



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 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)
Ian Payn	(EBU Vice-Chairman)
Gordon Rainsford	(EBU Chief TD)
Tom Townsend	(Vice-Chairman)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Nick Smith.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 8th JUNE 2016

2.1 Accuracy

There were no matters of accuracy.

2.2 Matters arising

4.3 The EBU Procedures Manual has been updated to reflect the changes in name of squad categories to U16, U21, U26 and U26 Women.

4.4 Sponsorship

Peter Hasenson agreed to update the Committee at the next meeting.

3. REVIEW OF DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

3.1 Decisions made since Selection Committee meeting on 8th June 2016

Oscar Selby, Henry Rose, Jasmine Bakhshi, Liz Gahan, Andy Cope and Alex Pemberton were selected to represent England U16s in the Youth Tournament in Hluk, Czech Republic. Mike Bell was selected to be NPC.

Paul Hackett was selected as a reserve for the team representing England in the Champions Cup and will take Colin Simpson's place due to illness.

Chris Dixon was selected as Captain and David Jones was selected as Coach of the Open Team for the World Bridge Games.

Brian Senior was selected to replace Colin Simpson in the Seniors Team for the World Bridge Games.

Lady Milne entry fee was set at £100 per player and the Premier League second division at £700 per team.

It was agreed in principle to send a U26 Women's team to the European Youth Championships, and that the team would come from the current U26 Women's squad.

4. FINANCES

4.1 Report on Open/Women's/Seniors budgets & 4.2 Report on Junior budgets

The combined management accounts for Open/Women's/Seniors and Junior budgets up to September were on target, although taken separately there had been an overspend on the World Junior event, which had not been helped by post-Brexit exchange rates.

5. OPEN EVENTS

5.1 European Teams – NPC's report

The NPC, David Price, was thanked for his report. Overall a disappointing performance by the team, finishing in 10th place and therefore outside of automatic qualification for the Bermuda Bowl. The team did however qualify for the Champions Cup.

5.2 World Bridge Games – NPC's report

The NPC, Chris Dixon, was thanked for his report. The team performed very well in the round-robin, won in the round-of-16 against Israel but then lost their quarter-final match. The players seemed happy with the selection of Chris Dixon as NPC and David Jones as Coach.

P Hasenson queried whether a Coach was actually necessary for these events. D Burn commented that dozens of IMPs are lost by not preparing properly. If players were not allowed to change their systems after submission prior to the event then lots of preparation could be done in advance, however it is not unusual for there to be many last minute changes.

5.3 Premier League 2016

The Allfrey Team were congratulated on winning the 2016 Premier League.

5.4 Selection of Camrose Teams and NPC's

The Allfrey team as winners of the Premier League were offered the choice of weekends and elected to play the first weekend in Coventry in January. The runners-up, the Hinden team, were offered the second weekend which takes place in Scotland, 3rd-5th March. The Hinden team were a team of four (the fifth player not having played enough boards to qualify) it was therefore necessary to select a third pair for the second weekend.

TT left the room for this item

The Committee agreed to select Neil Rosen and Martin Jones, from the third placed team with Tom Townsend and Nick Sandqvist to act as reserves for both weekends.

The teams selected were therefore as follows:

Camrose 1st Weekend
Alexander Allfrey & Andrew Robson
David Bakhshi & Tony Forrester
Mike Bell & David Gold
Reserves: Tom Townsend & Nick Sandqvist

Camrose 2nd Weekend
Frances Hinden & Graham Osborne
Jeffrey Allerton & Chris Jagger
Neil Rosen & Martin Jones
Reserves Tom Townsend & Nick Sandqvist

The Selection Committee agreed to offer to pay the costs of the hotel accommodation for both weekends with players being responsible for their own travel arrangements.

David Burn agreed to act as NPC for the second weekend with several players to be approached regarding the first weekend.

Secretary's note – Martin Jones was subsequently appointed as NPC for the first weekend.

5.5 Funding of accommodation and travel for future Internationals

The Committee agreed that a proper policy, with regard to days of travel, payment of accommodation, and per diems needs to be agreed. Jeremy agreed to draft a set of rules for approval.

5.6 Selection of future Open Teams

Players have suggested holding Trials for the Open Team or for at least for third pair. If there are no automatic choices for selection then there would need to be a contingency plan. Trials for the 2018 European Championships would need to be arranged for January 2018, this option to be discussed further at the June Meeting.

6. WOMEN'S EVENTS

6.1 European Teams - NPC's report

The NPC, Derek Patterson, was thanked for his report and the team congratulated on their excellent result winning the European Gold medal.

The Committee agreed to invite the Women's European Team to represent England in the Venice Cup.

The team selected was therefore:

Heather Dhondy & Nevena Senior
Sally Brock & Nicola Smith
Fiona Brown & Catherine Draper
NPC Derek Patterson
Coach David Burn

6.2 World Bridge Games – NPC's report

The NPC, Derek Patterson, was thanked for his report. The Women's team disappointingly lost at the quarter-final stage of the event.

