

SCBA Selection Committee

1. Members and Appointment

The Selection Committee is appointed by the SCBA Executive Committee. It has four members, the SCBA Vice Chairman plus three other members of the SCBA, who do not have to be members of the SCBA Executive Committee.

The current four members of the Selection Committee are:

David Porter (SCBA Vice Chairman),
Roger Sweet (a member of SCBA Executive Committee and chairman of the Selection Committee),
Colin Juneman (a SCBA member),
Gina Howard (a SCBA member).

2. Duties

A. Primary

- a. Select a team of four or five partnerships (with or without a non playing captain) to represent Somerset in the Tollemache competition. The Tollemache is the most important inter county competition run by the EBU.
- b. Select teams to represent Somerset in the A, B and C Divisions of the Western League, which is an annual league involving eight counties. The eight counties involved are Avon, Cornwall, Devon, East Wales, Herefordshire, Dorset, Wiltshire and Somerset. Each county plays against each of the other counties in the respective divisions.

B. Secondary

- a. Identify good players whose primary allegiance is to Somerset, and assist them in developing good partnerships so that the partnership is of the standard required to be considered for selection to represent Somerset in the Tollemache and/or Western League
(Note: Two of the four partnerships who played in the Tollemache had first been encouraged to play with each other by the Selection Committee.)
- b. Encourage good partnerships to develop their skill by participating in national and regional competitions with particular emphasis on team events.
- c. Consider how the Western League can be improved and ensure any ideas are discussed with the SCBA Executive Committee's Western League representative.
(Note: The ideas for the C league and teams of eight matches along Tollemache lines, which have now been adopted within the Western League, emanated from the Selection Committee)
- d. Provide a brief bi-monthly report to the SCBA Secretary of the successes of Somerset players in national and regional events held outside of Somerset.

3. Selection Criteria

If a partnership is being considered for selection for one of the county teams, and one of the players in that partnership is a member of the Selection Committee, the Selection Committee member must not participate in any discussions relating to his partnership's potential selection. Furthermore, two of the remaining three selectors must be in agreement that the other Selection Committee member's partnership should be selected.

All partnerships selected to represent Somerset in any county team must have primary allegiance to Somerset.

a. Western League A Division

Invitations are extended to those partnerships whom the Selection Committee

- (i) are considering for the next Tollemache competition, or
- (ii) are considered to have the ability to become a future Tollemache partnership, or
- (iii) have been noted as performing well in the B team.

The above are the principal criteria but the Selection Committee will also extend invitations to partnerships who do not wish to play in the Tollemache, but who have in the past been an A team partnership and whom the Selection Committee still consider good enough to play in the A division.

The A team squad will normally consist of no more than eight partnerships. Most A team partnerships will be invited to play in two or more matches each season.

Now that some A team matches are team of eight matches, the Selection Committee may need to broaden the above criteria if enough A team partnerships are not available on the match day.

b. Western League B Division

Invitations are extended to those partnerships, which satisfy some or all of the following criteria:

- (i) they have performed well in the SCBA county events, with particular emphasis on team events
- (ii) they have performed well at regional and/ or national events with more emphasis on team events
- (iii) they have performed well in the Victor Ludorum in the past few years
- (iv) they have shown the potential to become future A team partnerships by impressing Selection Committee members at the table

All B team squad partnerships will be invited to play in at least one match per season.

c. Western League C Division

All players participating in the C league must not be above the rank of regional master (i.e. must not have won more than 49.75 green points).

Counties participating in this division are expected to meet this requirement in “spirit” as well by not selecting very good players who do not register their green points or who do not play in green point events.

Potential partnerships are identified through

- (i) recommendations from SCBA club secretaries or county A or B squad players and/or
- (ii) performances in the restricted events within the Club Championship.

d. Tollemache

The Selection Committee selects the best four or five pairs available to play in the Tollemache. All individuals selected should have participated in at least three SCBA events in the previous 12 months (excluding the West of England Congress), unless there are exceptional circumstances.

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