



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SELECTION COMMITTEE  
HELD ON TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015  
AT THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS, LONDON**

Present:	Andy Bowles	(Chairman)
	David Burn	
	Jeremy Dhondy	(EBU Chairman)
	Gillian Fawcett	
	Paul Hackett	
	Dawn Mertens	(Secretary)
	David Price	
	Gordon Rainsford	(EBU Chief TD)
	Nick Smith	
	Tom Townsend	(Vice-Chairman)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Ian Payn.

**2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015**

2.1 Accuracy

There were no matters of accuracy.

2.2 Matters arising

5.1 Eligibility to play in England Trials

AB apologised that he had not notified BGB of the changes in policy and agreed to contact them in this regard.

*Secretary's note – BGB have now been notified.*

6.5 Practice match against France

The practice match has been rescheduled and it is now proposed it will take place 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

9.1 World Youth Pairs

The Committee had approved payment of the entry fee for Dan McIntosh and Rob Myers for the World Youth Pairs. Unfortunately due to travel problems Dan McIntosh did not attend and Rob Myers played with a member of the Dutch squad. TT agreed to speak to Dan as no explanation or apology had been received.

*Secretary's note – an apology was subsequently received from Dan.*

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

Decisions taken by the Committee between meetings 5<sup>th</sup> June – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were as follows:

Andrew Robson and Tony Forrester were offered £500 each as funding for the Palace Cup in Poland, on the understanding that if they won prize money they would return 50% of the first £1000 to the EBU. In the event they were unable to attend so the arrangement was cancelled.

The England Champions Cup team were offered funding of £250 per player.

Four members of the Bermuda Bowl team were offered funding for a day's practice in Manchester before the Premier League.

Two members of the Bermuda Bowl team asked to be accompanied by their spouses. This was agreed.

Revised General Conditions of Contest were agreed.

The proposed practice matches against France was moved to 19-21 April. Selected Open and Women players were invited to apply.

The EBU were informed that they would be invited to send a team to the U15 World Championships.

Invitations were received to send the Venice Cup and Bermuda Bowl teams to the 1st IMSA Elite Mind Games. The Venice Cup team all accepted. Only two members of the Bermuda Bowl team were available; the organisers were notified of this.

Tony Forrester was advised that he would be offered selection for the Open team in both the 2016 European and the 2016 World Championships. If he intended to accept this selection, he should not play in the Senior Trials.

The following teams were selected:

**Czech Republic Junior Teams Championship**

Jasmine Bakhshi, Liz Gahan, Harry Madden, Alex Pemberton, Oscar Selby  
Playing as a team of 5 - listed in alphabetical order, not partnerships  
NPC: David Bakhshi

**Second Paris Youth Open Bridge**

Chris Derrick - Tommy Brass  
Nick Dean - Sean Mekie  
NPC: Alan Shillitoe

**Channel Trophy, U25**

Shivam Shah - Freddie Illingworth  
Alex Roberts - Ankush Khandelwal  
Toby Nonnenmacher - Michael Alishaw  
NPC: Alan Shillitoe

**Channel Trophy, U25 women**

Laura Covill - Helen Holmes  
Katy Lee - Jasmine Bakhshi  
Megan Jones - Liz Gahan  
NPC: Sarah O'Connor

**Channel Trophy, U20**

Sam Behrens - Ben Norton  
Liam Sanderson - Daniel Winter  
Jonathan Clark - Kripa Panchagnula  
NPC: Michael Byrne

3.1 Accuracy

There were no matters of accuracy.

3.2 Matters arising

No response had been received from the WBF regarding availability of the England Bermuda Bowl Team for the 1<sup>st</sup> IMSA Mind Sport Games. PH reported that the sponsor had not yet signed the contract and that dates for the event were therefore not confirmed.

*Secretary's note -the event is now scheduled to take place 24<sup>th</sup> February to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016.*

#### **4. FINANCES**

##### **4.1 Report on Open/Women's/Seniors budgets**

DP tabled the report for the Open/Women's/Seniors budget up to September 2015. The accommodation costs for the Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup were higher than budgeted; the hotel proving more expensive than initially thought, additional nights were needed due to inconvenient flights times and both teams qualified for the knock-out stages and stayed for the duration of the event. The Selection Committee has no control over expenditure on European and World Championships, and is not responsible for this part of the budget.

