



**MINUTES THE MEETING OF THE EBU SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2020
AT THE YOUNG CHELSEA BRIDGE CLUB, LONDON**

Present:

David Bakhshi	
Paul Barden	
Mike Bell	
David Burn	
Gillian Fawcett	
Alan Mould	Chair
Jeremy Willans	Vice Chair
Ian Payn	EBU Chair
Gordon Rainsford	EBU CEO
Charlie Bucknell	Secretary

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Accuracy of Minutes

Minute 12.1 was updated to State that parents or guardians of children in junior teams who were Committee members would receive NPC reports, provided the child was under 18 years of age. The remaining minutes were accepted as a true, accurate and correct record.

Matters Arising

The conflict of interest register was updated to include family and events of the Selection Committee members.

The NPC Guidelines sheet was agreed to be sent out routinely and a report was to be drafted to have a private and open section for the captains to provide a more robust report.

ACTION Charlie Bucknell

3. Review of Decisions taken between meetings

On further reflection, the Committee determined not to send letters to the two pairs who had withdrawn from the open trials (one after stage 1 and one after stage 2). The Committee notes that Mr. Tom Townsend did not withdraw from the trials.

The Specific Conditions of Contest for the Women's, Senior and Mixed European Trails were approved.

The Open team for the European Championships was selected:

- David Gold – Andrew Robson
- Alex Hydes – Ben Handley-Pritchard
- Ben Norton – Mike Bell

The first two were guaranteed selection through the trials. The third pair was selected by the Committee with Mike Bell and David Bakhshi recused.

The women's team for the European Championship was selected:

- Sally Brock – Fiona Brown
- Nicola Smith – Sarah Bell
- Catherine Draper – Gillian Fawcett

The first two were guaranteed selection through the trials. The third pair was selected by the Committee with Mike Bell and Gillian Fawcett recused

The senior team for the European Championship was approved:

- David Mossop – Gunnar Hallberg
- Brian Senior – Paul Hackett
- John Holland – Norman Selway

The team had won selection en block from the trials

The mixed team for the European Championship was approved:

The team had won selection en block from the trials

The third pair for the 2nd weekend of the Camrose was selected:

- Ben Norton – Mike Bell

The pair was given permission to prioritise the Winter EBL games over the Friday of the 2nd Camrose weekend

MB was recused from the discussion

Peter Hasenson was approved as NPC for the second weekend of the Camrose

The England team for the Lady Milne was selected:

- Sarah Teshome – Catherine Jagger
- Nicola Smith – Sarah Bell
- Anne Rosen – Nevena Senior

The first two were guaranteed selection through the trials. The third pair was selected by the Committee with Mike Bell and David Bakhshi recused

The "EBU" team for the Lady Milne was selected:

- Helen Erichsen – Fiona Brown
- Qian Li – Susanna Gross
- Claire Robinson – Heather Bakhshi

The team was selected with Mike Bell and David Bakhshi recused

The Committee noted that the IMSA event has been postponed indefinitely due to the coronavirus.

The Committee noted that a team will be sent to the White House Tournament, due to the generous sponsorship of TGRs and two anonymous donors and the generous support of the local counties of the juniors. The Committee thanks all the donors for their support of our junior teams.

The Committee approved the White House Tournament team:

- Stephen Kennedy – Tony Ye
- Jonathan Clark – Kripa Panchagnula
- Ollie Powell – Charlie Bucknell

The Committee agreed to send a second team to the Peggy Bayer and a second team to the Junior Camrose as a result of a request from BGB as other countries were unable to send a team. The second Peggy Bayer team has been funded by donations from parents, an anonymous donor and a grant from EBED. The first Peggy Bayer team has been funded by parents. The Junior Camrose teams were both funded. The Committee thanks all donors and EBED for their support of our junior teams.

