



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2016
AT THE YOUNG CHELSEA BRIDGE CLUB, LONDON**

Present:

David Burn	
Jeremy Dhondy	(EBU Chairman)
Gillian Fawcett	(Chairman)
Paul Hackett	
Peter Hasenson	
Dawn Mertens	(Secretary)
Ian Payn	(EBU Vice-Chairman)
Tom Townsend	(Vice-Chairman)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from David Price, Gordon Rainsford and Nick Smith.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2016

Gillian Fawcett was proposed by Tom Townsend, seconded by Paul Hackett and duly elected Chairman.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2016

Tom Townsend was proposed by Gillian Fawcett, seconded by David Burn and duly re-elected as Vice-Chairman.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 17TH NOVEMBER 2015

4.1 Accuracy

Apart from a grammatical error there were no matters of accuracy.

4.2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising not otherwise on the Agenda.

5. REVIEW OF DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

Decisions taken by the Committee between meetings 18th November 2015 – 28th January 2016 were as follows:

The subsidy for the Camrose matches was agreed. There is £2000 available in the budget and the hotel and accommodation bill for the players and the NPC's expenses will be met from this. Additionally the Committee agreed to offer the same arrangements to the Lady Milne Team.

David Burn, assisted by Nick Smith, was appointed as NPC for the Camrose for the first weekend. Richard Fleet appointed NPC for the second weekend.

The Players Contracts were updated and approved by the Committee.

Due to a problem with the hotel venue for the Autumn Congress the date of the first weekend of the 2016 Premier League was changed to 22nd – 23rd October.

New invitations for the IMSA Mind Sport Games reflecting the change in date were received and passed on to the Women's Team and the Open Team. The Women's invitation was accepted by five members of the team and the Open Team declined their invitation.

Following Alan Shillitoe's recommendations the team for the Junior Camrose was selected as follows:

Shivam Shah & Freddie Illingworth
Toby Nonnenmacher & Michael Alishaw
Basil Letts & Sean Mekie
NPC Alan Shillitoe

Following Michael Byrne's recommendations the team for the Peggy Bayer was selected as follows:

Ben Norton & Sam Behrens
Liam Sanderson & Daniel Winter
Oscar Selby & Harry Madden
NPC Michael Byrne

The Committee agreed to send two teams of four plus NPC to the White House Junior International event and the teams were selected as follows:

Shivam Shah & Freddie Illingworth
Toby Nonnenmacher & Michael Alishaw
Alex Roberts & Ankush Khandelwal
Yvonne Wiseman & Ben Norton
NPC Jon Cooke

The Committee agreed to accept all 25 pairs who had applied for entry to the Lady Milne Trials and that the format would therefore be 25 x 5 board-matches.

The Penfold team, as winners of the Seniors European Trials, requested that John Holland be asked to join as sixth member of their team. The Committee agreed that John should be invited.

6. FINANCES

6.1 Report on Open/Women's/Seniors budgets

The 2016/17 budgets are presently being compiled and adjustments can be made before they are finalised. Provision needs to be made for the practice match against France of approximately £3,000 to cover travel expenses for six Open Pairs and three Women's pairs plus Non Playing Captains.

6.2 World Mixed Teams funding

The Committee would like to offer funding to the Mixed Team of payment of the entry fee and uniform costs, in line with that offered to the Seniors Team. An additional £3,500 would be needed in the budget to cover this.

6.3 Report on Junior budgets

Accommodation and flights for the White House Junior event in March for two teams has already been booked, which should result in expenses for the 2016 event being just about on budget; however the Committee felt the budget should be increased to £3,500 for 2016/17 to allow for sending two teams. Provision also needs to be made for the U16 team to attend the World Youth Bridge Team Championships, no entry fees are payable for this age group, but flights and accommodation will need to be funded.

6.4 European Youth Pairs funding

There is provision in the budget for this event although this may have to be spent in other areas. Peter Hasenson queried whether any efforts have been made to get sponsorship for events. Jeremy advised that the Seniors team is sponsored in International events and that an offer had been received to sponsor one or two Junior teams at the Schapiro Spring Foursomes. Peter agreed to put together a proposal which could be used when approaching potential sponsors.

Secretary's note – Jeremy subsequently advised that there is an existing document relating to sponsorship arrangements.

7. GENERAL

7.1 Captaincy pools

It was agreed that the Selection Committee should decide which players are suitable as a Captain and not react to general events. Gillian Fawcett will create an informal list of willing and capable

candidates and the Committee could then propose a Captain from the list to a selected team, with an alternative offered only if there were reasonable objections to the suggested Captain.

7.2 Protocols for accompanying International teams

The players' guidelines in the first instance advise players to consult their NPC if they wish to be accompanied by a partner or relative to an International event. The NPC should then consult the rest of the team and the Selection Committee to see if this is acceptable to all. This is not applicable to the Seniors Team as they finance their participation in International events. Gillian Fawcett to review the guidelines to see if any amendments are needed in this regard. It was felt that there should be transparency of decisions and if the Committee does not allow a player to be accompanied then it has to be able to explain the decision.

The question was raised as to whether a player could act as an official to an international team which contained a partner or relative. The Committee agreed this would constitute a conflict of interest and should not be allowed.

7.3 BBO coverage of Internationals

All EBU Trials and International events should be covered on BBO, subject to cost and availability. Gordon Rainsford to be asked how much is presently in the budget for this purpose. Ian Payn queried whether the costs could come out of the Publicity budget.

8. OPEN EVENTS

8.1 First Camrose weekend – NPC's Report

David Burn was thanked for his report and the team congratulated on the excellent start to the event.

