



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU SELECTION COMMITTEE HELD ONLINE ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024

<b>Present:</b>	David Bakhshi (DBa) Chairman & Elected Member
	Abbey Smith (AS) Elected Member Alan Wilson (AW) Elected Member Claire Robinson (CR) Elected Member David Burn (DBu) Elected Member Paul Barden (PB) Elected Member Jeremy Willans (JW) Elected Member Patrick Shields (PS) Appointed Member Gordon Rainsford (GR) EBU Chief Executive
	Heather Sanderson (HS) Secretary

### 1. Procedural Matters

- 1.1 Apologies for Absence: Tony Russ and Adrian Darnell
- 1.2 Apologies for lateness: Gordon Rainsford
- 1.3 Conflicts of Interest were disclosed to HS. There was a discussion about conflicts of interest in the context of potential NPCs for teams.

### 2. Minutes and Matters Arising

- 2.1 Approval of [Minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024](#)
- 2.2 Query if the Board had finalised and approved the Terms of Reference for the SC.  
**Action: PS to email link when the ToR are on the website. [[SC ToR April 2024](#)]**

### 3. Decisions Between Meetings

- 3.1 The 2023 participants of the Lady Milne and Teltscher trials were surveyed about their preferences for location, food and scheduled date. Venues and dates were subsequently formalised in time to be included in the next EBU diary.
  - Lady Milne Trial – - 17th - 19th January 2025 at Young Chelsea Bridge Club
  - Teltscher Trial - 10th - 12th January 2025 at York Bridge Club
- 3.2 In accordance with the Specific Conditions of Contest, the winning pair of the Open Trial was selected for the [Open Team](#) for the 2024 European Championships. Their

preference for teammates together with that of the exempted pair were taken into consideration when selecting the third pair.

David Gold and Andrew Robson

Ben Handley-Pritchard and Tom Townsend

Ben Norton and Stefano Tommasini

NPC: Paul Barden

- 3.3 In accordance with the Specific Conditions of Contest, the winning team was selected for the [Women's Team](#) for the 2024 European Championships and their preference for teammates was taken into consideration when selecting the third pair.

Diana Nettleton and Sally Brock

Nevena Senior and Nicola Smith

Helen Erichsen and Fiona Brown

NPC: David Burn

- 3.4 In accordance with the result, the [Mixed Team](#) for the 2024 European Championships was selected.

Sarah Bell and Mike Bell

Heather Dhondy and Kieran Dyke

Maggie Knottenbelt and Michael Byrne

NPC: Derek Patterson

- 3.5 In consultation with the teams, the NPCs for the Open, Mixed and Women's Teams for the 2024 European Championships were selected.

- 3.6 Venues for the 2024 [Premier League](#) were formalised and publicised. A deadline of Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at noon was set for entries.

Weekend 1: 7th - 8th September 2024

Division 1 - Young Chelsea Bridge Club

Division 2 - Richmond Bridge Club -

Division 3 - West Midlands Bridge Club

Weekend 2: 28th – 29th September 2024

Division 1 - Tunbridge Wells Bridge Club

Division 2 - Young Chelsea Bridge Club

Division 3 - East Midlands Bridge Academy

Weekend 3: 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> November 2024 [changed from original October dates]

Division 1 - West Midlands Bridge Club

Division 2 - West Midlands Bridge Club

Division 3 - Young Chelsea Bridge Club

- 3.7 It was decided that no further entries past the deadlines would be accepted for the World Bridge Games (WBG). [After the meeting, it was acknowledged that it is standard to accept late entries where the numbers are convenient.]
- 3.8 The WBG Women's team entry was surveyed about their preference for adding a third pair and appointing an NPC.
- 3.9 It was agreed that the winners of the Open trial must represent England on the Open Team at the WBG and may not withdraw to play on another team at that championship.
- 3.10 Venues were formalised and published for the Open and Seniors trials for the WBG, respectively the Young Chelsea Bridge Club and the West Midlands Bridge Club.
- 3.11 The WBG [Mixed](#) Team entrants were surveyed about their preference for a trial venue and TGRs was subsequently booked.
- 3.12 The WBG Seniors entrants were surveyed about their preference for timings for the trial.
- 3.13 The U31 Team for the European Youth Championships were selected after inviting further team applications and receiving none.  
Aaron Hutton and Oliver Powell  
Kripa Panchagnula and Jonathan Clark
- 3.14 The committee clarified and implemented the assignment of responsibilities and communication protocol.
- 3.15 In accordance with the Specific Conditions of Contest, the winning team was selected for the Seniors Team for the 2024 European Championships.  
David Mossop and Gunnar Hallberg  
Alan Mould and John Holland
- 3.16 David Jones was appointed as NPC for the Teltscher Trophy Team.

#### **4. Proposed Junior Selections for the 2024 European Youth Team Championships**

- 4.1 There was a discussion about the number of players sent on Junior teams. It was noted that, whilst it has been typical to send teams of six to major championships, there have been exceptions in the past. It was also noted that the U16 and U26W events were shorter than that U21 and U26 events. There was a discussion about teams of four vs teams of five/six. It was agreed that squad managers would explain why they selected players and who else might be in the frame for selection.
- 4.2 It was noted that coaches were only appointed on a self-funded basis. Ewa Wiczorek requested that Charlie Bucknell be appointed as a coach for the U21 team and Michael Byrne requested that Stephen Kennedy be appointed as coach for the U26 team. Both were approved on a self-funded basis.

