



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU SELECTION COMMITTEE
HELD AT 40 BERNARD STREET, LONDON, WC1
ON TUESDAY 28TH AUGUST 2007**

Present: Gerard Faulkner (Chairman)
Raymond Brock
Steve Eginton (Vice-Chairman)
Peter Hasenson
Sandra Landy
David Muller
Max Bavin (EBU Chief TD)
Sandra Claridge (Secretary)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the EBU Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24TH JULY 2007

The minutes were signed as a true record.

2.1 *Matters Arising*

2.1.1 *Mind Sports Games*

Max Bavin reported that confirmation had recently been received that alongside the Olympiad in Beijing in 2008 there would be a Mind Sports Games, which would incorporate an U28 Junior Bridge Championship, each NBO being entitled to enter one team. The Championship would comprise a teams, pairs and individual event, and accommodation is offered on a no cost basis for seven people, and would replace the World Junior Championships.

In terms of budget for the event, Max confirmed that contained in the EBU's 5-year plan was a contingency based on a 50% chance of a junior team qualifying for a World Championship, which would comfortably cover the cost of participation in Beijing, estimated at £4-5K.

It was agreed to recommend to the Board that an U28 team be sent to Beijing, and that pending clarification of the Selection Committee's status in relation to junior selection, the Committee would put in motion the contacting of the players born in 1980 or

thereafter to ascertain interest and availability. Players would be informed that a Trial may be held, and that responses would be considered at the next meeting.

2.2 *Junior Selection*

The Chairman said that although the last Board minutes stated that the introduction of a Junior Committee would not require a constitutional change, he disagreed, and had informed the EBU Chairman accordingly. However, the Committee's recommendations for changes to its Terms of Reference could be adopted by the Board if it so chose under its existing powers.

2.3 *Entry fee for European U25 Women's Championship*

The Secretary reported that no response had been received, and she was asked to pursue the matter again with the Chairman of the Union.

2.4 *Item 3.3*

Steve Eginton reported that he had received detailed reviews from the Captain of the U25 Junior European team, and the Coach of the U20 team, which he had not yet read. Sandra Landy urged that arrangements be made as soon as possible for the proposed meeting to discuss strategy for the next campaign for junior internationals.

2.5 *2007 Gerard Faulkner Salver Final*

The Chairman reported that the team captained by Victor Silverstone had won the 2007 Gerard Faulkner Salver, but that the captain was unable at present to confirm the composition of the team that would compete in the 2008 European Seniors Championship. It was agreed that the team would be required to respond by 31st October, and that in the case of the team withdrawing, the trials arranged as a means for selection for the Seniors Camrose and the 2008 Olympiad (depending on the level of entries), would also incorporate the European Seniors Championship. It was noted that the runners-up in the Gerard Faulkner Salver were ineligible for the European Seniors Championship on the basis of age.

2.6 *Possible reintroduction of EBL U35 Series*

The Secretary reported that no response had been received, and she was asked to pursue the matter again with the Chairman of the Union.

2.7 *2007 Junior European Championships*

The Chairman reported that an expenses claim had been received for training sessions, and for additional costs at the Championships. It was confirmed that there was no budget for this, nor had the expenditure been authorised by the Committee. The Committee therefore referred the matter to the Board for a decision. It was noted that NPCs do have a small degree of discretion in regard to authorised expenses, but that anything substantial must receive authorisation from Aylesbury, or the Committee.

3 PROGRESS REPORT

In addition to items referred to in (2) above, the Secretary reported progress on action points from the last meeting, as follows:

- 1.2.7. A list had been compiled by the Secretary, which would be reviewed by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee. The list of potential U28 players had not yet been received.
- 2. Formal confirmation was awaited from the Shareholders on the composition of the proposed Junior Committee.
- 3.1. The Secretary had formally acknowledged and publicised the sponsorship of Junior European team shirts, and would pursue the matter of team photographs.
- Formats and Conditions of Contest would be produced by Max Bavin as soon as possible for Open, Womens and Seniors Trials, and circulated to all Committee members. In addition, a clause to cover a possible team change would be produced by the Chairman and Max Bavin.
- 6.3. The Secretary reported that all Open trialists had been informed of the venues and starting times of the Trials. In answer to a suggestion that an alternative date be found for the final weekend of the Trials to avoid a clash with the Champions Cup, the Chairman said that in his opinion a change of date would be unpopular with other teams who were likely to have commitments, and the Committee accepted this view, albeit reluctantly.

