



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2017
AT THE YOUNG CHELSEA BRIDGE CLUB, LONDON**

Present:

Ollie Burgess	
David Burn	
Jeremy Dhondy	EBU Chairman
Gillian Fawcett	Chairman
Paul Hackett	
Peter Hasenson	
Dawn Mertens	Secretary
Alan Mould	
Ian Payn	EBU Vice-Chairman
Gordon Rainsford	EBU Chief TD
Tom Townsend	Vice-Chairman

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Anthony Golding.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2017

Gillian Fawcett was proposed by Paul Hackett and seconded by Peter Hasenson and duly elected Chairman for 2017. Gillian welcomed the new members to the committee and thanked Nick Smith and David Price for their past service on the Committee.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2017

Tom Townsend was proposed by Gillian Fawcett and seconded by Peter Hasenson and duly elected Vice-Chairman for 2017.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 8TH NOVEMBER 2016

4.1 Accuracy

There were no matters of accuracy.

4.2. Matters arising

4.2.1 Sponsorship Paper

Peter Hasenson tabled a paper on Sponsorship Packages suggesting six options or a blanket sponsorship amount and asked if the Board could confirm these as appropriate amounts. In principle, if a sponsorship package was proposed the Board would like to hear details, as there are pressures on budgets and sponsorship would help to bridge the gap. To move forward someone would need to approach potential sponsors and there is not anyone at present with relevant experience in this field. Unless anyone has a potential sponsor in mind an alternative way forward could be to try to double the amount of clubs participating in the Bridge England Sim Pairs and the money raised towards funding internationals. A discussion on how to achieve further participation in the Sim Pairs was deferred until the next meeting.

5. GENERAL

5.1 Revised Selection Committee Terms of Reference

Gillian drew Committee members' attention to the revised Selection Committee Terms of Reference document (updated in November 2016) and the EBU Selection Committee Conflicts of Interest Policy (June 2009). All Committee members need to advise the Secretary by the end of March of any conflicts of interest.

5.2 Confidentiality

Gillian reminded Committee members that they should not discuss any Selection Committee business with anyone outside of the Committee or share any emails.

The following agenda item was discussed out of sequence.

11.5 Appointment of U16 Junior Squad Leader

Sarah O'Connor has resigned as the U16 Squad Leader and Mike Bell who has been assisting with squad training and was also the NPC in Hluk has expressed interest in becoming the new squad leader. The Committee agreed to appoint Mike Bell as interim squad leader with the situation to be reviewed after the Europeans. Mike has a pool of players in mind for the U16 team for the Europeans but would like to wait until after a practice match before recommending partnerships.

Paul Hackett resigned from the Committee and left the Meeting at this point. The Committee thanked him for his past service.

6. REVIEW OF DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

Amendments to the player agreements as discussed at the November meeting were agreed.

Martin Jones was appointed as NPC for the 1st Camrose weekend.

The U21 Peggy Bayer team was selected:

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

Amendments to the junior squad member contract were agreed.

Funding for the Women's squad to access a sports psychologist was agreed.

It was agreed to appoint Simon Cope as NPC and Harry Anoyrkatis as assistant NPC for the Junior Camrose.

It was agreed that two junior pairs could play without status in addition to the 16 pairs playing in the Lady Milne trial. It was agreed that the junior pairs and Yvonne Wiseman would have free entry to the Lady Milne trials.

Additionally the team for the White House was selected:

Shivam Shah & Alex Roberts
Michael Alishaw & Stephen Kennedy
NPC Graham Osborne

An invitation has just been received for a second team for the White House however there is no further funding available in the budget. Michael Byrne is making enquiries to see if any sponsorship is available.

7. FINANCES

7.1 Report on Open/Women's/Seniors budgets & 7.2 Report on Junior budgets

The combined management accounts for Open/Women's/Seniors and Junior budgets up to December 2016 were on target, although as previously reported when taken separately there was an overspend on the World Junior event and an underspend on the Europeans.

7.3 2017/2018 Budgets

The proposed 2017/2018 budgets were circulated. The EBU Treasurer had indicated that he would like to see overall savings of £3,000 made. The Committee agreed these savings could be met by cut backs to some overseas international events together with small savings on junior squad training expenses.

