



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH JUNE 2016
AT THE YOUNG CHELSEA BRIDGE CLUB, LONDON**

Present:

David Burn	
Jeremy Dhondy	(EBU Chairman)
Gillian Fawcett	(Chairman)
Paul Hackett	
Peter Hasenson	
Dawn Mertens	(Secretary)
Gordon Rainsford	(EBU Chief TD)
Tom Townsend	(Vice-Chairman)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Ian Payn and Nick Smith. The Chairman reported she had received correspondence from David Price advising that he would be resigning from the Committee with immediate effect.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 3RD FEBRUARY 2016

2.1 Accuracy

There were no matters of accuracy.

2.2 Matters arising

13.3 Cheating Allegations

Jeremy Dhondy had reminded Gianarrigo Rona he had not received a reply to his letter regarding the alleged cheating in the Seniors event. David Harris had responded that investigations had been made but there was not enough evidence to pursue the matter. Jeremy will reply to David that that neither the player involved or the NPC of the team had been asked to give any evidence.

A decision regarding moving teams up one place in the medal positions will be made when both appeals have been heard and if players are found guilty. Bill Pencharz, Vice President of the EBU will be our representative at the EBL Meeting.

3. REVIEW OF DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

3.1 Decisions taken by the Committee between meetings 3rd February and 8th June 2016.

It was agreed that we would fund coaching for two international pairs to a maximum of £250 each.

It was agreed that we move the Premier League final weekend to the reserve date.

Funding was approved for entries to the European Youth Pairs, with an additional supplement for some of the players and an accompanying coach.

Yvonne Wiseman and Ben Norton were selected to replace Toby Nonnenmacher and Michael Alishaw for the U26 World Championships.

Chris Dixon was approved as NPC of the Senior team for the Teltscher Trophy, and Norman Selway and Colin Simpson were approved as the 3rd pair. Dixon was subsequently approved as playing captain to replace Simpson.

Ian Payn was approved as captain of the open team for the French Trials practice match, and Nick Smith as captain of the Women's team.

Alan Mould was approved as coach for the Open Team for the Europeans.

Mike Bell was approved as coach for the U16 World Championship team.

The team of Sarah Teshome, James Thrower, Tom Paske, Catherine Seale, Susannah Gross and Alex Hydes was selected to represent England in the Mixed Teams at the World Bridge Games.

The Chairman's Cup team was confirmed as Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Sally Brock and Barry Myers.

Brian Senior was approved as a substitute for Colin Simpson in the Senior European Team.

3.2 Matters arising

The Committee agreed that the rate for coaching team players should be £100.00 per session (a session comprising approximately three hours).

4. **SELECTION COMMITTEE DOCUMENT REVIEW**

4.1 Terms of Reference

Minor amendments to the terms of reference were discussed to submit to the Board for their approval.

4.2 Standing Committee Proposal

The proposal regarding Standing Committees was discussed in length by the Committee. This version will be shown to all three Standing Committees and reviewed by the Board at the end of June, then sent to County Chairmen and Shareholders for comments before a final proposal to the AGM in November.

It was agreed that Selection Committee members should ideally have international experience and good knowledge of the players and events. Peter Hasenson proposed that all three standing committees should be considered separately and this was agreed unanimously by the elected members of the Committee (with the EBU Chairman abstaining). The Chairman will write a report to the Board in this respect.

4.3 Assisted entries for Juniors – EBU Procedures Manual

The definition of a Junior player is something that would need to be considered by the Board as this affects Universal Membership as well as competition entry fees. However the Committee agreed that the Squad member categories should be renamed as, U16, U21, U26, and U26 Women in line with EBL and WBF events.

4.4 Sponsorship

The Committee discussed the paper on Selection Committee Sponsorship. Jeremy Dhondy thought it likely that international budgets would have to be cut in future and sponsorship would be needed. Peter Hasenson agreed to put a paper together with a menu of pricing and services offered in return for sponsorship for approval by the Committee and to pass to the Board for consideration.

5. FINANCES

5.1 Report on Open/Women's/Seniors budgets

No accounts are available for 2016/17 as yet; a copy of the final accounts for 2015/16 was tabled.

Peter Hasenson commented that the entry fees for the Premier League were low in comparison with other EBU events. However, the Trials events should only break even and there has been an increase in the entry fees for the 2016 event.

5.2 Report on Junior budgets

As 5.1 above, no accounts are available for 2016/17 as yet.

