



**Minutes for the meeting of the Selection Committee, held via Zoom
commencing 11am on Thursday 15th July 2021**

Present:

David Bakhshi	
Paul Barden	
Mike Bell	Chair
David Burn	
Gillian Fawcett	EBU Vice-Chair
Ian Payn	EBU Chair
Claire Robinson	
Jeremy Willans	Vice-Chair
Alan Wilson	
Gordon Rainsford	EBU Chief Executive
Charlie Bucknell	Secretary

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

Mike Bell thanked Alan Mould for the significant contribution he made during his time on the Committee, and welcomed Alan Wilson to his first Committee meeting.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 22nd February

2.1 Accuracy

The Minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

2.2 Matters arising and actions which are not agenda items

Re **3**:

Action: Alan Mould to start email chain for suggestions for LM NPCs

Complete. David Burn appointed NPC, Ollie Burgess appointed Assistant NPC.

Re **4**:

Action: Alan Mould to draft a letter to send to the board

Complete. Letter drafted, approved and sent.

Re **7**:

Action: Paul Barden to put together ideas for what a trial for the U26 team might look like.

Became irrelevant when the Junior World Championships were cancelled due to Covid.

Re **8**:

Action: CR to discuss restructuring the squad system with the remaining squad leaders.

Complete. It was resolved to not make any changes to the squad system at this time.

3. Review of decisions taken between meetings

Charlie Bucknell and Ewa Wieczorek added to the junior team for the Scottish Winter Foursomes.

Invitation received to two EBL Women's events to be held on RealBridge. The invitations were accepted and David Burn asked to sort out line-ups.

David Burn was appointed NPC of the Women's team for the Europeans, to be held either in Madeira or online.

Nick Sandqvist appointed U26 squad leader.

Advised by the EBL that the Europeans, due to be held either in Madeira or online, were cancelled. The Committee determined that selections originally made for the 2020 Europeans would not be carried over to the 2022 event. Players written to by Alan Mould (SC Chair) advising them of this, but that they would be selected for the 2021 Worlds or any qualification event for it.

Invitation to compete in the Junior International online teams on RealBridge. The Committee approved squad leaders to select teams for these events.

The EBL announced they would hold an online qualifier for the World Championships, in all four categories, to be held between 23rd-28th August on RealBridge. The Committee agreed to invite the four teams that were due to compete in the Euros.

The Committee noted Alan Mould's resignation both as Chairman and as a member of the Committee and thanked him for his service. As Vice-Chairman, Jeremy Willans agreed to take the role of Chairman on an interim basis.

U26, U19 and U16 International events to be played on RealBridge. The Committee approved squad leaders to select teams for these events.

Request from Nick Sandqvist for there to be an EBU Zoom account for junior training/ review of practice matches. Agreed by the Committee for the use of all squad leaders.

Due to one pair declining in each of the Open and Women's categories for the EBL Online Qualifier, further selections had to be made. The Committee decided to invite David Bakhshi and Tom Townsend in the Open category, and Nicola Smith and Nevena Senior in the Women's category.

The Committee welcomed Alan Wilson, after the Board exercised its right to appoint to the Committee to make the number of elected members up to the full complement (seven).

Mike Bell elected Chairman of the Committee.

U17 Europa Cup being organised by Giorgio Provenza. Giorgio's role as EBU representative, and funding if required, were approved by the Selection Committee. The following team was selected:

Jamie Fegarty – Thomas Gardner
Bjorn Ahl – James Cater
Venetia Anoyrkatis – Raphaela Sinclair
Lucy Norman – Charlotte Bedford

The Committee also approved this team's entry as "England U17" for the Chairman's Cup.

The Committee decided that only players with allegiance to England could play on the England Junior Premier League team. English juniors who are too old to be covered by the Board's free entry policy (i.e. those in their final year as a junior) can play on the team at a cost of £25 per weekend.