6.3 Funding of accommodation and travel for future Internationals

As 5.5 above. The Committee felt that players needed to be reminded of the requirement to wear uniforms (NPC's need to enforce this – with non-payment of per diems if players do not comply), and that players need to ask their NPC's permission for any adults to accompany the team, the rest of the team also needed to consent. The Players Guidelines to be updated in this respect.

6.4 Lady Milne applications

The U26 Women's Squad Leader has requested that three pairs from the squad are allowed to play in the Trials. The Committee agreed this would depend on the number of applicants, however only eight pairs have applied so far. The three pairs should be added to the list of applicants and then assessed by the Committee alongside the other applicants.

7. SENIORS EVENTS

7.1 European Teams – NPC's report

The NPC, Paul Hackett, was thanked for his report. The team finished in 10th place, and unfortunately therefore outside of automatic qualification for the D'Orsi Bowl.

7.2 World Bridge Games – NPC's report

The NPC, Paul Hackett, was thanked for this brief report on the event. The team finished the event in 18th place.

7.3 Teltscher Trophy Trials applications

Entries have been received from seven teams. The Committee either have the option of accepting six teams only or all seven with sit-out. Gordon Rainsford suggested that if the Trials are run as a complete round-robin with 16 board matches, if could be run over two days. The suggested format was for 64 boards to be played on the Saturday and 48 on the Sunday.

8. MIXED EVENTS

8.1 World Bridge Games – Captain's report

Sarah Teshome, Playing Captain, was thanked for her report on the event. The team reached the knock-out round on the last board of the qualifying stage but then lost their round-of-16 match against Bulgaria.

9. JUNIOR EVENTS

9.1 World Youth Teams – U26 NPCs’ report

The NPC, Alan Shillitoe, was thanked for his report. The team performed as expected.

9.2 World Youth Teams - U16 NPC’s report

The NPC, Sarah O’Connor was thanked for her report. As previously discussed we were initially told the team qualifying in Tromso were too old to play, a younger team was therefore selected, and the regulations were then changed to allow the Tromso players to participate. The team however finished the round-robins in 8th, and then participated in the 5th-8th play-offs, again finishing in 8th position.

9.3 Squad Leader reports and squad priorities

The Committee felt that Squad Leaders needed to justify their recommendations for selection and be more up-front with their recommendations.

The Committee considered it advisable that a job description should be drawn up for squad leaders and that in future they should be advised of the Committee’s expectations and that regular feedback is needed.

9.4 Channel Trophy Teams - selection of U26, U21 and U26 Women’s teams and NPCs.

IP left the meeting

Following recommendations from the squad leaders the following teams were selected for the Channel Trophy

U26

Shivam Shah & Alex Roberts
Will Roper & Alex Birchall
Michael Alishaw & Stephen Kennedy
NPC Alan Shillitoe

U21

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

U26 Women

Laura Covill & Olivia Bailey
Yvonne Wiseman & Megan Jones
Jasmine Bakhshi & Liz Gahan
NPC Bryony Youngs

9.5 Junior Camrose – selection of Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer teams and NPCs.

Following recommendation from the U26 Squad Leader the following team was selected:

Junior Camrose

Toby Nonnenmacher & Kyle Lam
Oliver Powell & Jon Derrick
Shivam Shah & Yvonne Wiseman.
NPC to be confirmed

No recommendations were available from the U21 Squad Leader for the Peggy Bayer team

9.6 Hluk update

The Secretary reported that all flights had been booked, together with airport transfer from Brno to Hluk, and hostel accommodation.

10. 2017/18 DATES AND TRIALS FORMAT

The dates put forward for 2017/18 were agreed, we may however have to fit in Open Trials the last weekend in January 2018, as discussed 5.6.

Premier League 1 st weekend	9 th -10 th September 2017
Premier League 2 nd weekend	23 rd -24 th September 2017
Premier League 3 rd weekend	4 th -5 th November 2017
Premier League reserve	28 th -29 th October 2017
Senior European Trial	15 th -17 th December 2017
Lady Milne Trials	12 th -14 th January 2018
Seniors Trials Teltscher Trophy	2 nd -4 th February

The website should emphasis that there are four weekend dates, including a reserve weekend for the Premier League, and these dates are liable to change, with the reserve weekend being used, should any conflicts arise.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date for the next meeting, possibly early March, to be arranged after new members are elected to the Committee at the forthcoming AGM.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Paul Hackett advised that there was not an automatic invitation for England at the forthcoming Yeh Brothers Cup, and that the possibility of two teams participating as previously would be very unlikely. England are next to be invited if another team declines entry. There would probably only be \$1/\$2000 offered towards expenses. In the event of an invitation the Committee may have to invite applications from players to participate.