The Selection Committee had chosen not to spend the funds that had been provided for the Swedish Chairman's Cup, and the NEC was not taking place this year. Hence these funds were available for spending on other invitation events if required.

##### **4.2 Report on Junior budgets**

DP tabled the report for the Junior budgets up to September 2015. The accommodation and travel costs for the European Championships were higher than budgeted. The indirect flights having proved more expensive than the direct flights, which were found to be not available in summer, and involved an additional night's accommodation. Most of the "Other Overseas Invitations" component of the budget was being spent on sending the U15 team to Hluk. 'Polar Bear' funding for the U20 squad was mentioned and the Selection Committee were unaware of what it was.

#### **5. OPEN EVENTS**

##### **5.1 Bermuda Bowl - NPC's and Player's Reports**

The NPC and players were thanked for their reports. The Selection Committee congratulated the team on their result, finishing fourth in the event.

The Committee discussed the report on the ruling given during the event and decided not to pursue this matter any further.

##### **5.2 Selections for 2016 European and World Championships**

*TT and PH left the room for this item; TT returned at the Chairman's invitation after the committee had decided that he was not a candidate for selection. Neither TT nor PH participated in the voting.*

The Committee selected the following teams:

##### **53<sup>rd</sup> European Teams Championships, Budapest**

Tony Forrester & Andrew Robson  
David Bakhshi & David Gold  
Jason Hackett & Justin Hackett

##### **World Bridge Games, Wroclaw**

Tony Forrester & Andrew Robson  
David Bakhshi & David Gold  
Frances Hinden & Graham Osborne

Simon Cope, the NPC in Chennai, has advised that he no longer wishes to act as NPC to the Open team. The decision regarding appointing the NPC was deferred until AB has consulted several players who were considered suitable.

##### **5.3 Selections for 2016 Camrose**

The Mossop team, having won the Premier League, opted to play the second weekend of the Camrose, the Allfrey team as runners-up will therefore be invited to play the first weekend.

The Committee selected the teams as follows:

##### **Camrose 1<sup>st</sup> Weekend, Ireland**

Alexander Allfrey & Andrew Robson  
David Bakhshi & Tony Forrester  
Mike Bell & David Gold

**Camrose 2<sup>nd</sup> Weekend, Wales**  
David Mossop & Alex Hydes  
Jason Hackett & Justin Hackett  
David Price & Colin Simpson

*NS & DB left the room*

The appointment of NPC for the first weekend was deferred. Nick Smith was appointed Assistant NPC for the first weekend in order to gain experience of the event and David Burn NPC for the second weekend.

5.4 Practice match against France

Fifteen pairs had responded to an email invitation that they wished to be considered for the practice match against France. AB agreed to liaise with the French Federation regarding the format and number of pairs required, advising them that we could send six strong pairs suitable for the event.

5.5 Premier League 2015

The Committee agreed that the 16-board, 6 days format was good but that the format of the second division might need revisiting in the event that there were ten teams again. The option of limiting the number of entries was also considered, however the Committee preferred to encourage as many entries as possible.

A complaint had been received after a team dropped out after the split into upper and lower groups and one team were not subsequently notified that there would be a sit-out. Dropping out at this stage was permitted by the regulations, but it was agreed that this would not be permitted in future years.

5.6 Champions Cup Teams

The Allfrey team were congratulated on finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in the event; the highest ever finish by an English team in the Champions Cup.

The EBU team was not selected by the Selection Committee, but was provided as part of a sponsorship agreement made by the Board. DP felt that the EBU should have advised that they were seeking sponsors for this event. He commented that the general feeling (outside the Committee) was that the EBU should have been represented by English players.

**6. WOMEN'S EVENTS**

6.1 Venice Cup - NPC's Report

The NPC was thanked for his report on the event and the team were congratulated on winning the bronze medal.

6.2 Selections for 2016 European and World Championships

The members of the Venice Cup team were selected for both events as follows:

**53<sup>rd</sup> European Teams Championships, Budapest**  
**World Bridge Games, Wroclaw**  
Heather Dhondy & Nevena Senior  
Sally Brock & Nicola Smith  
Fiona Brown & Catherine Draper

DM to consult with Derek Patterson to see if he is available as NPC for these events. David Burn was appointed Coach.

6.3 Practice matches against France

At present only five players have responded they are available. DM to check further availability.

