



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE 2017
AT THE YOUNG CHELSEA BRIDGE CLUB, LONDON**

Present:

Paul Barden	
David Burn	
Jeremy Dhondy	EBU Chairman
Gillian Fawcett	Chairman
Peter Hasenson	
Dawn Mertens	Secretary
Alan Mould	
Alan Shillitoe	
Tom Townsend	Vice Chairman

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Anthony Golding, Ian Payn and Gordon Rainsford.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 27TH FEBRUARY 2017

2.1 Accuracy

12.5 Invitational events

TT pointed out that the NEC event referred to was in fact the YEH Bros event.

2.2 Matters arising

5.1 Conflicts of Interest

GF reminded members of the Committee that they needed to disclose any conflicts of interest and asked anyone that had not already done so to advise the Secretary by the end of June.

5.2 Confidentiality

GF confirmed for the benefit of the new members of the Committee that Selection Committee business and any emails exchanged regarding Committee business should be treated as confidential.

11.6 Parental involvement with junior squads

GF had received several comments regarding the draft of the parents guide and would amend accordingly and recirculate.

11.7 Gender Identity

JD confirmed that the EBL were considering a 'Gender Identity' policy and would confirm their position after their next meeting.

3. REVIEW OF DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

Derek Patterson was appointed as NPC of Teltscher Trophy Team.

John Holland was sanctioned as sixth team member for Teltscher Trophy team.

Dates of Teltscher Trophy, Senior Europeans and Lady Milne trials for next year were agreed.

The U26 European team was approved:

Shivam Shah & Alex Roberts
Michael Alishaw & Stephen Kennedy
Toby Nonnenmacher & Kyle Lam
NPC: Alan Shillitoe
Coach: Jon Cooke.

The U26 women's European team was approved:

Alex Birchall & Yvonne Wiseman
Siyu Ren & Ewa Wieszorek
Olivia Bailey & Hanna Tuus
NPC: Sally Brock
Coach: Bryony Youngs

The U16 European team was approved:

Oscar Selby & Henry Rose
Liz Gahan & Andy Cope
Alex Pemberton & Theo Anoyrkatis
NPC: Mike Bell
Coach: Sarah O'Connor

The Women's Venice Cup team, captain and coach were selected:

Sally Brock & Fiona Brown
Nicola Smith & Catherine Draper
Nevena Senior & Sandra Penfold
Captain: Derek Patterson
Coach: David Burn

Funding of £250 was approved for coaching for Smith & Draper.

It was agreed that we should ask Paul Barden and Alan Shillitoe to join the Selection Committee until the next AGM, subject to board approval (which was subsequently obtained).

It was noted that a team calling itself 'England' was listed as an entrant to the Yeh Bros tournament, despite the fact that the organisers no longer invited an England team. A member of the team was asked to correct this and reminded that only official EBU sanction teams could call themselves 'England'.

4. FINANCES

4.1 Report on Open/Women's/Seniors budgets

Unfortunately no figures were available for the financial year to date. GF circulated a copy of the 2017/18 budget and explained for the benefit of the newer members how the budget was set and that spending decisions were up to the Committee, subject to not exceeding the overall budget. An overall saving of £3,000 on the draft budget had been requested by the EBU Treasurer and the budget had been revised accordingly, but further savings may have to be made.

AM agreed to take responsibility for finance and liaising with the EBU Treasurer regarding budgets.

4.2 Report on Junior budgets

As 4.1. above.

5. OPEN EVENTS

5.1 Camrose – NPCs' reports

The NPCs were thanked for their reports on the first and second weekends of the Camrose Trophy. The England team finished the event in second place behind Ireland.

5.2 Premier League 2017

The Committee first discussed the composition of the First Division. One of the non relegated teams had only two qualifying members this season thereby potentially creating a vacancy in the Division. Those Committee members without any conflict of interest decided against the 8th placed team filling the vacancy. The decision was therefore accept the unqualified additions to the non-relegated team or retain the 7th placed demoted team (which the regulations allow as a last resort). The Committee took into account the performance of the qualified pair last year and felt it was reasonable to allow them to add team mates.

PB, DB, GF, AS left the meeting for the next item.

