



**MINUTES THE MEETING OF THE EBU SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2019
AT THE YOUNG CHELSEA BRIDGE CLUB, LONDON**

Present:

David Bakhshi	
Paul Barden	
Mike Bell	
David Burn	
Jeremy Dhondy	EBU Chairman
Gillian Fawcett	Chairman
Dawn Mertens	Secretary
Alan Mould	Vice Chairman
Ian Payn	EBU Vice Chairman
Gordon Rainsford	EBU CEO
Jeremy Willans	

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence. Apologies had been received from David Bakhshi and David Burn who had indicated that they may be slightly late arriving for the meeting.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2019

Gillian Fawcett was proposed by Alan Mould, seconded by Jeremy Dhondy and duly re-elected Chairman.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2019

Alan Mould was proposed by Ian Payn, seconded by Jeremy Dhondy and duly re-elected as Vice-Chairman.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 13TH NOVEMBER 2018

4.1 Accuracy.

There were no matters of accuracy.

4.2. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising not already covered by the Agenda.

5. REVIEW OF DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

The Committee agreed that the following was an accurate record of decisions taken between meetings.

The EBU teams for the Camrose were selected.

Alan Mould was appointed as captain of the de Botton team for weekend 1 of the Camrose and David Burn was appointed as captain of the Allfrey team for the Camrose weekend 2.

The U26 Junior Camrose team was approved:

Charles Bucknell and Dominic Price
Ben Norton and Shahzaad Natt
Eshan Singhal and Ian Robson

NPC: David Bakhshi

Jeffrey Allerton was approved as captain of the Mixed team for the European Championships.

The following team was approved for the Teltscher Trophy:

Paul Hackett, Norman Selway, David Mossop, Brian Senior, Gunnar Hallberg and John Holland. NPC Simon Cocheme.

It was agreed that we would fund the EBU Camrose teams on the same basis as the England teams.

Following a withdrawal of one of the pairs, Heather Dhondy and Sally Anoyrkatis were exempted to the final trial for the Lady Milne.

Michael Byrne has withdrawn as captain to the Venice Cup team (due to his potential commitment to the Mixed teams). David Gold was selected as captain in his place.

The U21 Peggy Bayer team was approved:

Andy Cope & Theo Anoyrkatis
Liz Gahan & Sam Anoyrkatis
Oscar Selby & Imogen La Chapelle
Reserves: Liam & Jamie Fegarty

NPC Michael Byrne

The U26 team for the World Youth Online Championship was approved:

Ben Norton and Shahzaad Natt
Dominic Price and Charles Bucknell
Tony Ye and Stephen Kennedy
Jonathan Clark and Kripa Panchagnula

NPC: David Bakhshi
Coach: Andrew McIntosh

The U16 team for the World Youth Online Championship was approved:

Jasmine Bakhshi
Dido Coley
Jamie Fegarty
Kim Hudson
Henry Rose
Theo Sinclair

The U26 team was approved for the White House:

Charles Bucknell and Dominic Price
Stephen Kennedy and Tony Ye
Ben Norton and Shahzaad Natt
NPC: Andrew McIntosh

It was agreed that the Committee should invite the Black team to be the England nominated team for the Yeh Bros event.

The U26W team for the White House was approved:

Ewa Wieczorek & Olivia Bailey
Siyu Ren & Laura Covill
Hanna Tuus & India Leeming

NPC: David Burn

Travel and accommodation arrangements for the World Championships were agreed.

The Venice Cup team was selected for the World Mind Sports Association World Masters.

The Lady Milne team was selected:

Sally Brock & Gilly Cardiff
Catherine Draper & Susannah Gross
Nicola Smith & Yvonne Wiseman.

NPC: Andrew Murphy

The Chairman expressed thanks to Peter Hasenson for his past work and to Dawn Mertens who was attending her last meeting as secretary. She then welcomed new committee member Mike Bell and reminded members of the confidentiality of matters discussed during the meeting.

6. FINANCES

David Burn joined the meeting

6.1 Report on 2018/2019 Open/Women's/Seniors budgets.

Accounts were circulated up to including the end of December. As previously noted income and expenditure for the trials were both more than budgeted due to larger number of Premier League entries than anticipated and the addition of the Mixed Trials. The expenditure for the Women's Trials will appear in the January budget. Current expenditure is within £1,000 of the amount budgeted.