The Committee approved the two Junior Camrose teams:

“England”

- Jonathan Clark – Kripa Panchagnula
- Laura Covill – Ewa Wieczorek
- Stephen Kennedy – Tony Ye
- NPC: David Bakhshi

“EBU”

- Harry Madden – Oscar Selby
- Sam Anoyrkatis – Liz Gahan
- Theo Anoyrkatis – Andy Cope
- NPC: Mike Bell

The Committee approved the two Peggy Bayer teams:

“England”

- Jack Ronayne – Theo Gillis
- Henry Rose – Jasmine Bakhshi
- Imogen La Chapelle – Alex Pemberton
- NPC: Heather Dhondy

“EBU”

- Jamie Fegarty – Venetia Anoyrkatis
- James Cater – Lucy Norman
- Bjorn Ahl – Thomas Gardner
- NPC: Giorgio Provenza

4. **Finances**

Charlie Bucknell would keep track of budgets for spending and claims so that it can be more accurately determined how much money the Selection Committee has available

ACTION: Charlie Bucknell

The Selection Committee will keep a closer eye on the forecast to be able to more fluidly understand what expenditure is available to them.

The 2019 – 2020 budget appears to be £3,700 overspent. This was accepted and approved by the Committee.

5. **Repurposing of Budget**

The Selection Committee was led to believe that if it wished to underspend in one year in order to overspend the following year, then it would be a risk as the money may no longer be available to them, however, the treasurer was willing to allow the budgets to be more fluid in this regard.

The treasurer was also understood to be willing to listen to a different adult and junior split in the budget so long as it remains the same total budget. The Selection Committee heard that the Board wanted to maintain funding for juniors. Because of the opportunity for all, the Board suggested that for the adults, funding the open team was of a higher priority, and the remaining categories were to be funded equally.

Discussion ensued of the Chair's suggestion for funding which suggested an equally balanced split amongst all categories.

The Chair is to email the 4 Year Plan to the Selection Committee.

ACTION: Charlie Bucknell, Alan Mould

Juniors

The view of the Committee was that it would support as fully as possible junior international representative events. The Committee did not classify the U31 category as a junior category, however, they agreed to make available the opportunity for a self-funded team to go to the event. The Committee agreed that it would provide uniforms for the U31 category. Because entry fees for this year are free for the U31, the discussion about whether the Committee would fund entry fees was deferred.

The Committee agreed to continue funding the U26W category. The Committee reminded itself of its right to refuse squad leader's recommendations and ask for further recommendations.

Home Internationals, Squad system and other events

It was suggested to the Committee that reimbursement for squad training weekends, the travel expenses for juniors should be done on an application basis. It was also suggested that for the Peggy Bayer and Junior Camrose the Selection Committee would fund the accommodation but ask players to fund their travel, whilst providing an application funding for those who request it. This would also extend to overseas events such as White House, Channel Trophy and Chairman's Cup.

The Selection Committee respected its promise to pay honoraria this year. It was noted that Michael Byrne and Giorgio Provenza most kindly offered to give up their honoraria, and the Committee thanked them for this. The Selection Committee will remove honoraria in the next year, but that they would be part of the discussion going forwards.

Adults

The Selection Committee accepted it would be impossible to fully fund all categories for Europeans and Worlds with an NPC and a Coach.

It was suggested to the Committee that one coach be sent for four teams, the open team receive full funding in line with the Board's suggestion and then the remaining funding be equally distributed amongst the other three teams. This was because the open team was available to all whilst the other three had some entry restrictions. Another alternative was to fund all four teams equally, and for any sponsorship income to go to the World Bridge Games funding. The final option was to create a list of events with priority for funding and fund top down. Since the board had made a suggestion, it was agreed to go to the board with a variety of options for them to choose from with the Selection Committee's choice, which will be debated.

ACTION Alan Mould

The Selection Committee agreed to discuss cutting per diems.

The Champion's Cup was not to receive funding and any squad training or overseas events was also defunded.

The Committee agreed that the winners of the Premier League would receive accommodation funding for their chosen Camrose weekend. However the second placed team would not. If the 1st placed team were unavailable then the second placed team would receive funding for accommodation. Neither team would receive funding for travel. The lady Milne team would receive funding for accommodation but not travel as now.

