



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY APRIL 22ND 2014
AT BAKER TILLY MANAGEMENT LIMITED, LONDON

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Nick Smith.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 16TH JANUARY 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 17th January – 21st April 2014, between meetings were as follows:

The following were appointed:

Open Team Captain, European Championships: Simon Cope
Open Team Coach, European Championships: Ben Green
Women's Team Captain, European Championships: Derek Patterson
Women's Team Coach, European Championships: David Burn
Women's Team Captain, Lady Milne: Derek Patterson

The decision about the remaining pair for the women's European Team was deferred (with several committee members dissenting) until immediately after Easter.

A suggestion had been made to replace Tom Townsend with Andrew McIntosh in the Camrose team. This was rejected.

Funding was provided for coaching the following pairs:

Gillian Fawcett – Jane Moore
Fiona Brown – Catherine Draper
Catherine Jagger – Sarah Teshome
Tony Forrester – Andrew Robson
Jason Hackett – Justin Hackett.

The following were selected for the second Commonwealth Games team:

Catherine Curtis - Paul Fegarty

David Kendrick - Jonathan Mestel
with a subsidy of £200 per player plus the entry fee.

The following were selected for the Chairman's Cup in Sweden:

David Kendrick - Paul Lamford
Mike Bell - Michael Byrne

The following were selected for the Red Sea Festival:

Catherine Curtis - Paul Fegarty
Mike Bell - Michael Byrne

The following were selected for the White House Junior Teams:

Alex Roberts - Toby Nonnenmacher
Kyle Lam - Simon Spencer

An English team in the NEC had been listed under the name "England". At the Committee's request PH contacted the organisers and they agreed to change it to "England (Hinden)".

Jason and Justin Hackett were offered a subsidy of £500 each for an invitation event in Karachi; with a claw back arrangement in the event that they won sufficient prize money. A request to call the team "England" was refused.

The Committee discussed an agreement for an unequal split of prize money amongst the team members for the SportAccord World Mind Games. It was agreed (with AB and TT dissenting) that on the face of it the players' actions were proper, and therefore there was no reason for further action. In future teams would be required to disclose any such agreement prior to being considered for selection.

The Committee agreed to continue to run the Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs in 2015.

This was agreed to be an accurate record of the decisions taken between meetings.

4. WOMEN'S EVENTS

4.1 Lady Milne Trophy result and NPC's report

The England team had finished fourth in the recent Lady Milne event. Derek Patterson was thanked for his NPC report.

4.2 Selection of third pair and reserves for Women's team for Croatia

After serious consideration of the three pairs in contention and review of their preparations and recent results it was agreed to invite as the third pair:

Fiona Brown & Catherine Draper

with

Catherine Jagger and Sarah Teshome

as reserves.

All three pairs to be advised by the Secretary that the Selection Committee will continue to offer funding for coaching

4.3 Preparation for Croatia

Heather Dhondy and Nevena Senior played together in the Easter Swiss Teams, and were working on their system with Brian Senior. Sally Brock and Nicola Smith are playing together regularly in the London Super League. Derek Patterson is hoping to arrange a practise match shortly.

4.4 Lady Milne trials

Under the present format some of the strongest players are partnering sponsors and then not qualifying to play the event. It was agreed that Selection Committee should be selecting teams that are likely to win the event. TT however thought that the format of the Trial helped in promoting

Women's bridge and in finding new partnerships, although agreed it did not necessarily produce a team that would win the event.

It was noted that in 2015 England will be hosting the event and therefore be fielding two teams.

Three options were discussed for the 2015 event: changing the trials to a team format; selecting the England team and holding a pairs trial to determine the EBU team; and retaining the existing format, with the top six pairs forming the two teams. The decision was deferred to allow informal consultation with the some of the likely participants.

Ian Payn left the meeting at this point

5. FINANCES

5.1 Report from Vice-Chairman on Open/Women's/Senior budget 2013-14 and 2014-15

SC tabled the accounts up to and including month 11, which shows a total expenditure of £14,000 under budget to date. Some of this, including all of the money raised via the Simultaneous Pairs, would be used to cover the expected overspend in the junior budget. The remaining overspend approximately equalled the saving from the Open team being eliminated in the first knockout round in Bali.

