



**MINUTES OF A SKYPE MEETING OF THE EXPANDED COMMITTEE OF BRIDGE GREAT
BRITAIN HELD ON MONDAY 6TH JULY 2020.**

Present:	Jeremy Dhondy (JD)	(Chairman, England)
	Mike Ash (MA)	(Scotland)
	Paul Denning (PD)	Paul Denning (Wales)
	Helen Hall (HH)	(Northern Ireland)
	Paul Porteous (PP)	(Republic of Ireland)
	Sandra Claridge (SC)	(Secretary)

1. CHAIRMANSHIP TO APRIL 2021

It was agreed that Jeremy Dhondy would continue as Chairman until the Annual General Meeting in 2021, for which he was thanked. The extension of the period of office of Chairman had been agreed as two years at the Committee Meeting in 2019, and it would be the responsibility of Wales to take on the Chairmanship for two years commencing in April 2021. Paul Denning agreed to establish who would undertake the role on the WBU's behalf.

Action: PD

2. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS TO 31ST MARCH 2020

The Chairman enquired whether the queries raised by the Hon. Auditor had been answered satisfactorily, and the Secretary confirmed that they had. On a proposition from the chair, the accounts were adopted, and the Secretary was asked to extend a vote of thanks to Ian Lindsay for all the work he had carried out on BGB's behalf, and to provide the Chairman with a set of accounts for signature and return to the Auditor.

Action: SC

The Chairman confirmed that the majority of the loss during the year had been in relation to the Gold Cup, and that measures had been agreed to reduce the deficit in the coming year, i.e. a reduction in the prize fund, an entry fee increase of £4 per team, and a 20% reduction in the Secretary's salary. It was noted that these measures would be sufficient unless there was a significant reduction in entries in the coming year. Home Internationals had broken even, but agreement had been reached to increase the subscription by £100, and it was hoped that all the Home International events in the coming year, as well as the outstanding 2020 Lady Milne and Teltscher Trophies, would be run in the coming year, either face-to-face or online. Paul Porteous confirmed that as the majority of WBF and EBL events had been cancelled, there had been a reduction in their subscriptions of 30% and 25% respectively.

3. HOME INTERNATIONAL SERIES

3.1 2020 Lady Milne & Teltscher Trophies

There was general agreement that now that the self-distancing regulations have been relaxed and hotels opened, every effort should be made to ensure that satisfactory arrangements can be put in

place to ensure that the planned Lady Milne and Teltscher Trophies can go ahead in Coventry at the end of October.

Whilst it was possible that some players might not be willing to travel to the event, and Mike Ash suggested that Manchester might be a more popular choice, given that those coming from Ireland could travel by ferry.

it was anticipated that the event could go ahead using appropriate PPE, regular cleaning, a set of boards per table, and the introduction of perspex screens costing around £55 plus VAT. These would be instead of the conventional screens and would mean screen regulations would not be in operation. The Chairman agreed to discuss the practicalities with Gordon Rainsford prior to a firm decision being taken at a BGB meeting to be held in late August.

Action: JD

3.2 *Camrose Trophy*

It was thought most likely that the January Camrose would be able to go ahead as planned, but that safety measures would still need to be in place. A general discussion took place considering the options of reducing the Camrose to one weekend or to playing it online, should circumstances dictate. The Committee expressed a strong preference for the former.

3.3 *Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer Trophies*

Whilst it was recognised that the two events could be played online, young players at this year's event had been keen to say how much they enjoyed the social aspect of the weekend, and it was therefore agreed that, if possible, the weekend would be played in Scotland as planned.

3.4 *Hotel rates*

It was agreed that the hotel rates would remain at £320, or the equivalent in Euros, for a single room package for the Camrose, Lady Milne and Teltscher Trophies and a single room package at the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer, and £220, or the equivalent in Euros, for a shared room package at the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer.

3.5 *Presentation of Trophies*

It was agreed that the presentation of trophies at the final dinners of all the Home Internationals would continue.