6.4 Lady Milne Trials

The 2016 format has been decided but it was agreed this should be reviewed for the 2017 event.

## **7. SENIORS EVENTS**

### **7.1 D'Orsi Bowl – NPC's report**

The NPC was thanked for his report and the team congratulated on their result.

A player reported suspicious behaviour by his screen mate during a match to the organisers. The pair concerned, when subsequently scheduled to appear on BBO, withdrew due to illness. JD agreed to discuss these concerns with the NPC Simon Cochemé and the player and to write to the WBF regarding the outcome of this report.

### **7.2 Senior European Trial**

The first weekend takes place at the West Midlands Bridge Club. The format and venue for the second weekend will be decided after the first weekend has taken place.

### **7.3 Teltscher Trophy Trials**

The closing date for entries is the 30<sup>th</sup> November and the format will be decided when the number of entrants is known.

## **8. MIXED EVENTS**

### **8.1 World Mixed Teams**

This is a new event at the World Bridge Games for 2016 and should be taken into account when setting 2016/17 budgets should the Board decide to fund the entry. AB to draft item for the website asking for applications from mixed pairs to represent England at the event.

## **9. JUNIOR EVENTS**

### **9.1 Paris Youth Teams – NPC's report**

The NPC was thanked for his report and the team were congratulated on their performance. The Committee also congratulated all three teams on their performance in the European Youth Teams Championships in Tromsø.

### **9.2 U25 Women's Squad**

Sally Brock has agreed to be U25 Women's Squad Leader and is very keen to help. It was agreed that training would best be run in tandem with other squad weekends but that the responsibilities of the Squad Leader should be clarified in discussion with the four squad leaders.

An announcement would be placed on the EBU website inviting applications to join the squad.

### **9.3 Sponsor for Spring Foursomes entries**

An anonymous sponsor was thanked for his/her offer to pay accommodation costs for twin bedded rooms for three nights for squad members entering the Spring Foursomes (the squad entry fees being paid for by the EBU). The Squad Leaders to recommend the players who would benefit from this offer.

### **9.4 Squad leader's reports.**

The U20 and U25 squad leaders were thanked for their reports on squad activities. Alan Shillitoe's comments about the 2016 European Youth Pairs would be taken into account when making the budget application for 2016-17.

## **10. GENERAL**

### **10.1 Participation of players in social media**

The Committee agreed that the player's contract should be modified to state that players should avoid making any comments on social media that could be considered offensive or inflammatory.

### **10.2 Captains' responsibilities**

The Captains guidelines should also be modified in regard to comments on social media and the NPC's instructions should include the objectives of the team for the particular event.

### **10.3 Proposed calendar for 2016**

The Committee agreed the proposed dates for the calendar for 2016-17, which were:

October 14-16

Premier League

October 28-30	Premier League
November 4-6	Reserve Premier League
November 11-13	Premier League
December 16-18	Senior Camrose Trials
January 27-29 2017	Lady Milne Trials

The proposed venues for the Premier League were:

1 <sup>st</sup> Weekend	London - Division 1 Young Chelsea Bridge Club
	London - Division 2 Richmond Bridge Club
2 <sup>nd</sup> Weekend	Manchester Bridge Club
3 <sup>rd</sup> Weekend	West Midlands Bridge, Solihull

DM to book the venues.

*Secretary's note – due to the change in date for the Autumn Congress the first weekend of the Premier League will now be October 22-23. The Premier League weekends will now be Saturday and Sunday only.*

#### **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016..

#### **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### 12.1 Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs

NS reported to date he had 15 responses to his request to analyse hands but he was still 3 or 4 short. AB to ask Peter Stockdale for help promoting this to Club Secretaries, pointing out the money raised would be used to fund the U15's team at the World Championships.

##### 12.2 Chairman

The Committee thanked Andy Bowles for his hard work over the last three years. Andy requested that the new Chairman be appointed by email consultation when the format of the new Committee is known as he did not wish to continue until the next meeting in January. AB to provide the new Chairman with details of all currently outstanding matters.

##### 12.3 Budgets

DP agreed to work with GR on the budgets for 2016/17. When working on the budgets the following additional items should be taken into account:

- Honorarium – U15 Squad Leader
- U25 Women's Squad
- U15 World Bridge Championships
- Practice match against France
- European Youth Pairs