The budget for 2014-15 will include £1,300 carried over for Open Squad Training and £900 for Women's Squad Training. The lists of overseas events had been brought up to date to allow proper categorisation of expenditure.

It was noted that all three trials showed a profit in 2013-14. GR to investigate the cause of this and to provide forecasts of the costs for 2014-15.

5.2 Report from Tom Townsend on Junior budgets 2013-14 and 2014-15

2013-14 expenditure was expected to be over budget, but covered by the surplus in the Open/Women's/Senior budget. The main causes of the overspend were the extra cost of the European Junior Teams, and the increase in U25-squad-related activities (with the agreement of the Committee) in the second half of the financial year.

The budget had been increased for 2014-15 to cover the cost of the additional training weekends and overseas events. The Committee expressed its appreciation for this increase.

6. OPEN EVENTS

6.1 Camrose result and NPC's reports

The players and NPCs for the England team were congratulated on their result in winning the 2014 Camrose; the EBU team finishing strongly in third place behind Northern Ireland. David Burn was thanked for his tabled NPC reports for the EBU team for each of the Camrose weekends.

6.2 Preparation for Croatia

Simon Cope (NPC) reported that Forrester and Robson had recently spent a day preparing for the event and that Jason and Justin Hackett had played together in Pakistan and had received some coaching due to a change in their system.

One of the reserve players for Croatia had indicated that he was no longer available to stand-by and it was agreed therefore to ask Frances Hinden and Graham Osborne to act as reserves instead.

6.3 Premier League

It is likely that the new venue for the Young Chelsea will not be available until mid September. GR to check the availability of Richmond and Wimbledon Bridge Clubs – taking into account any clashing Rugby fixtures at Twickenham when making any bookings. Only six teams have entered for the 2014 Premier League to date. DM to publicise the Premier League on home page of the EBU website in May and GR to remind players of the closing date at the Spring Fours.

7. SENIORS EVENTS

7.1 Preparation for Croatia

It was noted that no reply had been forthcoming from the EBL Credentials Committee regarding the application for David Mossop to change his country of allegiance from Switzerland to England. DM to remind the EBL that we are still waiting for a response.

7.2 Seniors Trials

The Trials take place in Solihull over two day or three days (depending on entries) in December. DM to publicise closing date of end of September in order that players have ample to time to make hotel reservations.

8. JUNIOR EVENTS

8.1 White House Teams

TT had received a verbal report from the NPC that the team had performed to his expectations. Written report to follow when NPC's house move complete.

8.2 Junior Squad Training

Alan Shillitoe had recently run two sessions helped by Frances Hinden and Jon Cooke, which had gone very well.

8.3 Junior events

Tom Townsend and Michael Byrne were thanked for their NPC reports for the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer events and congratulated on the results, the teams finishing first in both events.

8.4 Disciplinary Hearing

The Disciplinary Committee, at the recent hearing, had found the player guilty of improper behaviour on the train, but the charge of excessive drinking during the event was not proven. The player was formally censured and a report will appear in the English Bridge Magazine.

In future however the Committee would prefer any such cases to fall under the jurisdiction of the Laws and Ethics Committee. The Selection Committee would still decide if a player can remain in the squad, or choose not to select a player, but would have the option to refer cases on to the L&E Committee. This would be consistent with a 2012 decision by the Board. JD to raise the matter at the June Board Meeting and the AGM in November.

8.5 Under 16's

Notice had been given of a new category to be introduced in 2017 for the World Championships. The EBL had not yet indicated whether or when they would be introducing this category.

8.6 Entry fees to EBU events for squad members

The present policy is that any member under age 25 receives half price entry to EBU events and any member of the Junior squads (who has signed a squad contract) playing in partnership with another squad member can receive a free entry at the discretion of the Squad Leader, to certain events.

