014 – 15th September 2014, between meetings, were as follows:

Decisions about using junior squad funds to subsidise players in domestic events would be subject to approval by the Chairman (currently AB) and the Committee member in charge of junior liaison (currently TT), but not the full Committee.

The team of J Hackett- J Hackett, Hinden-Osborne was selected for the Balaton tournament, with a subsidy of £500 per player.

A member of the women's team asked for permission for her adult daughter, who was recovering from illness, to accompany her to the European Championships. After some consideration, and after discussions with the player and the rest of the team, the Committee refused this request on the grounds that it would be unduly disruptive for the team and too much of a distraction for the player. Subsequently the player suggested that the daughter be accompanied by a friend, who would be able to provide the necessary support. This suggestion adequately addressed the Committee's concerns, and was accepted.

Several members of the Senior European Championship Team asked for permission to be accompanied by their spouses. This was agreed. A further discussion would be needed to clarify the rules for with self-funded teams such as this.

Two junior teams would be allowed to enter the Premier League, with each team allowed up to four pairs. Subsequently the number of junior teams was reduced to one, but with unlimited pairs allowed. Only three pairs would be allowed to play for the team on any given weekend. In the event that the team gained promotion to the first division, only three pairs would be entitled to promotion. This concession would not be extended to other teams, and might not be made in future years.

Committee members playing in the second division of the Premier League could participate in decisions about which teams should be promoted, provided that they themselves were not being considered for promotion.

Seven teams qualified by right for the First Division of the Premier League. The Crouch team was selected to be the eighth team.

Various options were considered for the format of the Second Division of the Premier League. The number of junior teams was reduced to one, so as to make it a ten-team event rather than eleven. After a consultation with the teams, it was decided to retain a pure round-robin format, and play three complete round-robins of 15-board matches.

The Conditions of Contest for the Premier League were divided into general CoC applicable to all the Selection Committee's events and Specific CoC for the Premier League.

The Conditions of Contest for all Selection Committee events were changed to bring the mobile-phone regulations into line with the EBL's regulations.

A small fee would be paid to Vugraph operators at the Premier League.

Following an approach from a player, it was agreed to change the CoC for the Teltscher Trophy trials: a player who had entered the trials intending to play, but was unable to play for genuine medical reasons, might be allowed to play in the Teltscher Trophy if his team qualified. This would be at the discretion of the Selection Committee, considered on a case-by-case basis. Players would not be allowed to use this concession to circumvent the trials process.

The team of Allfrey-Robson, Forrester-Gold, and Bakhshi-McIntosh was selected for the European Champions' Cup.

An invitation was received to send the Women's team from the European Championships to the SportAccord World Mind Sports Games. The team of Brock-Smith, Dhondy - Senior, Brown - Draper was selected.

The Committee approved further funding for coaching Jason and Justin Hackett.

3.1 Accuracy

The Committee agreed this was an accurate record of the decisions made.

3.2 Matters arising

Darren Evetts had queried whether fees should also be paid to Vugraph operators at the Seniors Trials and other EBU events being held at West Midlands Bridge Club, and had expressed concern that the new policy would create unrealistic expectations amongst operators. GR said that the Selection Committee could only approve payments for its own events and that similar decisions about other events were for the Tournament Committee.

If sufficient entries are received for the Seniors Trials it might be possible for Selection Committee to fund operators for this event.

It was agreed that communications with Vugraph operators and organisers about this policy should emphasise that the decision related only to Selection Committee events. AB agreed to inform the Tournament Committee and BGB that we would be paying operators for the Premier League, in case it affected their decisions about any of their events. AB also agreed to contact Darren Evetts and discuss his concerns.

4. FINANCES

4.1 Report from Vice-Chairman - Open/Women's/Seniors budgets

Simon Cochemé was thanked for his report, which was correct to the end of July, showing a forecasted overspend of £1,500. However as this does include £1,000 in respect of the Teltscher Trophy which took place in the previous financial year and the cost involved in sending an additional team to the Commonwealth Nations, it was agreed that all was on target.

4.2 Report from Tom Townsend - Junior budgets

Tom Townsend was thanked for his report, which was correct to the end of July, showing a forecasted overspend of £2,500. Tom pointed out expenses for Burghausen were higher than budgeted, partly due to a need to send an NPC to look after the younger players, however it is intended that some of the proceeds from the Sim Pairs will cover this. Costs for Finland were also slightly higher than budgeted. The Squad Leaders are considering sending a team to the Czech Republic for an event in November however expenses should not be more than £1,000 and are covered by the budget.

5. WOMEN'S EVENTS

5.1 NPC's Report Opatija

The NPC, Derek Patterson was thanked for his report and the Committee congratulated the Women's team on their result, finishing in the silver medal position. Derek and Simon Cope both mentioned in their NPC reports the schedule of the event, stating in their opinion there was not enough bridge played. In Dublin 20-board matches were played in both the Open and Women's events and 16-board matches in the Seniors, however in Opatija all three teams played 16-board matches. This schedule is an inefficient use of the players' time and the NBOs' money, makes the event less effective at producing a deserving winner, and favours teams that have two good pairs and one weaker pair. The Committee's preference was for the schedule to be restored to 3 x 20-board matches a day, certainly for the Open and Women's teams and preferably also for the Seniors. It was suggested that JD should write to the EBL in this regard.