6.2 Report on 2018/2019 Junior budgets.

Paul Barden agreed to take responsibility for the Junior budgets after requesting some clarification of the figures. The Chairman reiterated her request for the current month to date accounts to be issued to the Committee prior to meetings.

David Bakhshi joined the meeting

6.3 Proposed 2019/20 Budgets

Gillian Fawcett and Paul Barden will check through the draft 2019/20 budgets. They requested separate accounts for the major championships in the Junior budgets and asked if the donations for the Spring Fours could be shown separately.

7. TRIALS

7.1 Ordering of Trials

Players and members of the committee had expressed concern over the planned order of the trials. The trials for the women's team, which is totally funded, are last in the sequence of planned trials. This was done because it was thought that the Mixed and Women's Europeans would not be held at the same time.

After qualifying for a team a player would not be allowed to have the option to decline a place on that team and play in a later trial. The only exception would be the Mixed Europeans as we believe the event will not be held at the same time as the other European Championships.

It was agreed to revise the dates of the trials with the first stage of the women's trials held on the same date as the open trials, with any women who have entered both trials and who progress to the final of the open trials exempted to the finals of the women's trials. The published dates for the mixed and women's trials will be swapped over.

The Chairman to draft an amendment to the information already on the website

7.2 Conditions of Contest

David Burn has updated the Conditions of Contest and will circulate to the Committee for their approval. It was agreed that as much as possible should be included in the General Conditions keeping the Specific Conditions as short as possible. If there is a generic Specific Conditions of Contest, then alterations for numbers of pairs/boards/substitutes etc. can quickly be made.

8. OPEN EVENTS

8.1 Premier League 2019

The Committee is aware that several teams are splitting up prior to the 2019 event. There may therefore be a problem when discussing the composition of each division in that all of the Committee members will be conflicted as they are themselves playing in the Trials. The Committee agreed to set up the principle now that we will recuse Committee members when discussing their own teams, but they can contribute to decisions about the composition of divisions.

The Secretary to announce on the EBU website that entries are now being taken for 2019 with a closing date of 31st May 2019.

8.2 Captain's reports for Camrose 1st weekend

The NPC's were thanked for their reports in respect of the England and EBU teams for the first weekend. The EBU team are leading the event at the halfway stage with the England team in second place.

Both NPC's mentioned in their reports the lack of boards at the first weekend. Gordon assured the Committee that this would not be a problem when we host the second weekend in Coventry. Jeremy Dhondy agreed to raise this issue at the BGB Meeting. Alan Mould thought that there was no point in having the Viewgraph Theatre, saying it was almost impossible to watch, as the BBO operators were very inexperienced. We have a room available for a theatre for the second weekend but no-one organised to commentate although of course the NPC's or any players sitting-out are welcome to do so. Gordon said that although BBO operators are difficult to find in London fortunately it is much easier in the West Midlands.

8.3 Preparation for Bermuda Bowl

Alan Mould has enquired from the NPC what preparations the players are making and asked the Committee if they felt the team were doing enough. There is a practice match organised against the Dutch in April and David Bakhshi and Artur Malinowski are playing in the Yeh Brothers event. There are funds available in the budget for squad training depending on what the players would like. A suggestion was made that the pairs could practice in an event such as the Swiss teams at Eastbourne. The Committee to write again with their concerns suggesting a practice nearer the Bermuda Bowl, perhaps in the form of an online match.

9. WOMEN'S EVENTS

9.1 Practice match v. Netherlands

Gillian Fawcett reported that the match went very well and was good preparation for the Venice Cup. The Dutch were excellent hosts. The England Women won the match and it was very good for team spirit.

9.2 Selection of reserves for Venice Cup

The Committee agreed to leave the decision regarding selections of reserves for the Venice Cup at the present time.

9.3 Preparation for Venice Cup

In addition to the recent practice match all the members of the Venice Cup team will be playing in the IMSA World Masters in China in May. Heather Dhondy and Nevena Senior have also arranged to play an event together in Russia.

10. SENIORS EVENTS

The winners of the trials, as previously reported, will be playing the Teltscher Trophy event in Edinburgh in April and systems have already been submitted to BGB.

11. MIXED EVENTS

11.1 European Mixed Teams Championship

The England Mixed team were playing the last day of the European Mixed Teams Championships in Lisbon and were laying in 7th position whilst the Meeting was taking place meaning that they were very likely to qualify for the World Championships.

