



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 29TH APRIL 2016
AT WEST MIDLANDS BRIDGE CLUB, SOLIHULL**

Present: Heather Dhondy (Chairman, England),
Michael Ash (Scotland)
Brian McDowell (Northern Ireland)
Paul Porteous (Ireland)
Neville Richards (Wales)
Sandra Claridge (Secretary),

There were no apologies for absence.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE TO 31ST MARCH 2017

A proposal by Heather Dhondy, seconded by Mike Ash, that Neville Richards be appointed as Chairman for the forthcoming year was carried unanimously. Neville thanked the Committee, and announced that 2016/17 would probably be his final year as Chief Executive of the Welsh Bridge Union.

2. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS TO 31ST MARCH 2016

The accounts produced by Ian Lindsay were adopted, and it was agreed that the Secretary would organise a gift for him in recognition of his invaluable contribution to Bridge Great Britain over a significant period.

The Secretary agreed to distribute the accumulated profit from the last two years' Gold Cup events to England, Scotland and Wales.

Action: Secretary

3. HOME INTERNATIONALS

3.1 Camrose Trophy

In light of comments received about the Welsh venue for this year's match, it was agreed that the Regulations would stipulate that a venue for Home International matches should be arranged within an hour's travel time from an airport, if possible. Neville Richards said that there had been difficulties in finding an affordable alternative, but efforts would be made to investigate possibilities in South Wales. It was agreed that any problems or requests for assistance should be addressed to the Committee.

The quality of the Welsh Home Internationals Results website was also a matter for concern, and it was recommended that the WBU consider the system currently used by Scotland and Northern Ireland, i.e Magic Contest Website www.brenning.se/magiccontest.asp. Funding would be available as necessary on application to the Secretary. Whatever website was provided, results must be available promptly at the end of every match.

It was agreed that for all Home International matches a vugraph presentation was optional, but that every effort must be made to ensure that the BBO ran efficiently. Finding sufficient experienced BBO operators had clearly posed a problem in some areas, and it was agreed that some of BGB's accumulated reserves should be made available to fund training, fees and expenses for operators. Mike Ash said that Scotland were very

fortunate to have Fiona Greenwood's technical expertise, and he felt that she would be very happy to offer advice and help on all technical matters. It was agreed that the Secretary would approach her, and if she was willing to help, the Match Manager's Guide would be updated to include her input.

Action: Secretary

The Match Manager's Guide would also include mention of specific circumstances in regard to players with difficulties.

Action: Secretary

3.1.1 2017 Camrose draw

The draw for the 2017 Camrose Trophy, England hosting the first weekend on 6th-8th January, and Scotland hosting the final weekend on 3rd-5th March is as follows:

Team A	:	England
Team B	:	Northern Ireland
Team C	:	SBU
Team D	:	Ireland
Team E	:	Scotland
Team F	:	Wales

3.2 Lady Milne Trophy

Brian McDowell reported that the recent Lady Milne Trophy had gone extremely well, and he was thanked for his report. The venue had received very favourable comments, and the vugraph had been well attended. The playing schedule had proved tight at times, but it was felt that this was caused by some being players being new to the event.

3.2.1 2017 Lady Milne draw

The draw for the 2017 Lady Milne Trophy, to be hosted by Wales on 21st-23rd April is as follows:

Team A	:	Northern Ireland
Team B	:	Ireland
Team C	:	Wales
Team D	:	Scotland
Team E	:	WBU
Team F	:	England

It was reported that the trophy was in need of repair and engraving, and the Secretary agreed to retrieve it from Scotland and take the necessary action.

Action: Secretary

3.3 Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer Trophies

Anne Perkins was thanked for her report and excellent organisation, and Liz McGowan was thanked for her Appeals Chairman's report.. The new format had proved very popular and will be continued. A suggestion that a cross-nation girls' team might be included where there was an odd number of teams in the Junior Camrose didn't find favour with the Committee, largely because some HNBOs were already struggling to provide teams. Paul Porteous reported that with one or two exceptions, there was currently no interest in Europe as a whole in girls' competition. In future if the host nation is unable to provide a 6th team for the Junior Camrose, the opportunity will be offered to the host HNBO in the following year, and the years thereafter, in rotation.

It was agreed that the time limit for submission of systems for the Junior Camrose Trophy would be reduced to

two weeks prior to the event. If however, a system was not submitted by the due date, the pair would be required to play a simple system, produced and published by the host NBO, for one match for each of the days beyond the specified date e.g. if the system was submitted 2 days late, the simple system would be enforced for the first two matches.

3.4 Teltscher Trophy

The schedule for the Teltscher Trophy was accepted as drafted, and it was agreed that there can be no relaxation of the mandatory use of screens.

As regards a sixth team, it was agreed that section 16.3 of the Home International Regulations would be redrafted to permit the host nation to provide a sponsor's team or an HNBO team which can be cross-nationality, provided that all members of it are members of a HNBO.

3.4.1 2017 Teltscher Trophy draw

The draw for the 2017 Teltscher Trophy, to be hosted by Northern Ireland on 19th-21st May is as follows:

Team A	:	Scotland
Team B	:	England
Team C	:	Northern Ireland
Team D	:	Ireland
Team E	:	NIBU
Team F	:	Wales

3.5 2017 Subscription

It was agreed that the subscription for the coming year would remain at £600 for each HNBO.

3.6 2017 Hotel Rates

Increases in hotel rates were agreed as follows:

Camrose, Lady Milne and Teltscher Trophies:

£295 per person or the equivalent in Euros, calculated on a single room basis.

Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer Trophies:

£220 per person, or the equivalent in Euros, which may be calculated on a shared room basis. If single occupancy is required the rate is £295 per person, or the equivalent in Euros.

A discussion took place on the possible use of a suitable bridge club which could provide suitable daytime refreshments and was within walking distance of an acceptable hotel, for hosting a home international event. If this was pursued, then alternative package rates would be produced by the HNBO.

3.7 On-site Appeals Chairmen

It was agreed that there was no longer a necessity for an on-site Appeals Chairman at any of the Home International matches. In the event of an appeal, the CTD would be expected to consult with experienced colleagues and/or representative players as necessary.

4. 2017 GOLD CUP

4.1 Dates of 2017 Finals

The Secretary reported that she and Paul Hackett would be in contact very shortly to agree the dates of the 2017 Finals, and that they would be included with the information circulated with the Round 1 draw, and published in the Regulations.

Action: Secretary

4.2 Promotion

It was agreed that as much promotion as possible was vital to maintain or increase entries, particularly in Scotland and Wales. The Secretary reported that she had sent entry forms to both countries, and had requested website links. Scotland and Wales offered to investigate the possibility of running qualifying events for the 2018 Gold Cup, with a number of places being offered in the main Gold Cup draw, depending on the numbers involved.

Action: Neville Richards & Mike Ash