- 4.3 There was a discussion about junior funding.  
**Action: PS to report on the level of donations raised for the Juniors for this summer.**  
**Action: AS and AW to liaise and contact Oxfordshire about funds raised for Juniors.**

- 4.4 The U16 Team was approved. [CR and PB were recused for the NPC approval]  
Thomas Bradkin and Maks Blicharz  
Holden Clark and Cecilia Birdsall  
NPC Paul Barden

It was agreed that the squad manager, Alan Shillitoe, be asked about the possibility of bringing a reserve player.

It was noted that it was a difficult transition for U16s from online to playing face to face. AS reported that EBED are planning to address the U16s.

- 4.5 The U21 Team was approved.  
Charlotte Bedford & Lucy Norman  
Tom Furness & Henry Rose  
Jamie Fegarty & Thomas Gardner  
NPC Ewa Wiczorek
- 4.6 The U26W Team was approved. [CR and PB were recused]  
Dido Coley and Lily Kearney  
Liz Gahan and Imogen La Chapelle  
Reserve: Harriet Cork  
NPC Claire Robinson
- 4.7 The U26 Team was approved. [DBa & HS were recused]  
Daniel Winter and Liam Sanderson  
Harry Madden and Oscar Selby  
Liam Fegarty and Joseph Clark  
NPC: Michael Byrne

## 5. Policy re Financial Arrangements on Representative Teams

- 5.1 DBa circulated a paper drafted primarily by TR. The aim of the policy is to provide guidelines to manage expectations before players enter a trial. It was agreed that the first sentence of the policy should read, *“The EBU and the Selection Committee wish to reiterate that financial agreements between sponsors and professional players are private matters.”*  
**Action: DBa to edit the policy as agreed.**

There was a discussion about the impact of financial arrangements on England teams that were fully funded, partially funded and unfunded.

## 6. EBU International Funding Policy

- 6.1 PS circulated a paper that was intended to further clarify the [International Funding Policy](#). It was noted that the EBU only pays per diem for NPCs and safeguarding officers. It was agreed that it was appropriate to allow officials/players to arrive earlier than the day before depending on how far away the event is.  
**Action: PS to seek approval of the policy paper from the EBU Board.**
- 6.2 PS stated that recent trials have been costly and on average it costs £650 per day to run trials. Given there is VAT on entry fees, trials need to pull in more money for events than the amount that the EBU are funding. It was agreed that GR should be consulted before setting the entry fee.
- 6.3 PS noted that funds were set aside last year for training and development for adults and juniors. The money is available for this financial year. To apply for funding, squad leaders should contact AS who will contact PS in his role as EBU Treasurer.  
**Action: AS to make the squad leaders aware of the funding.**

## 7. Senior Selection for the European Team Championships

- 7.1 Taking into consideration the views of the winning team, Patrick Shields and Richard Chamberlain were approved as the third pair. [PS recused]  
**Action: JW to contact the team re appointing an NPC.**

## 8. Premier League 2024

- 8.1 GR led a discussion about what to do about the third weekend given the starting date was moved up for the World Bridge Games. It was agreed that the third weekend should be moved to 23<sup>rd</sup> /24<sup>th</sup> November. **Action: HS to contact the venues and email the teams that had already entered to let them know of the change of date.**

## 9. Board Requirements for the World Bridge Games Trials

- 9.1 DBU led a discussion about what the board requirements should be for trials. GR noted that under WBF regulations, in order to be eligible for titles, masterpoints and placing points, a player must play at least half of the boards in each stage. It was agreed that every player should play fifty percent of the boards in each stage.  
**Action: DBU to update the Specific Conditions of Contest for the Open Trials.**  
**Action: AW to note for the Conditions of Contest for the Mixed Trials.**

## 10. AOB

- 10.1 GR noted that there was an ongoing problem finding enough volunteers for Vugraph. He proposed reducing the number of sessions and focusing on finals. It was noted that the EBU is not alone in dealing with this problem. Home Internationals are on RealBridge, but other events are broadcast on BBO.  
**Action: GR to speak to Robin Barker about adopting a new policy of offering less Vugraph and will report back on how it goes.**

- 10.2 There was a discussion about delayed Vugraph. GR stated that live results are never published until the board has been played at every table. It was proposed that there be a shorter delay (15 minutes).
- 10.3 AW raised an issue about HUMs/Brown Sticker methods and trials. It was noted that it was complicated to allow them for trials which do not allow for seating rights.
- 10.4 It was agreed after a brief discussion that reserves would not be nominated for the European Team Championships.

**11. Date of next meeting**

- 11.1 It was proposed that the next meeting would take place online via Zoom sometime during the summer after all categories of European Championships were finished.

Heather Sanderson  
Acting Secretary to the Selection Committee  
May 2024

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