



**Minutes for the Selection Committee Meeting  
at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Minute Items

**1. Apologies for Absence**

None

Present: Alan Mould, Jeremy Willans, David Bakhshi, David Burn, Paul Barden, Ian Payn, Gillian Fawcett, Mike Bell, Gordon Rainsford, Charlie Bucknell.

**2. Election of the Chair for the Year 2020**

Alan Mould and Paul Barden were nominated

Alan Mould was elected as Chair of the Selection Committee for 2020.

**3. Election of the Vice Chair for the Year 2020**

Jeremy Willans and Mike Bell were nominated

Jeremy Willans was elected as Vice Chair of the Selection Committee.

**4. Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

a. Accuracy

The secretary was reminded that accuracy of minutes was important in order for future minutes to be approved.

The accuracy of the minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were approved.

b. Matters Arising

The Selection Committee gratefully passed on their thanks to Jeremy Dhondy for his years of service on both the Selection Committee and the Board.

The Selection Committee also thanked Gillian Fawcett for successfully steering the Selection Committee as Chair for her term of office.

Regarding Item 2 of the minutes, the issue regarding the timing of the European Mixed Teams has been resolved. Gordon Rainsford will confirm with Sam Kelly that the county secretaries will be notified of trial dates and the problems with agreeing them in good time.

**ACTION Gordon Rainsford**

Mike Bell noted that the Premier League was often around the time of the World Championships in the relevant years, which limits the number of available dates.

Regarding Item 3 of the previous minutes, Sam Kelly is to send another email to clubs to encourage entries for the Junior Squad Simultaneous Pair events to help raise funds for

the Junior Squads. Paul Barden to look at providing biographies of juniors and past juniors for the commentary of the Junior Squad Simultaneous Pairs.

**ACTION Sam Kelly and Paul Barden**

The secretary will circulate the Conflict of Interests register to Selection Committee members in order for them to update their conflicted interests.

**ACTION Charlie Bucknell**

The World Bridge Games (formerly the Olympiad) was unofficially suggested to take place from the 21<sup>st</sup> August until the 5<sup>th</sup> September in Salsomaggiore, Italy. Jeremy Dhondy had been unable to suggest dates for the Premier League until this was known, but the Selection Committee shall now proceed assuming that the date is correct. The Selection Committee suggested that the date of the Crockfords final could change from the first weekend in September to a different date.

Regarding the Conditions of Contest, templates are now available, and dates can be put in to update them.

No issues arose from Items 8-11

Item 12 – guidelines for NPC/Coaches

The Selection Committee agreed that these were in need of an update. Alan Mould would circulate drafts for the Selection Committee to approve. The secretary would send Alan the current letters.

**ACTION Charlie Bucknell and Alan Mould**

## 5. **Review of Decisions taken between Meetings**

### **Decisions taken since Selection Committee Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

The addition of Green and Khandelwal to the Hinden Premier League team was approved. A number of additions to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> division premier league teams were approved.

The revised General Conditions of Contest were approved.

The revised Premier League Specific Conditions of Contest were approved.

Exemptions to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> stages of the Open European Trials were agreed, with all SC members who had entered recused from that decision.

The Specific Conditions of Contest for the Open European Trails were approved.

The Venice Cup team were invited to represent England at the IMSA games in 2020. Sarah Bell was approved as a replacement for Yvonne Wiseman. Conflicted SC members (GF & MB) were recused.

The Channel Trophy teams were approved:

U21

Oscar Selby / Harry Madden

Sam Anorykatis / Liz Gahan

Theo Anorykatis / Andy Cope

NPC Michael Byrne

U26W

Laura Covill & Ewa Wieczorek  
Megan Jones & Imogen La Chapelle  
NPC Sally Brock

U26

Aaron Hutton and Filippos Kritsalis  
Charlie Bucknell and Ollie Powell  
Ben Norton and Eshan Singhal  
NPC David Bakhshi

The Specific Conditions of Contest for the Lady Milne and Teltscher Trophy Trials were approved.

Six pairs were invited to represent England in the French practice match (conflicted SC members were recused):

Norton/Bell  
Holland/Mould  
Atthey/Rosen  
Byrne/Dyke  
Green/Khandelwal  
Barden/Kendrick

The SC agreed to disqualify Gad Chadha from the Open European trials for a breach of the Conditions of Contests. SC members playing in the trials abstained.

The format of the Lady Milne and Teltscher Trophy trials were agreed. There would be no exemptions to stage 2 of the LM trials, but stage 2 would consist of 12 pairs. All conflicted SC members were recused.

We have indicated to organisers that we will enter junior teams to the Whitehouse and to the Swedish Champions Cup, but this is subject to the budget being available for the former and no financial support for the latter.