8.2 Camrose Reserves

The NPC for the second weekend had queried whether there were any reserves selected for the Camrose. The Selection Committee agreed to invite Frances Hinden and Graham Osborne to act as reserves. David Burn will look at the Premier League Conditions of Contest to see if the condition regarding selection of the England team for Camrose weekends needs any clarification in this regard.

8.3 European Team Selection

Espen Erichsen and Glyn Liggins were selected to act as reserves for the event

8.4 NPC for European Teams Championships and World Bridge Games

David Price was proposed and seconded as NPC to the Open team for both of the events. The teams to be consulted to ask if they have any preference for Coach.

8.5 World Bridge Games

An invitation for applications to represent England in the Mixed Teams will be placed on the website. If there are sufficient suitable applicants it may be necessary to hold a trial on the 14th/15th May.

8.6 Selection of team for Chairman's Cup

Applications were received from four pairs to play in the Swedish Chairman's Cup. The Committee agreed that it would be excellent preparation for the World Bridge Games and that Frances Hinden and Graham Osborne should be selected and consulted regarding the second pair.

8.7 NPC for Practice match against France

David Price to be invited as NPC, alternatively Richard Fleet if David is not available.

Secretary's note – David and Richard were unavailable for the event and Ian Payn was subsequently appointed NPC.

8.8 Premier League 2016

Applications are to be invited for the 2016 Premier League by the 31st May 2016. As before there will be eight teams in the first division with an unlimited number in the second division.

IP left the meeting at this point

8.9 Camrose Trophy First Weekend venue 2017

Peter Hasenson agreed to liaise with Gordon Rainsford regarding the possibility of Middlesex being involved in running the event and suggesting a venue within the County.

9. WOMEN'S EVENTS

9.1 Lady Milne Selection

TT left the meeting for this item.

Fiona Brown and Helen Erichsen, and Christine Jepson and Catherine Curtis, as the winners and runners up of the Trials, have accepted the invitation to play in the Lady Milne.

The Selection Committee agreed to select the pair of Sarah Ewart and Ewa Kater, who finished third in the Trials, as the third pair in the Lady Milne team with the fourth finishing pair, Sarah Teshome and Catherine Jagger, selected to act as reserves for the event.

Heather Dhondy was selected as NPC for the team.

9.2 Format of Lady Milne Trials

In future the wording on the website should specify 'applications are invited to play' and the Committee agreed in order to strengthen the field about 16 pairs would be invited to participate in the Trials – the previous years results would be taken into account when selecting the 16 pairs. A 15 x 8-board format may then be possible.

9.3 World Bridge Games

Sarah Teshome and Catherine Jagger were selected to act as reserves for the event.

Secretary's note – Sarah and Catherine were unable to accept the invitation to act as reserves for this event.

9.3 NPC for practice match against France

Derek Patterson to be invited to be NPC for the practice match, or David Burn if Derek not available.

Secretary's note – Derek and David were unavailable for this event and Nick Smith was subsequently appointed NPC.

10. SENIORS EVENTS

10.1 Teltscher Trophy Trials

Applications are to be invited for the Trials for the 2017 event by 30th September. Paul Hackett made the suggestion that any team winning all six of their matches regardless of score should be selected or to go through to any play-off. The Committee rejected this suggestion.

10.2 Senior European Teams and World Bridge Games

Paul Hackett advised that sponsorship funding was available to cover the cost of sending an NPC to both the European Teams and the World Bridge Teams. The secretary to make this offer to the Penfold Team.

11. JUNIOR EVENTS

11.1 Channel Trophy NPCs' reports

The three NPC's were thanked for their reports and the Under 21's team were congratulated on winning their event. The pairing of Ben Norton and Sam Behrens, in particular, performed very well.

11.2 Hluk NPC report

David Bakhshi was thanked for his report on the U16 team who participated in this event. His recommendation that two adults are necessary to accompany players of this age was noted.

11.3 Channel Trophy venue 2016

The Committee had no recommendations for a venue for this event. Peter Hasenson agreed to investigate if there was a suitable venue in Middlesex.

P Hasenson left the meeting at this point

11.4 'Kids' Championship 2017

The invitation to this event had been sent in error by the French Federation. Gillian Fawcett proposed that in line with the European Bridge League and World Bridge Federation the EBU should now refer to the teams as U16's, U21's and U26's. The Committee agreed to this suggestion.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to be held during the first two weeks of June, the date being decided nearer the time.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs

The Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs events are taking place 3rd - 4th February and the number of Clubs who have signed up to participate is similar to previous years. Jeremy advised that approximately £2,500 should be raised towards the cost of sending the U16 team to the World Youth Teams in Salsomaggiore, Italy.

13.2 World Youth Teams

Following Alan Shillitoe's recommendation the U26 team was selected as follows:

Shivam Shah & Freddie Illingworth
Alex Roberts & Ankush Khandelwal
Toby Nonnenmacher & Michael Alishaw
NPC Alan Shillitoe
Coach Jon Cooke

Sarah O'Connor is close to finalising the U16 team. Unfortunately, some members of the squad who qualified from the U16 European Youth Teams in Tromsø are no longer eligible for this event. Sarah is available as NPC to the team.

An application had been received from a Scottish Junior to join the Junior squads. The Committee agreed that as the Junior in question was a student at an English university this would be acceptable.

13.3 Cheating Allegations

Jeremy Dhondy reported that he had written to Gianarrigo Rona, the WBF President, regarding the alleged cheating in the Seniors event. A Tournament Director had made a similar report and the matter will be referred to the High Level Players Commission.