



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU SELECTION COMMITTEE HELD
AT TGRS BRIDGE CLUB, 19C CRAVEN RD, LONDON W2 3BP
ON WEDNESDAY 25TH JANUARY 2023**

Present:	Paul Barden (PB) Chairman & Elected Member
	Alan Wilson (AW) Vice Chairman & Elected Member David Bakhshi (DBa) Elected Member David Burn (DBu) Elected Member Claire Robinson (CR) Elected Member Patrick Shields (PS) Appointed Member Ian Payn (IP) EBU Chairman Gordon Rainsford (GR) EBU Chief Executive
	Heather Sanderson (HS) Secretary

1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Apologies for Absence: Abbey Smith and Jeremy Willans

1.2 Paul Barden and Alan Wilson were duly nominated and re-elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

2.1 The minutes of the meeting of 26th September 2022 were approved. Prior to the meeting, PS proofread and made corrections.

2.2 With a view to achieving a coherent record of online decisions and communications, there was a discussion re Zoho Cliq as an alternative to MS Teams. It was noted that email saves members from needing to monitor an additional program, but teamworking software offers better threading, and makes it easier to review past discussions.

2.3 Amendments to player contracts had been completed by PB and the documents provided to Louise Crisp, Secretary to the Selection Committee.

2.4 There was a discussion about the roles of junior officials.

3. Review of decisions taken between meetings

No one had anything to add to the list below, which accurately reflected decisions made.

3.1 The next meeting was deferred to January 2023, because one member was unable to attending a meeting in December.

3.2 We selected teams for the Channel Trophy, as nominated by the relevant Squad Leaders (U26, U26W, U21).

3.3 We selected two Camrose teams in accordance with the results of the Premier League. We appointed Simon Cope as playing captain of the Black team for the first weekend, and Peter Hasenson as non-playing captain of the De Botton team for the second weekend.

3.4 We decided that juniors offered places in both the Tollemache Final and the Junior Camrose, which clash, may make a free decision as to which invitation to accept.

3.5 We decided to hold the Lady Milne Trial over a single weekend, because of the relatively low number of entries.

3.6 We decided to play a U26 and a U21 team in the Junior Camrose, in which as hosts we have two teams, and a U16 team in the Peggy Bayer. We invited Squad Leaders to consult the U26W Squad Leader about additional players who might be included: two women's pairs were nominated for selection as a result. We approved the teams nominated by the Squad Leaders.

4. The Budget Process

4.1 It was noted that the budget is not confidential to Selection Committee members. In the past, the SC had a budget that it spent according to its priorities. In the aftermath of Covid, the Board decided that Open Team and Junior Team Europeans were the top priority and that other events could not be fully funded, so that the SC no longer has much discretion. IP confirmed that would be the case for the foreseeable future though he noted that the SC could submit a request for further funding, and it would be considered.

4.2 The Bursary fund is under the control of the SC and unspent monies could be used in the next financial year.

4.3 PS agreed to update the SC Terms of Reference and send to the Board for approval. **Action PS**

5. Funding of Home Internationals

It was noted that the budgetary year running April to March was inconvenient for the Lady Milne and Teltscher Trophies. Going forward we are expecting only limited funding (entry fees, uniforms and officials' expenses). The lack of funding will be made clear in the Conditions of Contest. It was suggested that something be published on the EBU website to further disseminate that the events are self-funded.

6. Wuhan Cup

According to WBF President, Jan Kamras, a potential place in the Wuhan Cup could not be confirmed by May. Consequently, in the event England is offered a place, the team will be selected based on applications received at the time. IP noted that three teams would have to decline their place before England received an invitation to participate.

7. Junior Bursaries

The Board has allocated £10,000 annually of which any unused can be carried over. SC does not want teams to be only for the wealthy. However, it is not possible to fund everyone. It was noted that three teams would contest the world youth team championships in Veldhoven, Netherlands in August. Additionally, it was agreed that although the Channel Trophy was expensive due to increased costs at Christmastime, it was worth sending teams in every category. IP suggested that a subcommittee of three people decide individual cases, on a confidential basis. PB said that he would

get in touch privately with committee members about assisting with bursary decisions on a subcommittee.

Action PB

8. Fundraising for Juniors

8.1 A discussion on fundraising ensued. PB expressed the view that fund raising was generally more successful for big events like European Championships.

8.2 Only 16 clubs have so far signed up to participate in the Junior Squad Sim Pairs despite advertising on the EBU website that it was a qualifier for the National Pairs. CR reported that a club was willing to donate money for juniors rather than run a Sim Pairs. She also noted that even with the small numbers £1,000 was raised and thus felt it was worth continuing. Moreover, it was thought that for the juniors who did this, the educational experience of writing up the hands was valuable. PS inquired about the EBU running a session online, probably RealBridge, on the second day of the event to avoid revealing the deals before players in clubs played the boards. GR agreed to investigate the possibility and try to anticipate unforeseen issues.

Action GR

8.3 PB raised the idea of auction pairs for fund raising. Attempts to hold an event last year were unsuccessful. It was noted that Norway had successfully raised money for juniors via a pro/am tournament.

8.4 English Bridge Education & Development (EBED) assisted in funding junior squad expenses. About two-thirds of a £5,000 donation went towards junior teams in Veldhoven with the balanced directed to general junior education funds. It was noted the EBED has charitable status and so some donors receive a tax rebate against their donations.

8.5 Contributions raised via the donate link on the EBU supporting youth bridge webpage were gratefully received. PB noted that it may be time to revise and update the webpage.

Action PB

9. EBU Safeguarding document

9.1 The SC do not have the power to alter the EBU safeguarding policy but may make suggestions to the Board for changes. The policy on drinking alcohol was discussed. It was agreed that players under 18 years of age should not consume alcohol. It was posited that it was not unreasonable to have restrictions on drinking for juniors when there are restrictions for the open and women's teams. There was concern that restrictions on alcohol are difficult to enforce. Other issues considered concerned alcohol consumption before the tournament has ended, drinking by officials and consumption of alcohol in front of underaged players. CR noted that underaged players can be on the same team as over eighteens. PB agreed to draft a suggestion in line with the feeling at the meeting.

Action PB

9.2 IP stated that officials should be properly trained regarding safeguarding. HS offered to put together a safeguarding test.

Action HS

10. Selection Methods

10.1 The SC confirmed that its approach of trials to determine the team was the right practice for the Home Internationals and would continue with at most minor changes for next year's events.

10.2 Historical methods of selection (Pairs, Teams & Performance Squad) were reviewed in conjunction with SC goals in the European and World championships to deliver more successful teams. While we work to improve the approach, it was agreed that it was inappropriate to treat all categories identically.

10.3 We discussed the potential costs and benefits of running an Open Squad from which the team would be selected, and which could play and learn together to help improve performance. A

subcommittee, consisting of PB and DBu, was tasked with drafting a proposal within two weeks' time with concrete dates and participants (players and manager) for an Open Team performance Squad. PB will liaise with DBu. **Action Dbu & PB**

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Selection of NPCs for the Lady Milne and Teltscher Trophies were deferred to an email discussion.

11.2 CR reported confusion over the cost of entries for squad members and juniors. GR agreed to follow up for tournaments held under the auspices of the EBU. **Action GR**

12. Date of next meeting

It was decided that the next meeting would take place online via Zoom with the date and time to be agreed via email.

Heather Sanderson
Acting Secretary to the Selection Committee
January 2023