



**MINUTES OF THE EXPANDED COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
BRIDGE GREAT BRITAIN, HELD AT WEST MIDLANDS BRIDGE CLUB  
ON FRIDAY 4TH MAY 2018**

**Present:** Mike Ash (Chairman, Scotland)  
Jeremy Dhondy (England)  
Helen Hall (Northern Ireland)  
Paul Porteous (Ireland)  
Alan Stephenson (Wales)

Sandra Claridge (Secretary)

The Chairman welcomed Helen Hall to her first meeting.

**1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR TO 31ST MARCH 2018**

On a proposal by Mike Ash, seconded by Paul Porteous, Jeremy Dhondy was elected as Chairman for the coming year.

**2 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS TO 31ST MARCH 2018**

The accounts were formally adopted, and Ian Lindsay was thanked again for their production. The Secretary agreed to distribute the profit from the Gold Cup events in 2016 and 2017 to the English, Scottish and Welsh Bridge Unions.

The Committee discussed the level of reserves (currently £20K), and a bequest of £10K from the late Patrick Jourdain. It was decided that it was unnecessary to maintain the reserve figure at its present level, **and that the annual subscription would be reduced from 2019 to £400.**

A discussion took place on what was the most beneficial use of the bequest. It was noted that Patrick's particular interest in his latter years was in Seniors events, and that it had been his brainchild to introduce a Seniors Camrose event. It was therefore agreed that the following two options would be put to the HNBOs to seek their views:

*1. A single event over a weekend, along the same lines as current internationals, with teams made up of players from several categories. An HNBO would need to volunteer to host this event but BGB would subsidise the staging of it to ensure that there would be no additional cost to the host HNBO, and some of the participants expenses would be also subsidised.*

*2. BGB would sponsor a trophy, or enhance the prize awards for an existing seniors event in each HNBO, with a request that Patrick's contribution to the event be acknowledged.*

**3. HOME INTERNATIONALS**

**3.1 Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer Trophy**

Robin Barker was thanked for his report. It was noted that the arrangements made for the English Bridge Union by Bridge Overseas had been less than satisfactory, and it had taken a great deal of work by the Tournament Directors to have everything ready in time for the start of the event. The final dinner had been very disappointing, and a small rebate to the HNBOs had been made. The Committee felt it was inappropriate that there was no Match Manager on site, and that there should have been a higher-profile EBU presence on the final day. Jeremy Dhondy assured the Committee that the shortcomings had already been

taken on board. It was agreed that the Match Manager's Guide would be reviewed before the start of the coming season.

Helen Hall reported that Northern Ireland would not be in a position to provide further host teams in the 2019 event should there be an odd number of entries. It was confirmed that the host HNBO gets first refusal on extra teams, and thereafter an invitation will be extended to another HNBO. It was agreed that in 2019 the invitation would go to the CBAI.

Mike Ash raised the question of refund of VAT where Bridge Overseas was the booking agency, and Jeremy said that he believed that the difficulty had now been resolved. Alan Stephenson pointed out that all hotel costs have now to be paid at least two weeks before the event, and to relieve pressure on the host HNBO, it was the responsibility of each HNBO to ensure that their team's costs were settled in good time.

### **3.2 Camrose Trophy 1st weekend**

Brian McDowell was thanked for his report. He has now handed the Match Manager reins to Helen Hall, and he was also thanked for his contribution to Home International events.

Mike Ash said whilst it was not a problem in Scotland, other HNBOs seemed to be have difficulty in recruiting BBO operators, and it was disappointing that all matches could not be covered.

### **3.3 Camrose Trophy 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend**

Paul Porteous was thanked for his report. It was noted that there was a discourteous episode in relation to the final dinner, but he had dealt with the matter to the best of his ability.

Paul was congratulated on rescuing the event after the cancellation due to bad weather, at no extra cost. Some concern was expressed about the implications of cancellation in future, and the Secretary was asked to investigate whether cancellation insurance would be available, and on what terms.

### **3.4 Lady Milne Trophy**

Anne Perkins was thanked for her report.

### **3.5 Teltscher Trophy**

The change of date for 2019 had been agreed in advance. It was confirmed that the sixth team is the responsibility of the host HNBO. The team can comprise anyone who is a member of and eligible to play for the host HNBO, can be transnational. It should be noted that whilst the team can select its own title, this must be approved by BGB. If the team is a mix of nationalities, it may not win the trophy.

### **3.6 Transgender policy**

Jeremy Dhondy reported that the EBU has published a transgender policy available at <http://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/official-documents/transgender-players.pdf>. It has been forwarded to the EBL for their consideration. The Committee agreed that for the Home Internationals, HNBOs are expected to put forward eligible players, and if necessary relevant documentation will be requested.

