



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2018
AT THE YOUNG CHELSEA BRIDGE CLUB, LONDON W12 8HA**

Present

David Bakhshi	
Paul Barden	
David Burn	
Jeremy Dhondy	EBU Chairman
Gillian Fawcett	Chairman
Anthony Golding	
Peter Hasenson	
Dawn Mertens	Secretary
Alan Mould	Vice Chairman
Ian Payn	EBU Vice Chairman
Gordon Rainsford	EBU General Manager
Jeremy Willans	

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2018

Gillian Fawcett was nominated by Peter Hasenson and seconded by Ian Payn and duly re-elected Chairman of the Committee for 2018.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2018

Alan Mould was nominated by Gillian Fawcett and seconded by Peter Hasenson and duly elected Vice Chairman of the Committee for 2018.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 8TH NOVEMBER 2017

4.1 Accuracy

There were no matters of accuracy.

4.2 Matters arising

There were no matters arising not otherwise on the Agenda.

5. GENERAL

5.1 Committee responsibilities

The Chairman welcomed the new members of the Committee; David Bakhshi, Paul Barden and Jeremy Willans and thanked outgoing members Alan Shillitoe and Tom Townsend for their service.

It was agreed that committee members would have the following responsibilities:

David Bakhshi	Conditions of Contest and proof reading
Paul Barden	Junior Liaison and Bridge England Sim Pairs
David Burn	Conditions of Contest and proof reading
Peter Hasenson	Dates and Venues
Alan Mould	Finance

6. REVIEW OF DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

The Committee agreed that the following was an accurate record of decisions made by the Committee between meetings:

Alan Mould was appointed as captain of the England team for the Camrose 2nd weekend.

We had a request from a player to allow a substitute for her for the Women's European Trials (because she might not get the time off work), the committee unanimously agreed that the answer was "no".

David Burn was approved to replace David Price in the Hackett team for the Teltscher Trophy.

Various Conditions of Contest for trials (for Lady Milne, European Open and Seniors, Teltscher Trophy) were approved.

The Lady Milne trials shortlist was approved and 16 pairs invited to play.

An U26 Women's team was approved for the White House Junior tournament:

Laura Covill & Siyu Ren
Ewa Wieczorek & Olivia Bailey

The Junior Camrose team was agreed:

Yvonne Wiseman & Alex Birchall
Kyle Lam & Toby Nonnenmacher
Ben Norton & Shahzaad Natt
NPC: Paul Barden

The Peggy Bayer team was agreed:

Kripa Panchagnula & Harry Madden
Sam & Theo Anoyrkatis
Jack Ronayne & Theo Gillis
NPC: Michael Byrne

A second team was approved to play in the Junior Camrose, the EBU Juniors team:

Laura Covill & Siyu Ren
Daniel Winter & Liam Sanderson
Michael Alishaw & Stephen Kennedy
NPC: Harry Anoyrkatis

Correspondence was received from Artur Malinowski and Jeffrey Allerton regarding the CoC for the Open European trials, and slight changes to the timings were made as a result of the latter's views.

An U26 team was approved for the White House Junior Tournament:

Stephen Kennedy and Michael Alishaw
Shahzaad Natt & Ben Norton
NPC (of both U26 teams): Paul Barden

John Hassett was approved as a replacement for David Price in the Hackett senior European trials team.

The European Open Team was approved:

Tony Forrester and Andrew Robson
Jeffrey Allerton and Chris Jagger
David Bakhshi and Artur Malinowski
NPC: Neil Rosen
Coach: Andrew Murphy

Four teams were accepted to the Women's European Trials, and CoC were agreed.

Support for coaching for the Open Team was agreed, £250 for Tony Forrester and £500 for Allerton and Jagger.

The U16 team for the World Championships was agreed:

Jasmine Bakhshi
Andy Cope
Oscar Selby
Henry Rose
Liam Fegarty
Jamie Fegarty
NPC: Giorgio Provenza
Coach: Laura Porro

The top three pairs from the Lady Milne Trials were selected:

Heather Dhondy & Abbey Smith
Alexandra Birchall & Qian Li
Heather Bakhshi & Claire Robinson

David Burn was selected as NPC to the Lady Milne team.

Approval was given for an U16 team to play in the new Youth Online Championships.

7. FINANCES

7.1 Report on 2017/18 Open/Women's/Seniors budgets and Junior budgets

The accounts up to the end of December 2017 were circulated together with the forecast up to the end of the financial year and were deemed to be on target.

7.2 Draft 2018/2019 Budgets

The EBU Treasurer had looked at the draft budgets and had requested that £5,000 be saved on the total expenditure. Peter Hasenson queried whether the EBU Board had discussed the possibility of not funding the Olympiad in future as discussed at the previous meeting. Jeremy advised that this subject was on the Agenda for the next meeting.

The Committee agreed that savings could be made by small cuts to each of the Junior squad training budgets and by funding offered for the European Youth Pairs being restricted to £3,000. Paul Barden felt that there would not be as many applicants for funding as previously as the event takes place in July shortly before the Worlds Championships and many players would be applying for visas at the time.

England is host for the second weekend of the Camrose in 2019 and we will therefore field two teams – England and EBU. The possibility of only offering 50% funding to the second EBU team was discussed. If this was the case the Conditions of Contest for the Premier League would have to state that the players selected for the EBU team might have to contribute more financially to participate in the event. Alternatively the option of increasing the entry fee for the Premier League to cover some of the cost of the Camrose was considered.

