

## U16 Squad Leader Job Description

The EBU's under-16 squad is an inclusive group of children who want to learn to play bridge at a high level. England International U16 teams are selected from it, but we welcome also improving young players who are not yet ready for international competition. There is no lower age limit, but typically children joining the squad are 10-13 years old. They leave the squad during the calendar year of their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday, and may then join our U21 squad.

### Major Task List:

- Recruiting young people to the squad. For this purpose the Squad Leader will build contacts with schools running bridge clubs, and with parents of potential squad members.
- Managing the entire group of U16 squad members - including being open and available for communication at most times.
- Pastoral care of squad members, especially to encourage and motivate them.
- Helping squad members to develop their bridge skills, offering coaching appropriate to the skill and experience of each player. This includes organising on-line coaching and practice, and organising face-to-face training days or weekends. The Squad Leader is expected to recruit volunteer expert coaches as well as doing some coaching themselves.
- Managing squad expenses and squad player contracts.
- Nominating to the Selection Committee selections for international events.
- Providing regular reports to the Selection Committee on squad activities and player development.
- Managing national tournament entries by squad teams.

### Other possible tasks:

- Captaining the U16 team at international events. But you are not expected to be non-playing captain at every event: suitable captains can be nominated by the Selection Committee.
- Team coaching when preparing for international events. The candidate may perform some coaching themselves, and should also arrange volunteer expert coaches.
- Figurehead for junior development. As a high-profile figure in the junior game, the candidate should consider how best they can use their profile for the wider good of junior development at all levels.
- Assisting the development of wider junior programs.

Ideally the candidate should be a self-organised, motivated individual with good communication skills who is comfortable managing a large group of young people. Their bridge skills should be sufficiently advanced for them to be able to judge the standard and ability of high-quality players.

The EBU is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all squad leaders and junior coaches to share this commitment. The Squad Leader will be acting *in loco parentis* at training weekends and when accompanying junior teams to national and international events, and is subject to enhanced DBS disclosure. The candidate should be willing also to undertake relevant safeguarding training.

The outgoing squad leader may be available to help manage the transition to the successful candidate. There is an experienced coach available to continue his work with the squad.

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