### **3.7 Hotel rates for the season 2018/19**

It was agreed that the rates be amended as follows:

*For the Camrose Trophy, Lady Milne Trophy, and Teltscher Trophy a package comprising three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast, plus sandwich lunches on Saturday and Sunday, will be organized by the host HNBO at a cost of no more than £320 per person, or the equivalent in Euros, calculated on a single room basis.*

*The package rate for the Junior Camrose Trophy and Peggy Bayer Trophy is £240 per person, or the equivalent in Euros, which may be calculated on a shared room basis. If single occupancy is required the rate is increased to £320 per person, or the equivalent in Euros.*

### 3.8 Home International trophies

Paul Porteous was thanked for producing an up-to-date schedule of the inter-country Camrose trophies. He reported that the Camrose Trophy is in urgent need of repair, and the Secretary agreed to obtain a quotation. Jeremy Dhondy said that there was a record on the BGB website of the winners of each match in the Camrose series, though some detail was missing of matches between Wales and Northern Ireland, and every effort would be made to remedy the situation.

### 3.9 Draws for the 2018/19 season

The draws were undertaken as follows:

#### **Camrose:**

Team A – Northern Ireland  
Team B – Wales  
Team C – England  
Team D – Scotland  
Team E – EBU  
Team F - Ireland

#### **Lady Milne:**

Team A – Northern Ireland  
Team B – Wales  
Team C – Ireland  
Team D - England  
Team E – CBAI  
Team F – Scotland

#### **Teltscher Trophy:**

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

### 4. Obituaries

Jeremy Dhondy said that obituaries of any past home international players or officials could be included on the BGB website, with suitable links. **Mike Ash commented that Liz McGowan had been asked to contact Jeremy with detail**

### 5. British and Celtic Simultaneous date clash

It was noted that there had been an unfortunate clash with the British and Celtic Simultaneous pairs events. It was requested that Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland liaise to discuss a suitable timetable. There appeared to be no difficulty with the December date, but Easter was more unpredictable. **Jeremy Dhondy agreed to provide the dates of the British Sims in 2020.**

**Dates for 2019 and Jan 2020 are**

**Jan 14-17 M-Th**

**Apr 1-4 M-Th**

**Jul 22-25 M-Th**

**Oct 7-10 M-Th**

**Jan 13-16 (2020) M-Th**

### 6. Annual meeting in 2019

It was agreed that if there was no substantial matter to be discussed **that needed a face to face meeting in 2019**, it would be conducted by Skype.

## **7. Gold Cup**

The Secretary reported an entry of 114 teams in 2018. The Semi-Finals had been hosted by The Young Chelsea Bridge Club. This year's finals were already booked at the YC, and a further booking would be made for October 2019.

It was agreed that the entry fee would remain at £84, and that it would continue to be the case that any team losing in rounds or two would be eligible for the Silver Plate, administered by the English Bridge Union.

### **7.1 Format for 2019**

The format for the 2019 event was agreed as follows:

*With an entry of fewer than 128 teams, eight teams would be seeded*

*With an entry of more than 128 teams, sixteen teams would be seeded*

*If the number of Scottish teams represents more than 10% of the overall entry,*

*Scotland will have 2 teams in the round of the last 32.*

*If a Scottish team is seeded by right, Scotland will have 3 teams in the round of the last 32.*

The Secretary confirmed that the Seeding Committee comprises Jeremy Dhondy, Andrew Robson, John Holland, Paul Gipson and Patrick Shields.

### **7.2 Slow Play Regulations**

The Slow Play Regulations were amended as follows:

*BGB wishes to discourage slow play in all matches of the Gold Cup, and a rate of 8 boards per hour is considered reasonable when screens are not in use.*

*For matches played in the semi-final and final where screens are in use, time clocks will be on display, and the Director is required to impose penalties for slow play.*

*At the end of the allocated time for a stanza (it is the responsibility of Captains to make his/her team aware of the published time allocations) the Director must impose, at any table still in play, a fine of 3 IMPs for any delay up to 5 minutes, and an additional fine of 3 IMPs for each further delay of five minutes or part thereof.*

*Where the Director deems one pair only to be guilty of slow play, their team shall suffer the whole of this fine. Where the Director deems both pairs at a table to be at fault, he shall divide the fine between the teams according to his assessment of the degree of fault.*

*Where the same pair incurs further fines in the same match, each of the penalties shall automatically be increased by 50% and, on each occasion, the team will lose their seating rights for the next stanza in which it has seating rights.*

*No penalties will be carried over to another match, but consistent infringements will be recorded by BGB, who reserves the right to take further action.*

## **8. Any other business**

Alan Stephenson announced that he has tendered his resignation as CEO of Wales, as from early June. He was thanked for his contribution to BGB.