8. OPEN EVENTS

8.1 Camrose first weekend – NPC's Report

David Burn reported verbally that the team had played well with England leading the event by 4.93 VPs going into the second weekend. The NPC's written report to follow.

8.2 European Open Team

Gillian confirmed that the NPC of the Open Team was aware of the budgets available for coaching prior to the event.

8.3 Procedures for Selection and Appointment of NPC & Coach for International events

The Committee agreed that we should clarify what we actually want from the NPC and Coach and the qualifications required and put together a list of likely candidates. The Committee could then write to the candidates asking if they would be interested in either role and whether their preference would be for Home Internationals or if they would be available for longer periods for European or World Championships, resulting in an up to date list available when selecting teams. Alan Mould thought that the Coach role was technically easier than it used to be, and as a result more boring, and felt that the Coach does not have to be a top player. It was also thought it might be a useful exercise to question the players after the Europeans for feedback on the NPC and Coach and if they thought anything else was needed. It might be that less experienced pairs feel they need more assistance prior to or during the event and the Open and Women's team might have differing views on each of the roles.

8.4 Amendments to Coach and NPC Guidelines

David Burn agreed to look at and update the Coach guidelines to more accurately reflect the current role and Jeremy Dhondy agreed to do the same for the NPC guidelines.

8.5 Premier League 2018

One of the venues for the first weekend has advised they no longer wish to host the event. As soon as a replacement venue is confirmed the Secretary will update the website to show that we are taking entries for 2018. Gordon will advise whether the reserve weekend is needed as soon as the date for the Autumn Congress is confirmed.

9. WOMEN'S EVENTS

9.1 Lady Milne Trials

The Lady Milne Trials went well however there had been complaints received from several players that the event was restricted to 16 pairs and not open to all applicants. The possibility of a pre-trials format was suggested with all entrants playing the first stage and some players exempted into the second stage. The pre-trials could take place in early December and all applicants for these Trials would be listed on the EBU website.

9.2 European Women's Team Trials

The problem of travel disruptions due to the forecast of bad weather and the possibility of resulting substitutions were discussed in respect of the Trials which are due to take place 2nd-5th March. The non-conflicted members of the Committee agreed that section 5.2 of the Conditions of Contest covered this eventuality, and that the TD could authorise emergency substitutions if necessary. Gordon Rainsford advised that it is proving difficult to find BBO operators to cover the Trials and Paul Barden agreed to ask if any of the Juniors are available to help.

10. SENIORS EVENTS

10.1 Teltscher Trophy Trials

The Penfold team were congratulated on winning the Teltscher Trophy Trials. They played the Trials as a team of four and their request to add John Holland as a fifth player was agreed by the Committee.

10.2 Timings of European Seniors Trials

There have been some complaints about the schedule of the Trials – the timings were very generous and everyone finished early. Some teams had requested that the TD to bring the times forward but after consultation he could not change because of an objection from one player. Gordon Rainsford commented that we have to allow a 20 minute correction period and need to allow time for any appeals, and also there are sometimes time constraints because of BBO coverage. The teams all felt in future that they would prefer a longer trial, over four days like the European Open and Women's Trials and not have a play off. Gordon confirmed that in the play-off the timings can be changed at the discretion of the TD after consulting with both teams.

11. JUNIOR EVENTS

11.1 Channel Trophy NPCs' reports

The NPCs were thanked for their excellent reports on the event. The U21 and U26 Women each finished in second place in their events with the U26 team finishing a rather disappointing fourth.

11.2 Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer NPC reports

The NPCs were again thanked for their excellent reports on the event. Congratulations to the England Peggy Bayer team who were run- away winners and the England U26 team who won the Junior Camrose, 13 VPs ahead of the EBU Junior team, who in turn finished 18 VPs ahead of the third placed team Scotland.

There were one or two organisational problems, mainly with the hotel. The Tournament Directors were not allowed in the playing area to set-up until shortly before the Captains meeting and the banquet on the final night did not happen as planned. There were no Viewgraph commentators or officials attending from the EBU to present the prizes and Paul Barden thought the other NBO's were rather underwhelmed by the hospitality offered. Gordon commented that BGB regulations state that Viewgraph is optional and that we usually don't get spectators. NPC's are sometimes asked to commentate at these events.

The Committee agreed however that we need to ensure an EBU official is present when we host the Camrose next year.

11.3 Junior Squad Leaders reports and recommendations for World Juniors

Michael Byrne recommended the following U21 team for the World Championships.

Harry Madden & Kripa Panchagnula
Liam Sanderson & Daniel Winter
Theo Anoyrkatis & Sam Anoyrkatis
NPC Michael Byrne

The Committee were pleased to approve Michael's recommendation.

Paul Barden reported that he was unable to make recommendations yet and the Committee requested that he do so by the end of March.

12. DATES FOR 2018-2019

Dates for 2018-19 season are all confirmed and on the EBU Calendar although as previously discussed some venues are still to be confirmed.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs

Paul was thanked for co-ordinating the booklets for the Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs which took place 6th/7th February. The Secretary reported a similar number of clubs had participated in the event as in 2017.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for June and the Chairman will poll members for suitable dates nearer the time.