Secretary's note – the team finished in 5th position thus qualifying for the World Championships.

12. JUNIOR EVENTS

12.1 NPC reports for Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer.

David Bakhshi was thanked for his comprehensive report on the Junior Camrose and the team were congratulated on winning their event. Michael Byrne has yet to submit his report as he is currently away playing in the European Mixed Teams. The Peggy Bayer team were also congratulated on winning their event.

12.2 Selection of teams for Junior Europeans – Oslo

Paul Barden will remind Squad Leaders of their responsibilities with regard to under-age players.

It was felt that the squad contract forms and parental consent forms should be reviewed for the under 18's. The Secretary expressed concern that some of the younger U21's wished to travel alone to the Peggy Bayer. After checking with the players parents the flights were booked for the under-age players travelling in pairs to Belfast.

It was agreed that Squad Leaders should be asked for their recommendations for the Junior Europeans by mid-April latest.

12.3 Swedish Bridge Federation invite

The Swedish Federation have offered free entry and accommodation for a team of four Juniors for the Chairman's Cup in Orebro. The invitation has subsequently been extended to cover free entry for an additional team. It was agreed that the EBU would pay for accommodation for the second team but that players would be asked to pay for their own travel. This may be reconsidered in cases of hardship. David Bakhshi will recommend players from the U26 squad.

12.4 Code of Conduct for Squad Leaders

The U16 Squad Leader had asked whether Squad Leaders could play with a squad member on a professional basis. It was felt that payment of fees was not acceptable but a contribution towards expenses would be. The Committee to review the current code of conduct for Squad Leaders.

12.5 Squad Leader Honoraria

The rules regarding payments of honoraria have changed. Payments either have to be made through the payroll and tax and national insurance paid or if the recipient is self-employed they can invoice the EBU for an agreed amount. Gordon Rainsford to clarify with Accounts the procedure for such payments.

13. SELECTION GENERALLY

13.1 Procedures for selection of NPCs and Coaches for International Events.

The Conditions of Contest for Trials should state whether the qualifying team needed to have a NPC. It was agreed that we cannot insist on a non-funded team having a NPC and that they could appoint a Playing Captain. For funded teams the team can make a request for a particular player for their NPC but that player would need to be approved by the Committee.

13.2 Guidelines for NPCs and Coaches.

Jeremy Dhondy has already updated the guidelines for NPCs and David Burn agreed to update the guidelines for Coaches. On completion Gillian will circulate the guidelines to the Committee for approval.

13.3 Selection Committee involvement with arrangements for teams.

Alan Mould thought that the Committee had spent an awful lot of time discussing arrangements for the World Championships, which was not very productive, and suggested that players be given a budget to spend as they want. Jeremy Dhondy expressed his preference that the funded teams should stay together in the same accommodation.

The Committee therefore agreed that in future Open and Women's team players book their own flights and the EBU will agree a figure up to which they are able to claim. The EBU will book accommodation as soon as possible, when events are announced, at the nearest sensibly priced hotel. The EBU will continue to make travel arrangements for Junior players.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 EBL correspondence regarding event calendar

The counties felt that the timing of the 2018 Premier League, in particular division 3, took players away from their Green Point events. The county events are on set dates which have been in the calendar for forty plus years and are the counties main source of income. The Committee wondered if it was possible to set our dates earlier but as the dates of the Olympiad were not yet known it would be difficult to do so. The Committee were sympathetic to the problem but cannot amend this year's dates but will bear this in mind for 2020 events. It may be possible in future to hold division 3 on a different weekend or to hold the Premier League later in the year, although this is currently impractical.

The EBL had sent a letter requesting the EBU's preference for suggested dates for an event. It was thought the calendar was already crowded in October and February and that these months should be avoided. Gordon Rainsford to check the dates for clashes with EBU competitions.

14.2 Bridge England Sim Pairs

Complaints had been received regarding the decision to play the same boards on two consecutive nights for the Bridge England Sims Pairs. Overall the numbers of participants were down on previous years. There are lots of other Sim Pairs events and their popularity seems to be declining.

The Committee felt that the event should be rebranded so players are aware the fundraising is for Junior players and the Junior squad members should be more involved in getting clubs to play.

The Committee requested that the costs and income from these Sim Pairs be moved into the Junior International budget.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place in June.