The SC approved the correction of scoring errors in the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the European Open trials under Law 79C2, and agreed the format of the final stage of the trials

The de Botton team was invited to the first weekend of the Camrose, and Peter Hansenson was appointed as captain.

The Black team was unable to accept the invitation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of the Camrose. The SC invited the 3<sup>rd</sup> placed team (Small) and will approve a 3<sup>rd</sup> pair following the final stage of the European Open trials. MB/DbA/PB were recused.

The SC agreed to exempt 3 pairs to the final stage of the Women's European trail and the format of the first stage was agreed. GF/DbA/MB were recused.

Alexander Hydes was approved as an addition to the Camrose Team participating in the first weekend.

The secretary sent an email to confirm the Junior Camrose team and invite players to represent their country.

### Finances

#### a. 2019-2020 Budget

The Selection Committee noted that the budget was approximately £10,000 over, mainly due to the budgeted £15,000 of donations not being achieved, but offset by the world championships costing approximately £5,000 less than budget. Gordon Rainsford will ask Gail Nancarrow about the audit trail for the donation to EBED for the Spring Fours Donation in light of concerns over funding for the Juniors to play in the Spring Fours.

Unless £10,000 can be found before March 2020, severe cuts may have to be made to the budget.

**ACTION Gordon Rainsford**

It was noted that teams cannot go over the £2500 budget for the Camrose and should they do so, it was suggested that the teams would have to pay the excess.

It was suggested that the Camrose teams, who play in the PL anyway and are therefore self-determining, might not need captains and that this could also save some money. Gordon Rainsford will ask Gail Nancarrow regarding the over budget allocation for the Lady Milne, which is coming in at roughly £870 over budget.

**ACTION Gordon Rainsford**

The Teltscher trial income is just below the projected budget and the projection for the Olympiads cannot be accurately forecast yet.

Funding is also being saved by the reduction of meetings for training in the Junior Squads. It was also suggested that travel for these meetings shouldn't be subsidised, likening it to other junior sports, such as chess, where subsidies for training were rare. It was suggested taking £2900 from the Under 26 Women's budget to put towards the deficit. This was agreed.

The White House Tournament was proposed to have funding cut and to seek sponsors although it was argued that it would not be a good ongoing long term strategy, as it would not be a consistent source of funding for the future and that the Selection Committee needed to decide which events needed funding. To have funding consistently, one would require a sponsor for a long period of time, preferably 5 or more years.

It was suggested that overseas Bridge invitational event funding could be cut, which would save £1450 (in addition to the £2900 from the U26 Women's budget). This was agreed.

Alan Mould will consider with Jerry Cope how to deal with the budget overspend. The Selection Committee remain undecided on whether the White House 2020 would be funded.

**ACTION Alan Mould and Jerry Cope**

6. **The 2020-2021 Budget** has not been set yet, therefore the subsequent discussion will cover general principles. The Selection Committee is expecting a budget cut and considered that budgeting for funding from sponsorship was a mistake unless it was realistic to expect it to materialise.
7. A letter from the WBF invited the U26 Women's team to the 2020 Youth World Team Championships although they had not qualified at the Europeans. Alan Mould will consider funding opportunities for this event for all 5 teams that have been invited in the paper alluded to above.
8. The Selection Committee understood that the budget was at bursting point and that they funded three main things: Travel, accommodation and entry fees. Captains were funded as an opportunity cost to hold teams together at extra expense and provide reports to help with future selections. Alan Mould will present to the Committee a paper with suggestions for future budget allocations with a plan for what the Selection Committee will fund. Funding for the U31 category was rejected.

**ACTION Alan Mould**

It was asked if the Selection Committee was committed to funding the Bermuda Bowl or the Venice Cup. The chair responded that the Selection Committee was not bound to do so but that it would require board permission to stop such funding.

It was suggested that the EBU could ask various people and companies for fundraising and hope that if even one hit it would be more successful than not asking again. The secretary will look at corporate sponsorship and circulate the sponsorship plan and offers for the Selection Committee to review.

**Action: Charlie Bucknell**

## 9. **Conditions of Contest**

There was discussion around several changes to the General Conditions of Contest for Trials.

### 9.1

It was suggested that the correction period for scoring errors in the General Conditions of Contest should be increased to at least one day. It was agreed that the cut off points and suggested deadlines should move away from 5pm towards midday.

It was suggested that to help allow players to check their scores, sessions be immediately uploaded to the website. Gordon Rainsford said that, as the Tournament Director for the next trial, he will look into these issues and try to help improve the processes for future trials.