8. OPEN EVENTS

8.1 Camrose first weekend – NPC's Report

The Camrose team for the first weekend finished in second place overall after a narrow loss to the eventual leaders Ireland. The NPC's report to follow.

8.2 Selection Process for the 2018 European Team Selection

The Committee agreed to hold a pairs trial with the team selected for the 2018 European Open to consist of one preselected pair and two pairs qualifying from the trials. The pair pre-selected by the Committee to be invited to play are Tony Forrester and Andrew Robson. Invitations will be issued to pairs playing in the Premier League and applications will be subject to approval of the Selection Committee. The Committee agreed that the trials should be held over a four day period with around 200 boards played.

8.3 Travel and accommodation policy for international teams (Open and Women's)

The draft policy was circulated to the Committee for their comments. Members of the Committee were of the opinion that travel for the Open and Women's team for both European and World events should be on the day before the opening ceremony. Junior teams and teams for Olympiad to travel on day of opening ceremony. Open and Women's players should be given the option of the EBU booking their flights or booking their own flights within a specified budget. The Secretary to amend the policy document to reflect these recommendations.

8.4 Uniform requirement for international teams (All)

The players' invitation and guidelines have been updated to include uniform requirements. Players not adhering to these guidelines will have per diems withheld. The Secretary to draw attention to the uniform requirement when sending out new invitations.

9. WOMEN'S EVENTS

9.1 Selection of Venice Cup Team

The team originally invited to play in the Venice Cup has been deselected due to the decision to withdraw by one member of the team and subsequent notification of intended changes of partnerships from four other players. The Committee will need to try to select the team by the end of March. In future the Selection Committee will consider holding trials for the selection of the Women's team for the Europeans.

9.2 Selection of Lady Milne Team

The Committee agreed to invite Nicola Smith and Catherine Draper to play in the Lady Milne Team alongside the winners of the Trials. The Secretary to issue an invitation to the team as follows:

Fiona Brown & Helen Erichsen
Heather Bakhshi & Claire Robinson
Nicola Smith & Catherine Draper
NPC David Burn.

10. SENIORS EVENTS

10.1 Teltscher Trophy Team and NPC

The Irens team were congratulated on winning the Teltscher Trophy Trials. The team requested that the Committee approve the appointment of Derek Patterson as NPC. The Secretary to invite the team as follows with the request that they either add a sixth player to the team or have a player on standby for the event – the player concerned to be approved by the Committee.

Nick Irens
Tony Forrester
David Kendrick
Norman Selway
Colin Simpson
NPC Derek Patterson

11. JUNIOR EVENTS

11.1 Channel Trophy NPCs' reports

The NPC's were thanked for their reports, all three England teams finishing in the runners up spot.

11.2 Hluk NPC report

The NPC, Mike Bell, was thanked for his report. The U16 team started slowly but finished well in 7th position overall.

11.3 Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer NPC reports

The NPC's were thanked for their reports and the teams congratulated on winning both the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer.

11.4 Junior Squad Leaders reports and recommendations for Junior Europeans

The U26 squad leader advised that he wished to finalise the team after the White House event in March.

Following recommendations from the squad leader the U21 team were selected as follows:

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

Gillian proposed saving funds by sending one NPC per team and only one coach between the U26/U26W/U21 teams.

11.6 Parental involvement with junior squads

The Committee felt that there should be some form of parental guidance for parents accompanying junior players to international events. Gillian agreed to draft a document for circulation to the Committee.

11.7 Gender Identity

The Board had discussed a 'Gender Identity' policy. It had been agreed that the EBU would not seek proof of gender as standard but if required either the Gender Recognition Certificate or passport will be acceptable as proof of gender. Jeremy Dhondy will be asking Yves Aubry for EBL directive.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs

A complaint had been received regarding the format of the booklet. Unfortunately there were also a few typographical mistakes as the booklet was so late being organised. There was a slight increase in the number of clubs participating in the event over the previous year.

12.2 Recommendations for Diamond Award

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

12.3 Nominations for Young Pair of the Year award

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

12.4 Nominations for Young Player of the Year award

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

12.5 Invitational events.

The Committee was advised that there would be an invitation forthcoming to send two teams to the Commonwealth Games which will take place in Surfers Paradise in 2018. There would not be an invitation for an England team to participate in the next NEC cup.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting should be arranged for June.