All HNBOs would be reminded that all teams are expected to attend the final dinner and prize-givings. If they, or their representative(s) are not able to do so, the host NBO must be notified in advance. Regulation 5.5 would be amended accordingly.

Action: JD

3.6 *Clarification of "member in good standing"*

It was confirmed that anyone incurring a membership ban from an HNBO is automatically barred from participating in any event organised by any HNBO, including the Gold Cup and the Silver Plate. The Home International and Gold Cup Regulations will be amended accordingly.

Action: SC

3.7 *Alert of "short 1C" openings, and Defence to Multi 2D*

The Chairman agreed to research the EBL regulations in regard to alerting of short 1C openings and the ability to consult your own defence to a Multi 2D, and adapt BGB's Regulations as appropriate

Action: JD

3.8 Introduction of an Online UK & Ireland Junior event

Mike Ash reported that Scotland had recently run an online junior event, which had attracted youngsters from the UK and Ireland, and had proved very popular.

It was agreed that BGB would include such an event in its calendar of international events, on an HNBO rotation basis, with the aim of it being revenue neutral.

The SBU offered to run the inaugural event in the late Spring/early Summer of 2021, followed by the EBU in 2022 and the CBAI in 2023. It was further agreed that should numbers allow, the event could be split into U21 and U26 series.

To make progress, delegates were asked to contact the Secretary with suggested weekend dates in April and May 2021

Action: Delegates & SC

It was stressed that in sanctioning all the above arrangements, BGB would ensure that they conform to the regulations and advice in force at the time, in the relevant area.

4. GOLD CUP

4.1 2020 Event

The Secretary reported that 10 matches remained unplayed in Round 3.

It was agreed that there was no prospect of the Finals, planned for the 9th/10th October, being played on that date, and an alternative schedule for completing the 2020 event, was confirmed as follows:

Closing date for Round 3:	6 th September
Closing date for Round 4:	1 st November
QF:	By Friday 4 th December
Semi-finals & Final:	Saturday 5 th and Sunday 6 th December to be played face-to-face if feasible

The Secretary was asked to confirm the above schedule to all the teams remaining in the competition, informing them that matches could be played either face-to-face or online, and that in the latter case it would be the default position that no kibitzers would be permitted, unless agreed otherwise by both teams. Any team declining to play their match by the closing date for each round, would unfortunately be required to forfeit the match. However, the Committee has agreed that in the current special circumstances and to seek to get the event completed, any team may add an additional two players, provided that they have not played in another team in the 2020 Gold Cup, but that only six players per team may compete in a match.

It was also agreed that whereas matches are of 48 boards at this stage of the competition, this can be reduced to a minimum of 32 boards, by arrangement. All extra players must be notified to the Secretary prior to the match, and if playing online, the full names of those playing must be disclosed in the BBO field for such disclosure.

Action: SC

The Chairman offered to produce a regulation to cover a minimum level of supervision in regard to online matches.

Action: JD

4.2 2021 EVENT

It was agreed that the 2021 Gold Cup would start early next year, and that the Secretary would invite teams to enter by 20th December 2020. The closing date for Round 1 would be the end of February, and for Round 2 mid-April. Face-to-face matches would be the default, but online would be permitted.

It was hoped that there wouldn't be a significant downturn in entries in 2021, and everything would be done to encourage teams to take part. Paul Denning said as well as trying to drum up interest in Wales for the Gold Cup, he would see what reaction there might be to a suggestion that Welsh teams join the Scottish heat of the Gold Cup, playing their matches online.

The Advert would be re-run in EB in September.

Action JD to contact the advertising Manager and ascertain the rate for the repeat advert.

Following the meeting, the Secretary produced a schedule for the event as follows:

Closing date for entries:	20 th December
Closing date for R1	28 th February
Closing date for R2	18 th April
Closing date for R3	6 th June
Closing date for R4	25 th July
Quarter-finals	By Friday 8 th October
Semi-finals and Final	Saturday & Sunday 9 th & 10 th October