6. OPEN EVENTS

6.1 Second Camrose weekend – NPC's Report

The NPC, Richard Fleet, was thanked for his report and the teams for both weekends were congratulated on winning the Camrose Trophy. A number of recommendations had been made by the NPC regarding the running of the event which he had forwarded to BGB.

6.2 Practice Match v France – NPC's Report

The NPC, Ian Payn, was thanked for his report on the match and the performance of the players involved. It was noted that two NPCs were not really necessary for this format of event. All comments received from the players participating in the match had been very favourable.

6.3 European Teams Update

A daily per diem of £30 was agreed, with an additional £2.00 daily to cover the tram fare between the hotel and playing venue. Paul Hackett advised that the traffic can be very bad and that the tram was the best method for transfers.

6.4 World Bridge Games update

David Price and Alan Mould will confirm after the European Teams if they wish to continue their roles as NPC and Coach of the Open Team at the World Bridge Games.

6.5 Premier League 2016

Applications had been received from 18 teams plus two Junior teams. The format for the second division used last year was not well received and the venues booked for the three weekends are not suitable for twenty teams. Gordon Rainsford thought he may be able to devise a format for splitting the second division into two groups of six; alternatively the second division could be limited 10 teams only.

Peter Hasenson formally proposed that only 10 teams are accepted, this was seconded by Gillian Fawcett and all agreed to the proposal.

The entry from a team who had only submitted the names of one pair and one junior team would therefore be declined.

7. WOMEN'S EVENTS

7.1 Lady Milne – NPC's Report

The NPC, Heather Dhondy, was thanked for her report on the Lady Milne Trophy and her recommendations regarding selection of players in the future. The England team finished as runners-up after losing their first match heavily against Scotland, but they recovered well to win all their other matches.

7.2 Practice Match v France – NPC's Report

The NPC, Nick Smith, was thanked for his report on the practice match and the performance of the players.

7.3 European Teams update

As 6.3 the per diem has been agreed. Two of the members of the team are playing in the Women's Pairs event prior to the teams, but not in their regular partnerships.

7.4 World Bridge Games update

There were no updates to report.

7.5 Lady Milne Trials format

The idea of a team's trial as suggested by the Lady Milne NPC in her report had been discussed extensively at the previous meeting and dismissed. The Committee agreed to keep to the format already decided of limiting the entry to 16 pairs, in the hope of a stronger event. If this should prove not to be the case then a team's trial will be re-considered.

8. SENIORS EVENTS

8.1 Teltscher Trophy – NPC's Report

The Playing Captain, Chris Dixon, was thanked for his report and the team congratulated on winning the event.

8.2 Senior European Teams update

Paul Hackett advised that he will decide after the Europeans as to whether he wishes to be considered as NPC for the team for the World Bridge Games.

8.3 World Bridge Games update

Colin Simpson will advise nearer the time if he is fit to play in the Seniors team for the World Bridge Games.

8.4 Seniors Trials

The Secretary to update the website requesting entries for the Seniors Trials for the Teltscher Trophy.

9. JUNIOR EVENTS

9.1 Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer – NPC's Reports

The NPC's for the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer teams were thanked for their reports on the events. The Junior Camrose team were congratulated on winning the event. The Peggy Bayer team finished in third place.

9.2 World Youth Teams update

Jeremy Dhondy advised he had written to the WBF regarding the change in eligibility for the U16 team issued after the regulations had been published. The response that you are able to change

your team if you wish was not particularly helpful. The Committee all agreed that they were disappointed with the decision to change published regulations.

9.3 Youth Pairs – Latvia – update

The secretary reported that all the entry fees had been paid for the event and the grants issued.

9.4 Nominations for Young Player and Young Pair of the Year awards

Following recommendations from the squad leaders the Selection Committee agreed nominations for the two awards, subject to Board approval.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 8th November, at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club at 1.30pm.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Junior Channel Trophy Venue

Gordon Rainsford reported that he had been unable to find any university accommodation suitable for hosting the Junior Channel Trophy in December. The Committee agreed that the Royal National Hotel would be a suitable option, assuming a reasonable rate could be negotiated.

11.2 Camrose 1st Weekend venue

Gordon Rainsford thought that a new venue of Wokefield Park, near Reading could be suitable for hosting the Camrose first weekend and advised that he would make enquiries via Bridge Overseas.