Jeremy Dhondy appointed NPC of the Mixed team for the EBL Online Qualifier.

Response to the EBL regarding the format of the Open category of the EBL Online Qualifier agreed.

The Committee received and reviewed the following NPC reports:

Camrose report from Claire Robinson.
Teltscher Trophy reports from Simon Cocheme and Alan Wilson.
Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer reports from Simon Cope and Mike Bell respectively.

The Committee thanked all NPCs for their reports.

4. Premier League

4.1 Number of divisions

The Committee agreed to split the 24 teams into three divisions of eight.

4.2 Assignment of teams within divisions

Division One

Neither Black nor Mossop had maintained continuity, but with the CoC prioritising "bridge merit" the committee decided to put these two teams into Division One.

Mike Bell, David Bakhshi, Paul Barden and Claire Robinson were recused.

Division Two

Modified Llamas, Harris, Phoenix and Nettleton will join the remaining teams in Division 2.

Paul Barden, Claire Robinson, Gillian Fawcett, David Burn and Ian Payn were recused.

4.3 Regulatory matters

Matter deferred.

5. Trials for 2022 Europeans, Lady Milne and Teltscher Trophy

5.1 Format

There will be difficulty scheduling, primarily due to the desire to avoid clashing with county events where possible. As a result, the viability of holding the first stage of the Open Trial during the Fall NABC was discussed.

It was agreed to hold a two-stage pairs trial for the Open category. There was discussion about publishing a minimum number of exempted pairs, but it was decided not to commit to such a number.

For the Women's category, both Lady Milne and Europeans trials were decided to be pairs trials. The LMT will be over one weekend (including a Friday) and the Europeans Trial will take place over one or two weekends depending on entries. *Note: it was later decided, for scheduling reasons, to reduce the Women's European Trial to one weekend.* In both cases, the top three pairs will be guaranteed selection.

Claire Robinson, Gillian Fawcett, Paul Barden and Mike Bell were recused

For the Mixed Trial, it was agreed to run as a pairs trial, top three pairs to be selected, over two weekends (with the right to reduce it to one).

Gillian Fawcett, Mike Bell, David Bakhshi, Paul Barden and Claire Robinson were recused

For the Senior's Trials:

Both the European and Teltscher Trials will run in a pairs format. It was agreed to select the top three pairs to represent England from each trial.

David Burn was recused

5.2 Regulations pertaining to entering multiple trials

It was agreed that players who have qualified for a team (other than the open team) can still enter subsequent trials. In the event that a player qualifies for a second team, their first invitation will be rescinded, and, at the discretion of the committee, either a player chosen to replace them or the next pair promoted.

5.3 Order of trials and scheduling

Dates to be determined via email.

6. EBL Online Qualifier

6.1 Seniors team line-up

Alan Mould has withdrawn from the team due to concerns over Covid-19. In accordance with the Conditions of Contest in force at the time of the 2020 trial, the Committee felt that the substitute should be chosen from the other trialists. It was agreed that John Hassett seemed the obvious candidate, but that the team should be consulted before making this selection. The Committee appointed Alan Mould to the role of Coach.

Action: Mike Bell to write to Simon Cochemé, NPC of the Seniors team.

6.2 Funding

It was considered desirable to provide (partial) funding to the players, especially for those who live outside of London.

Action: Jeremy Willans to write to the treasurer.

7. "Young Player of the Year" award

7.1 Decision whether to award this year

It was decided not to award the Young Player of the Year award this year, due to little face-to-face bridge having been played in the period. It was felt that there was a junior who merited recognition for services to junior bridge, but that it was not within the remit of the Committee to make such an award. It was agreed to recommend to the Board that such an award be given.

Action: Claire Robinson to write to the Board.

7.2 Number and nature of awards to be given

Matter deferred.

7.3 Players to award YPotY

Not applicable.

8. AOB

There was no other business.

9. Date of next meeting

To be discussed.