The General Conditions of Contest will be amended before the European Trials in January 2020.

When results are published, they will be subject to changes for an extended period provided the error can be established beyond reasonable doubt.

Action: Alan Mould and Gordon Rainsford

### 9.2 Concerning WBF System Cards

The Committee revisited whether WBF convention cards should be a requirement. . It was suggested that it should be kept for the events which potentially offered caps to the players on the international stage. This would mean that the top division of the Premier League and all other trials would require WBF System Cards but other events would be optional for EBU or WBF System Cards.

Action: Alan Mould to ensure next year's PL Conditions of Contest had this regulation

### 9.3 On the issue of nationality and eligibility

The Selection Committee will not insist on players changing their flags on the EBL/WBF website, until absolutely necessary, which is when they are selected to play in a EBL/WBF event which is not a junior or transnational event.

## 10. Withdrawals from Trials

There had been a withdrawal after qualification from stage 1 to stage 2 of the trials and another withdrawal after qualification from stage 2 to stage 3 of the trials. The Committee were reminded of their right to invoke sanctions and discussion ensued about what the Selection Committee would like to do in general instances of withdrawals and in the specific cases.

### 10.1

It was suggested that the time of withdrawal might affect the sanctions, suggesting that any time before 2 days after the end of a stage would have less stringent sanctions than a withdrawal later than this. It was suggested that the withdrawal might have a knock-on effect on other players as those withdrawing might have displaced other competitors. Gordon Rainsford offered to make it an option to request withdrawal from the Selection Committee so that they could refuse or accept withdrawals. It was suggested that in some cases it would be difficult for players to receive time off of work and perhaps that the Selection Committee might allow players to enter but not to progress so long as they informed the Selection Committee in advance of their desire to withdraw. This would allow the Selection Committee to make an informed decision as to whether or not to allow their entry. Alan Mould reminded the Selection Committee of the regulations concerning these matters in the General Conditions of Contest, which the Selection Committee confirmed as sufficient.

### 10.2 Bowles and Mohandes

The pair in question had suggested that they had read a version of the Conditions of Contest which allowed them to withdraw. It was agreed that the pair could have sought clarification and that one of the partnership had previous experience and knowledge of how withdrawals and the Committee worked, having been a previous chair of the Committee.

### 10.3 Townsend and Forrester

It was judged that the pair had entered the trials in good faith and that the partnership had simply fallen apart, and one player was unwilling to continue.

It was noted that this could be a disciplinary process, as stated in the General Conditions of Contest. The issues could be referred to the Laws and Ethics Committee as a matter of progression. The sanctions are referred to in Section 2.11 in the General Conditions of Contest, but it was agreed that they would not be applied in these instances.

It was agreed to write to the players, expressing in three cases the Committee's disapproval, but that no sanctions would be applied.

**Action: Alan Mould**

## 11. **Player Contracts**

### 11.1 England Uniform

It was noted that current player contracts required certain actions that were not enforced, such as wearing uniforms or attending ceremonies and that therefore should they be removed. Gordon Rainsford noted that the wearing of uniforms is required by the conditions of the EBL and WBF and therefore could not be removed from the player contracts. It was suggested that the contract clauses should be enforced. One possibility would be to only pay half of the per diems before an event and to provide the remainder upon completion subject to wearing the uniforms, attending the opening and closing ceremonies if required by the NPC, and other duties as stipulated in the player contracts. It was pointed out that the sponsorship clause concerning the players uniform may change if the EBU seeks funding from sponsors for their international teams.

The Selection Committee pondered how to ensure that the NPC would cooperate in reminding their players to fulfil their contract. It was suggested that the source of information regarding contract completion was unimportant so long as it was trustworthy, and that the NPC must ensure that their players cooperated.

Team preparation was considered to be desirable but not absolutely necessary. The player contract was agreed to be in need of revision. The secretary would remind players of their obligations in their invitation email. Alan Mould and the secretary would draft a selection email to this extent.

**ACTION Alan Mould and Charlie Bucknell**

## 12. **Captains' Reports**

### 12.1

Reports would go to all Committee Members excepting those with spousal or immediate family relations to players concerned.

### 12.2

Gordon Rainsford would ask Jeremy Dhondy if feedback was sent to WBF for events.

**ACTION Gordon Rainsford**

The question of what feedback can players receive given that the NPC report is confidential from the players was raised.

It was raised that any board member can read the NPC reports which would conflict with the confidentiality of the reports. A solution was proposed to split the NPC report in two, one part would be available for the board and open consumption whereas the other part would be confidential for the Selection Committee only and recuse those conflicted. The secretary would provide the Selection Committee with the current template and send Alan Mould a draft of a new report format.