5.2 Action of Women's team prior to Croatia

The Committee was unhappy with the actions of four members of the Women's team in withdrawing prior to Croatia, but decided that disciplinary action would be counter-productive.

The Committee agreed that in future players would have to sign a contract when accepting a place in the team, and that this would make any actions of this sort a breach of the bye-laws. AB agreed to write to the four players explaining why their actions were considered to be unacceptable, and informing them of the arrangements for the future.

The Committee expressed their thanks to the reserves who had made themselves available at short notice and subsequently withdrew.

5.3 Format of Lady Milne trials

England will be hosting the Lady Milne in 2015 and will therefore field two teams in the event. The Selection Committee decided to pre-select two pairs, Jagger-Teshome and Fawcett-Moore, for the England team. A Pairs Trial will be held, with the winners being invited to fill the third place in the England team and the next three highest finishing pairs offered a place in the EBU team. GR to book the Richmond Bridge Club as the venue for the Trials. The event information on the website should state that Selection Committee reserve the right to reject any applications.

6. OPEN EVENTS

6.1 NPC's Report Opatija

The NPC, Simon Cope, was thanked for his report and the Committee congratulated the Open team on their result, finishing in the bronze medal position.

6.2 Bermuda Bowl Team

PH reported that all three pairs from the Opatija team are continuing to practice and play together; with Forrester-Robson recently achieving a good result in the Cavendish, Bakshi-Gold playing in Poland, and Hackett-Hackett playing at the Commonwealth Nations.

DB left the meeting

7.1 NPC'S Report Opatija

The NPC, Simon Cocheme, was thanked for his report and the Committee congratulated the Seniors team on their result, finishing in the gold medal position. The Committee thanked Pharon Independent Financial Advisers for their support, enabling Simon Cocheme to attend the event and David Burn was thanked for his input as unofficial Coach to the team.

7.2 Seniors Trials for the Teltscher Trophy

The dates for the trials have been publicised as being held over 2.5 days, but the timings will not be finalised until the number of entrants are known. DM to email all the past participants reminding them of the closing date for entries.

8. INVITATION EVENTS

8.1 Captain's Report – Chairman's Cup

The Captain, Michael Byrne was thanked for his report and the team congratulated on winning the event.

8.2 Captains' Reports – Commonwealth Games

The Committee congratulated the England team on winning the silver medal. It was considered that although it is financially necessary to have Patron's teams in such events, the format in this instance was disadvantageous to the England team. The England 2 team finished a close fifth in their section.

Captains' reports to follow.

8.3 Invitation to Yeh Brothers Tournament

PH had received an invitation for the Opatija England Open Team to play in the Yeh Brothers Invitation event in early 2015. Hackett-Hackett are playing as part of a sponsored team, and Forrester-Robson and Bakhshi-Gold have indicated they would like to participate as a team of four. The Committee agreed that they be allowed to call themselves 'England' and that the four players be offered a subsidy of £500 each, with a clawback arrangement in the likely event that they win significant prize money at the event.

9. JUNIOR EVENTS

9.1 NPC's report Finland

The NPC, Alan Shillitoe was thanked for his report and the team congratulated on their result, finishing the tournament in second place.

9.2 Teams for Junior Channel Trophy

TT to speak to the Squad Leaders requesting early selection of the teams in order that travel arrangements can be made in plenty of time.

10 SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS

The dates for the Bridge England event need additional publicity as unfortunately they do not appear in the new diary. GR commented that the EBU are stopping Friday events, as they are not popular, and cutting back the number of days for some other events, as there are too many events on offer. It was suggested therefore that more should be done to promote the Bridge England events, such as top international players visiting their local club to either participate or discuss the hands at the end of the event. At present overall winners of EBU Spring and Autumn and British Sims win a £50 cash prize, but this is not offered to the winners of the Bridge England Sims. A suggestion was made that a prize of playing with a top international be offered.

AB to speak to NS to see what progress has been made on the 2015 event.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to decide whether a November meeting was needed nearer the time. If the meeting was to take place it would be held at the Baker Tilly Management Offices, London, on Wednesday 12th November 2014 at 1.30pm.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Players Contracts

The EBU Board have recommended that all players representing the EBU sign a contract, which would spell out what the players have agreed to and the standard of behaviour expected; any breach of this contract would clearly be subject to the EBU's Disciplinary Rules. The committee agreed that different versions of the contract would be needed, and that one version should apply to fully funded events and also include the Open and Women's home internationals. A second version would be applicable for part- or unfunded events (such as Senior Teams) and smaller events. It was possible that the

contract could be combined with the current 'Duties, Rights and Responsibilities for players' document. AB had produced an early draft; this to be refined and circulated for comments.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 6.15pm.

Actions arising

3	Write to Tournament Committee, BGB and Darren Evetts regarding BBO Operator fees	AB
5.1	Write to EBL with regard to schedule of European Teams	JD
5.2	Write to members of the Women's Opatija team	AB
5.4	Book Richmond Bridge Club as venue for Lady Milne Trials	GR
7.3	Email reminder to previous participants of Seniors Trials	DM
12.1	Revise and circulate draft contract for consideration	AB