4 LOOKING FORWARD

A paper by the Chairman was discussed in detail. The main thrust of the discussion centred around the need for in-depth preparation and training for all international teams, which at present was only available to juniors, via the Squad system. There was general agreement that a squad system should be set up for Open, Women and possibly Seniors based on a two-year cycle, which would provide opportunities for aspiring players, and for identifying potential. Goals would be defined, and the non-European years would be used for training via seminars and on-line sessions, involving NPCs and Coaches. It was noted that there had been a change in the attitude of England players towards training and preparation, many taking advantage of private coaching. The general feeling was that a panel of amateur coaches should be set up with a clear idea of what was needed to improve performance, and the cost involved.

Turning to the question of employing the services of a Sports Psychologist, it was agreed that such would be of great benefit to the teams in terms of appropriate preparation and training in the year leading up to the relevant Championship. Whether or not a Sports Psychologist's presence would be required at the event would be determined in consultation with the NPC. It was estimated that the cost of providing a full service to all teams would be in the region of £9K p.a.

It was agreed that formal recommendations would be put to the Board, as follows:-

1. The employment of a Sports Psychologist, who would be consulted on additional support for teams competing abroad.
2. The development of an appropriate preparation scheme for all players involved in international representation, the scheme to be available on request to all who qualify for the facility.

3. The retention of the present Junior Squads and Squad Managers, extending the scheme to include an U25 Women's Squad, with the reappointment of the existing Squad Managers and the appointment of a Squad Manager for the U25 Women. The Squads should have separate identities in terms of individual development, but could combine for training seminars.
4. That in terms of support for teams abroad, the provision of scorers (table recorders) for the teams was an absolute necessity, and applications would be sought from interested parties via English Bridge. This would involve a small cost, the scorers being engaged on a per diem basis.

It was agreed to advertise on the EBU website for a coach, or team of coaches, for England's Open, Womens and Seniors European Championship teams, on a 2-year cycle, and to advertise to approved applicants, i.e. anyone with demonstrable international potential, that the service is available.

To ensure continuity, NPCs for European Championships would be appointed at the start of the 2-year cycle and would have substantial input from his/her appointment through to the conclusion of the event. In the case of the Camrose Trophy, a single Captain would be appointed for both weekends. In the European Championships year, the team selected would also be fielded in both Camrose Trophy weekends, and be selected for as many meaningful representative events as possible.

A suggestion by the Vice-Chairman that an evaluation process might be introduced in the form of a Review Body, including a number of leading players, would be discussed further.

It was agreed that other forms of support for World Championship teams would not be included in recommendations to the Board, save that the current practice that the teams stay in the venue hotel, be continued.

It was reported by Mr Hasenson that sponsor-seeking had been specifically excluded from the remit of the Committee, but in the event that the EBU is unable to meet the costs of international representation, the Selection Committee wished to reserve the right to seek the opportunity to raise additional funds.

5 PREMIER LEAGUE

Starting in Autumn 2008 the Premier League will be reintroduced, and will form part of the selection process for Open teams. It was agreed that in the first year of operation the Premier League would be limited to one division of up to eight teams of six players, but that this decision may be revisited at a later date. From these teams a Super Squad will be formed for participation in all international events.

Details of the format will be produced by Max Bavin, but in principle long matches will be played over three weekends with screens, the minimum number of boards to be played by each pair to be included in the Conditions of Contest. The competition will be self-financing.

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 7th November commencing at 12.30 p.m, Imperial Hotel, London.

ACTION POINTS

Minute		Action
2.1.1	Entry to U28 Bridge Championship	M Bavin / Secretary
	Contacting U28 players	Secretary / M Byrne
2.3	Entry fee for U25 Women's Championship	Secretary / EBU Chairman
2.4	Meeting arrangements	Junior European NPCs & Coaches
2.5	2008 European Seniors Team confirmation	Secretary
2.6	Possible introduction of EBL U35 Series	Secretary / EBU Chairman
3	Junior European teams photos	Secretary
	Formats and Conditions of Contest for Open, Womens & Seniors Trials	M Bavin / Secretary
	Clause for possible team change	Chairman / M Bavin
4	NPC availability return	Secretary
	Advertisement in English Bridge for additional NPCs and for Scorers	Secretary
	Advertisement on EBU website for Coaches	Secretary
5	Announcement re Premier League	Secretary