**ACTION Charlie Bucknell**

### 13. **Open Events**

#### 13.1

The Selection Committee sends its gratitude to Neil Rosen for his Captain's Report on the World Bermuda Bowl and the secretary will send an email thanking him so.

#### 13.2

The Selection Committee understood that teams would need to be selected before considering an NPC and coach. It was debated if the Selection Committee would continue to fund the coaches.

#### 13.3

Several EBU members in contention were playing in a French Trial match, for which arrangements would need confirming by the secretary regarding the hotel.

**ACTION Charlie Bucknell**

### 14. **Women's Events**

The Selection Committee sends its gratitude to David Gold for his Captain's Report on the World Venice Cup and the secretary will send an email thanking him so.

### 15. **Seniors and Mixed Events**

The Selection Committee thanked Paul Barden for his report on the Mixed World Teams Championships and sends its gratitude to David S Jones for his report on the D'Orsi Bowl, the secretary will send an email thanking him so.

**ACTION Charlie Bucknell (all reports)**

### 16. **Junior Events**

#### 16.1

The Selection Committee concurred that it would be in poor taste to cut the honoraria to squad leaders twice in one year

#### 16.2

The Selection Committee will consider if David Bakhshi is considered conflicted as a squad leader when Liam Sanderson is old enough to join the U26 Squad.

#### 16.3

A discussion took place around the role of the Committee's Junior Liaison Officer. It was suggested that it would be valuable to have a Selection Committee member familiar with junior players and that it would be realistic to redefine the role. Squad leaders still liaise with Paul Barden, current holder of the role, before going to the Selection Committee and it was suggested that it would be good for them to have a point of contact. It was mentioned that the role was particularly helpful for Sally Brock. It was suggested that because direct



communication digitally was now possible the role was almost redundant. This was reinforced by Giorgio Provenza and Michael Byrne's independent leadership, whilst it was suggested that they might do better to ease the pressure on the Chair to go via Paul Barden. The Selection Committee concluded that there was a need for a role for Junior Liaison Officer, simply that it needed a closer up to date definition. This would be worked on by Paul Barden, Alan Mould, Gillian Fawcett and David Bakhshi.

**ACTION Paul Barden, Alan Mould, Gillian Fawcett, David Bakhshi**

16.4

For the selection for the NPC of the Peggy Bayer, the Selection Committee would listen to the recommendations of Michael Byrne.

16.5

Funding of the Junior Women's Squad had raised concerns that the EBU were funding foreign nationals to play for England. Concerns were also raised over funding players to travel in from abroad to play for England. A debate ensued about the effect that restricting funding would have on access for the teams and it was agreed that this should be a later separate agenda item.

The viability of the U26 Women's Squad was discussed. The idea of merging them into the Junior Open Squad and then selecting women for women's events from it was considered, and there was the consideration that women were encouraged to play in female partnerships as a result of selections for the women's team. This was suggested to be added to the discussion regarding budget for future meetings.

## 17. Committee Procedures

Mike Bell agreed to undertake dates and calendar organisation

Jeremy Willans volunteered to undertake the financial aspects of the Selection Committee with assistance from Paul Barden, Mike Bell and Gillian Fawcett

Alan Mould took responsibility for Conditions of Contest and that Robin Barker would update them with the dates and format. Alan Mould would liaise with Gordon Rainsford and Robin Barker to this effect.

Paul Barden would be responsible for the Simultaneous Pairs and the Junior Liaison

## 18. Simultaneous Pairs

This item has been considered in the responses to previous items.

## 19. Vugraph at Selection Committee Events

Gordon Rainsford and the secretary would confirm that there were Vugraph operators ready for the final stage of the European Open Trials.

**ACTION Gordon Rainsford and Charlie Bucknell**

It was considered whether it should be part of Junior training to Vugraph high level events to give them a better chance of meeting and kibitzing top level players.

Venues were discussed as part of the Vugraph discussion and it was agreed that the feedback from Spondon was overwhelmingly positive. Other venues that were to be discussed were Cheltenham, Wimbledon, Coventry and Brookdale.

**Action: Alan Mould to write to squad leaders to ask them to encourage their members to undertake Vu-Graph duties**

20. **Dates for next season**

Mike Bell would create a draft for the Selection Committee to agree on.

**ACTION Mike Bell**

21. **Date of next meeting**

Alan Mould would discuss this via email with Selection Committee members but February was established as a general guestimate.

**ACTION Alan Mould**

22. **Any Other Business**

The Selection Committee may consider co-opting another member, the Board may wish to appoint another member. It was noted that the Selection Committee was lacking gender diversity and that perhaps this could be noted in the choice of a new member.