The next discussion was what to do with the remaining 14 (plus 2 junior) teams. Those Committee members without a conflict considered a 16 team round robin, but felt that the league structure was intended for 8 team divisions and that the 14 teams should be formed into Division 2 and Division 3, with the two Junior teams added to Division 3.

The Regulations will need to be updated to cover the creation of a third Division. In future new teams would normally enter Division 3 but should vacancies occur could commence in Division 2 at the discretion of the Committee.

5.3 Reserve date for Premier League

The reserve date for the Premier League will not be needed. The Secretary to remove the information from EBU website and calendar.

6. WOMEN'S EVENTS

6.1 Lady Milne - NPC's report

David Burn was thanked for his NPC report and the team congratulated on winning the Lady Milne Trophy. The team had been fined by the Tournament Director for 'unladylike behaviour' and David had to speak to the player concerned in this regard.

6.2 Women's Trials

The Committee agreed that the format used for the 2017 Lady Milne Trials be continued in 2018. However the entries would be strictly limited to 16 pairs, with no late entries being considered. The two top pairs in the Trials to be invited to play in the Lady Milne alongside one selected pair.

A provisional date for trials to be held for the European Women's team was agreed as 9th/10/11th March 2018, the actual format to be discussed after the Venice Cup.

6.3 Sports Psychologist requests

The Women's Team had used the Sports Psychologist in the past and felt the sessions to be beneficial. It was agreed that any such request by the team prior to the Venice Cup should be approved.

7. SENIORS EVENTS

7.1 Teltscher Trophy – NPC's report

Derek Patterson was thanked for his NPC report and the team were congratulated on winning the Teltscher Trophy.

It had been pointed out to the Committee that under the format used for the Seniors Trials for the Teltscher Trophy in 2016; held over two days and there being an odd number of teams entered, a member of a team of six players could qualify to participate by playing only 36 boards. PB thought the minimum number of boards played in the trials should match that in the Conditions of Contest for the event, which in this case would be 1/3rd of the boards. However, the proposed European Team Trials will be a longer format held over three days with a further play off weekend.

The Secretary to invite applications for the 2018 Teltscher Trophy Trials and the 2018 European Teams Trials with a closing date for entries of 30th September 2017. The entry fees for the events to be agreed by Gordon Rainsford.

8. INVITATIONAL EVENTS

8.1 Commonwealth Games Applications

Applications to represent England in the 2018 Commonwealth Games have been received from five pairs plus two players without partners. The Committee agreed that the Secretary should respond by email asking the applicants to form two teams amongst themselves for approval by the Committee.

9. JUNIOR EVENTS

9.1 Junior Squad Leader appointments

AS had previously advised that he would be retiring as U26 Squad Leader (however he indicated he may consider working with the U16 squad in the future). It was decided that AS would draw up a job description for the Committee and that a notice be placed on the EBU website giving applicants details of the duties. AS stated he would be happy to work alongside the new Squad Leader for a hand-over

period. A new U16 Squad Leader may also be required after the Junior Europeans as Mike Bell has only been appointed as interim U16 Squad Leader.

9.2 Sports Psychologist requests

The U26 Women's Squad Leader, Sally Brock, has requested a session with the Sports Psychologist for the team and the Committee thought that this would be a worthwhile exercise and to fund it out of the squad training budget.

10. AWARDS

10.1 Diamond Award

Colin Simpson has already been awarded the Diamond Award for 2016. The Committee agreed that in future they would be happy for the Board to make recommendations for these awards.

10.2 Junior Pair Award

At the recommendation of AS the Committee proposed that Stephen Kennedy & Michael Alishaw should receive the Junior Pair of the Year award. Stephen and Michael won the 2016 Riviera Congress pairs event and also the teams at the 2016 Autumn Congress.

10.3 Junior Player Award

At the recommendation of AS the Committee proposed that Ben Norton should receive the Young Player of the Year award.

11. BRIDGE ENGLAND SIMS

The Committee agreed to continue with the Bridge England Sim Pairs as it raised in excess of £2,000 annually towards the cost of Junior International bridge. PB volunteered to take over the production of the booklets for the event.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Wednesday 8th November.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

One member of the Venice Cup team had requested her partner join her for the latter part of the event. The NPC, after consultation with the team, had approved this request.