Minutes from 2010 show the agreed amount of free entries should be limited to £3,500. From 2015/16 this amount will be allocated against the Selection Committee budget – DM to advise the total value of entries for 2013/14.

Free entries to the Premier League and the trials fall outside this arrangement, and are controlled by the Selection Committee.

8.7 Finland Junior Invitational event

The committee agreed to Alan Shillitoe's recommendation for the Finland event and the following team was selected:

Basil Letts & Ankush Khandelwal
Kyle Lam & Simon Spencer
NPC Alan Shillitoe

8.8 European Youth Pairs

Applications had been received from twelve pairs for funding for this event, being held in Burghausen, Germany in July. The Committee agreed to fund the entry fees for all pairs (150 Euros per pair for Juniors, Girls and Youngsters pairs and 100 Euros for Mixed pairs). After discussions regarding the ages, partnerships and future eligibility for selection of the applicants it was further agreed to fund

five pairs an additional £700 per pair and four pairs £350 per pair. TT agreed to ask the Squad Leaders if one was available to attend the event as NPC.

9. SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS

Further discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

Jeremy Dhondy left the meeting at this point

10. AWARDS SCHEME

10.1 Diamond Award

A new award 'for consistent and successful bridge play at the very highest international level'. The Committee agreed upon a nomination to be forwarded to the Board.

10.2 Sapphire Award

The award 'recognises the efforts of non-playing captains and others closely associated with the Diamond award'. The Committee agreed upon a nomination to be forwarded to the Board.

10.3 Young Player of the Year Award and Young Pair of the Year Award

In the past the awards have been given to members of the Under 20 squad. The Board has now directed that the award be applicable to all Junior players, and that the nomination be made by the squad leaders and two members of the Selection Committee. TT and AB agreed to consult the squad leaders and provide a nomination.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to be held at the Baker Tilly Management Offices, London on Wednesday 12th November 2014 at 1.30pm.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Balaton Invitation

The four day event in Budapest would be ideal preparation for Croatia, however, only Jason and Justin Hackett were available to attend from the Open team. The Committee agreed to offer the opportunity to a pair from the Women's team, with a subsidy of £500 per player, which should cover the costs of flights and accommodation.

12.2 Expectations of representative teams

The Committee were disappointed to note that only two players and the NPC of the England team attended the final banquet in Manchester and that only one player and the NPC plan to attend the banquet for the Seniors Camrose. AB agreed to redraft the 'guideline for players' document in three versions; Overseas Internationals, Home Internationals, other Invitational events, so that the players would have a clearer understanding of what was expected of them. The Secretary to issue the appropriate guidelines to the selected players for all three types of events in future.

12.3 BBO at Manchester Camrose

TT commented that the standard of BBO operators was very poor at the Manchester event. GR reported difficulties in getting experienced operators for continuous coverage of all six tables, due to Manchester holding a one day Green Point event on Saturday. In future consideration should be given either to paying operators or restricting the Viewgraph coverage to two tables.

12.4 Pharon

The Committee thanked Roger O'Shea of Pharon Independent Financial Advisers for his assistance in enabling the NPC, Simon Cochemé, to attend both the Seniors Camrose in Belfast and the Europeans Teams Championships in Croatia.

12.5 Heather Dhondy

The Committee thanked Heather Dhondy for her contribution to the Committee over the years.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 5.20pm.

Actions List

4.2	Invite 3 rd Pair, Reserves and inform pair not selected	DM
5.1	Re-cost the budget for the Trials	GR
6.3	Book venues for 1 st Weekend of Premier League	GR
6.3	Invite new reserve pair for Open Team	AB
8.3	Invite Team for Finland Summer Bridge event	DM
8.4	Raise subject of Disciplinary Procedures at Board Meeting	JD
8.5	Ask Junior Squad Leaders if prepared to attend European Pairs	TT
8.6	Calculate Junior Squad entry fees for 2013/14	DM
10.3	Consult Junior Squad Leaders regarding nominations for awards	AB
12.2	Redraft Guidelines for Players	AB