The Chairman would talk to Gail Nancarrow to circulate proposals on home international budgets.

ACTION Alan Mould

The Selection Committee discussed if the World Bridge Games should receive funding and wished to know the 4 Year Budget Plan and sponsorship approach. The Committee accepted it needed to find a systemic approach to sponsorship – reaching out to those sponsors who want to help bridge and those who would appreciate something in return along with firms who might have interest in sponsorship.

6. Junior Liaison Officer

The Selection Committee had read a proposal from the Chair detailing what the Junior Liaison Officer could do, but it was pointed out that the role is de facto not being done at the moment. The Committee agreed that there was a role for a Junior Liaison Officer. Discussion of the role itself was deferred until the next meeting.

7. Family officials

The previous policy was established and confirmed in February 2016. It declared a conflict of interest for a NPC or Coach to have a family member on the team. This would be disregarded in a self-funded team (where the NPC or Coach was also self-funded).

Squad Leaders

It was agreed that David Bakhshi would remain as U26 Squad Leader when Liam Sanderson aged into the squad, however, his recommendations would be scrutinized more thoroughly. If a team with Liam Sanderson was selected by the Committee, then the Committee would determine at that time whether it was acceptable for David Bakhshi to NPC it, but it was felt that this would be unlikely. David Bakhshi and Charlie Bucknell were recused for this item

8. Proposed Changes to the General Conditions of Contest

Playing requirements to merit selection from a team would now be chosen from any of the four following options, such that only one condition needs to be met to warrant enough play for selection purposes.

- 50% sets in the qualifying stages and 50% in the final
- 50% of the total number of boards
- All the qualifying boards
- All the final stages boards

The remaining Olympiad Trial Stages would be reduced from five days to four provided no more than 8 teams applied. The initial Friday would be removed which would allow those that do not reach the knockout stage to return to work on Monday. The Selection Committee also approved the use of 20 board sets when required.

If a team is 4 or 5 handed, they may suggest players up to a team of 6, but the Selection Committee reserves the right to accept or refuse these recommendations in favour of their own.

9. Open Events

Paul Barden was appointed NPC for the European Open Team. Paul Barden, Mike Bell, Gillian Fawcett and David Burn were recused.

As a result of the four teams going to Funchal, with only two playing venues, the Committee decided to approve 2 coaches, so that each playing venue would have access to a coach (one per two teams). Andrew Murphy was appointed to coach the Open team.

10. Women's Events

Jason Hackett was appointed as NPC for the European Women's team and David Burn was appointed as coach. Paul Barden, Mike Bell, Gillian Fawcett and David Burn were recused. David Burn also agreed to assist the Seniors in his coaching duties.

The Selection Committee decided that a funded NPC was needed for the EBU Lady Milne team. The chair would inquire as to who would be a sensible choice.

ACTION: Alan Mould

11. Senior Events

12. Mixed Events

The Chair will ask the European team captain for any further recommendations for NPC

ACTION: Alan Mould

13. Junior Events

The Selection Committee was pleased to see that the squad reports were growing more positive. It was suggested that the squad leaders provide a diary of when they expected to be able to provide recommendations for the Selection Committee.

ACTION: Alan Mould

The Selection Committee was recommended a selection for a player who only intended to play for England for one event before changing allegiance in nationality. Because this was not in keeping with the principles of the Committee for promoting English Junior Bridge, and effectively loaning a player, the Committee elected to refuse the recommendation since there was no demonstration of commitment to the England team. The Committee determined that whilst foreign nationals were welcome in the squad training programme, they would only be acceptable as selections for England junior teams if they committed to England whilst they remained resident in the country.

The Junior Camrose reports were positive and had good things to say.

14. The Committee agreed to encourage sponsorship wherever possible. Further discussion was postponed until the next meeting

15. Postponed

16. Postponed until the next meeting

17. Postponed

18. Complete

19. The Chair agreed to circulate a document requesting dates.

ACTION: Alan Mould

20. There was no Other Business.