



**Minutes for the meeting of the Selection Committee, held via Zoom
commencing 11am on Thursday 28th October 2021**

Present: David Bakhshi
Paul Barden
Mike Bell Chair
David Burn
Gillian Fawcett EBU Vice-Chair
Claire Robinson
Jeremy Willans Vice-Chair
Alan Wilson
Gordon Rainsford EBU Chief Executive
Sam Kelly Secretary

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Ian Payn

2. Minutes of the meeting of 15th July

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 **6.1:**

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

Complete. John Hassett was selected to replace Alan Mould.

Re **6.2:**

Action: Jeremy Willans to write to the treasurer.

Complete. The Board made available a contribution towards funding for the Open and Women's teams, reflecting the expectations that were in place at the time of the trials.

Re **7.1:**

Action: Claire Robinson to write to the Board.

Complete. The Board agreed to grant the proposed award.

3. Review of decisions taken between meetings

The Committee selected the following team for the Europa Cup:

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

The Committee decided that WBF convention cards should not be compulsory in divisions 2 and 3 of the Premier League.

The Committee selected the De Botton team, as winners of the 2019 Premier League, for the 2021 Champions' Cup:

Janet de Botton – Artur Malinowski
Tom Townsend – David Bakhshi
Glyn Liggins -Espen Erichsen

The Committee decided to ask for the draws for the upcoming trials to be fixed such that pairs with a potential interest in each other's performance play each other in the early rounds – for example, when two family members enter the same event in two different partnerships.

The Committee acknowledged the EBL's decision to allow two overage (by one year) players in each junior team at next summer's world championships and resolved to consider said overage players eligible for selection.

The Committee thanked the following for their NPC reports:

Jeremy Dhondy (European Qualifier, Mixed category)
Simon Cochemé (European Qualifier, Seniors category)
Paul Barden (European Qualifier, Open category)

4. Premier League

Following a request from a player, asking the Committee to review a decision from a TD in the Premier League not to apply a penalty for late arrival, the Committee discussed their power to waive a fine or overturn a decision by a TD. GR confirmed that the general regulations state in the case of a fine being issued the Committee are able to overturn if deemed necessary.

After discussion, the Committee decided that if a penalty is applied the committee have scope to remove it, but they do not have the power to retroactively apply a penalty where the TD has decided not to apply one.

Action: GR to clarify with all TDs, for future cases, that the preferred procedure would be to apply penalties as per the regulations in all cases and for the committee to waive said penalties if deemed appropriate.

5. Unplayed Matches in Trials

The Committee discussed practical solutions for instances where a player is unable to play in a trial match.

Suggestions included

- Ask (or force) the pair to withdraw
- Find a substitute for the missing player
- Have the relevant matches not occur, with scores assigned as appropriate

Following careful discussion, it was agreed that it would be difficult to improve current procedures. The formulas used for assigning scores are the same as used by the WBF and EBL.

6. Trials Withdrawals and Late Entrants

The committee discussed the issue of late entrants and withdrawals from trials. At the recent Open trials, three pairs withdrew after the schedule had been decided and preparation of the boards and hand records had begun. This led to the pairs playing fewer boards than planned (although this was mitigated by the subsequent acceptance of one late entry).

Various options to encourage early entries and discourage withdrawals were discussed. JW noted that the number of withdrawals seen at the Open trials was unusually high.

The committee decided that following the entry deadline all teams must pay a non-refundable entry fee. Fees would only be refunded at the committee's discretion. Following the entry deadline, pairs may be added to a standby list. Players on the standby list may be accepted to the trials upon committee discretion.

Action: MB to start a thread to determine the precise details of this arrangement.

7. Junior Teams

7.1 Peggy Bayer and White House

The usefulness of the Peggy Bayer as a training exercise was discussed – with some of the opposition being very inexperienced, gratuitous overbidding was often rewarded. It was agreed that the team captains should set the tone in this regard if they felt such tactics should be discouraged.

The Committee considered the suggestion that it might sometimes be appropriate to not send the oldest/strongest possible team to specific (non-championship) events. It was noted that the U16s had fewer opportunities for international selection than the other categories. The committee agreed that, in principle, the U16s should be given priority for the Peggy Bayer and, subject to funding, the U21s for the first White House slot.

7.2 Justification and Recommendations

Action: CR to ask the squad leaders for their recommendations for the Channel Trophy. The U26 and U21 recommendations would be required by Monday 8th November.

7.3 Online Training for the U21 Squad

The committee discussed the relative lack of online training sessions for the U21 squad. It was agreed that such sessions should be taking place, whether run by the U21 squad leader or by another volunteer. AW and JW also offered help in the administration of the sessions if needed.

Action: CR to discuss with Michael Byrne (U21 squad leader)

8. Preparations for Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup

The hotel booking has now been confirmed from the 26th at the 4* Regina B&B. A letter due to be sent to all teams, is being written by CB, MB & JW.

It was confirmed that there is currently no funding for coaches. There are no plans for formal coaching preparation.

9. AOB

There was discussion about how much members of the committee with potential conflicting interests should be included in discussion topics about their conflicts of interest. It was agreed that there would be a main discussion which included everyone, then a short period of time when any people with conflicting interests would be removed from the discussion, and finally the committee would cast their votes.

AW asked for the approach to selecting teams for the 2024 Europeans to be discussed in advance of agreeing the format of any trials. MB confirmed he would like to have this discussion following the next Europeans, which are to take place in June 2022.

CR added that the 2022 Premier League would also need to be discussed. MB suggested this should be addressed after the AGM.

10. Date and “venue” of next meeting

Thursday 16th December 11am via Zoom

