



**MINUTES OF THE ZOOM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EXPANDED COMMITTEE OF
BRIDGE GREAT BRITAIN HELD ON THURSDAY 20TH MAY 2021.**

Present:	Jeremy Dhondy (JD)	(Chairman, England)
	Mike Ash (MA)	(Scotland)
	Gillian Fawcett (GF)	(England)
	Helen Hall (HH)	(Northern Ireland)
	Ceri Pierce (CC)	(Wales)
	Paul Porteous (PP)	(Republic of Ireland)
	Sandra Claridge (SC)	(Secretary)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies. Opening the meeting the Chairman welcomed Gillian and Ceri to their first meeting.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN TO 31ST MARCH 2022

The Chairman outlined the three options for the coming year. Whilst it was Wales' turn to assume the Chairmanship, Ceri had indicated that she would like a year to acquaint herself with the workings of BGB before taking on the role, and Mike Ash had informed the Chairman and the Secretary that he was only planning one more year as the Scottish delegate. A new Scottish delegate would be appointed within the next few months, who would work in tandem with Mike before formally becoming the SBU delegate.

To ensure continuity, it was agreed nem con that Jeremy would continue as Chairman in an Executive role for the year to 31st March 2022, with Gillian Fawcett having the English vote.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 6TH JULY 2020

3.1 Accuracy

(1) Line 2 of para 2 of item 2 was amended to read "Gold Cup, and that measures had been agreed...".

(2) It would be noted that Helen Hall and Paul Porteous left the meeting at the conclusion of item 3.8.

4 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS TO 31ST MARCH 2021

It was noted that the loss on the 2020 Gold Cup had been substantially reduced in 2021, largely due to the Finals being held online.

The accounts were adopted unanimously, and the Secretary was asked to thank Ian Lindsay for all the work he had undertaken on BGB's behalf.

Action: SC

5 HOME INTERNATIONAL SERIES

5.1 *Arrangements for 2022 Series*

A letter from the SBU President outlining that all national events in Scotland would be played online up to the end of May 2022, was discussed, and it was agreed that a decision should be made on the Home International events in 2022 as soon as possible, so that arrangements can be finalised.

Helen said that if possible Northern Ireland would be keen to have the 2022 Teltscher Trophy played face-to-face. Gillian reported that a survey amongst Premier League captains had indicated a preference to return to face-to-face as soon as possible, particularly in relation to the Camrose Trophy, and on that basis it had been agreed that EBU Trials for next year's Home International series would be played face-to-face. If it was the case that online was the only option in the near future, it was agreed that RealBridge was preferable to BBO, though new platforms were being developed, and would be considered. The Chairman asked that any problems experienced on RealBridge be addressed to Gordon Rainsford.

It was noted that the World Championships would be held in early March, and that an alternative date for the second weekend of the Camrose, probably later in March, would have to be found. The Committee unanimously agreed that both weekends of the Camrose must be played in the same format. It was agreed that the 2022 Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer, to be hosted by Ireland, would be played online.

It was agreed that a decision on the 2022 Camrose would be taken at a meeting of the Expanded Committee in August. Whilst arrangements for the 2022 events can be finalised in the next few months, it was suggested by Mike that there should be discussions before too long on the longer-term strategy for the Home Internationals.

5.2 *Hotel rates for 2022 Home Internationals*

All delegates were asked to establish the likely rates in their usual venues for 2022, and what cancellation charges (if any) would be imposed.

Action: GF, HH, PP, CP, MA

It was confirmed to Ceri that the administration costs of a Home International were the responsibility of the Home NBO, who would arrange a hotel package for all the competitors. Where players sought to negotiate a cheaper rate with the venue hotel, it would remain the case that a £40 surcharge could be applied.

5.3 *Captain's Meetings*

It was agreed that online Captains' Meetings 3 or 4 days in advance of the event had been helpful, and this practice would be continued.

5.4 *Reserve pairs in the case of online/face-to-face events and extension of system card regulations*

It was agreed that in extenuating circumstances another pair would be permitted to act as substitutes regardless of whether the event was being played online or face-to-face, and would then continue to play in the event. Any decision in regard to substitutes would be taken by the CTD on site. It was further agreed that the maximum number of systems cards permitted for a team would be increased to 5.

5.5 Submission of system cards to Reviewer

The Chairman noted that a penalty applied to a Northern Ireland pair for late submission had not applied.

It was noted that the Reviewer had done a very efficient job last season, and had been zealous, in particular, about full disclosure and all his comments valid in seeking further clarity. The Chairman felt that difficulties experienced in accurate & timely completion of cards had largely been caused by some NPCs being unaware of their responsibilities.

All delegates were asked that when their NPCs were appointed, they were given the necessary guidance to ensure that their players were made fully aware of the deadlines, and understood the WBF regulations in regard to format, particularly in regard to abbreviations.

The Chairman agreed to speak to the Reviewer.

Action: Delegates and JD

5.6 Home International draws 2022

Subsequent to the meeting, the draws for the 2022 Home Internationals were undertaken by the Secretary, as follows:

Camrose Trophy: Final weekend hosted by Scotland

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

Lady Milne Trophy: Hosted by Wales

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

Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer Trophies: Hosted by Ireland

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

Teltscher Trophy: Hosted by Northern Ireland

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

6 Report on Online Junior event and future hosting

Mike reported that the event had involved a lot of work, but had been very rewarding, and enjoyed by all. The only problem had been the lack of clarity in regard to the award of trophies in a combined event, and this will be rectified. It was also necessary for the future that there be a nominated contact for each HNBO.

The 2022 event would be hosted by England, and Gillian agreed to establish a suitable date. Mike confirmed that all squad members for the 2022 Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer would qualify automatically for the Junior Online event, regardless of age i.e. if they had reached a disqualifying age in early 2022. Whilst Ceri was eager to encourage as many juniors as possible, it was agreed to retain the current age limits.

Action: GF

7 Communication between the Home Unions on membership suspensions

Ceri informed the Committee that the WBU doesn't publish its decisions on suspensions of its members, but does inform its tournament organisers, and asked whether a BGB integrated system might be appropriate. Currently BGB had only been notified of suspensions by the EBU, though Paul reported that the EBL was planning to produce a running list for the benefit of NBOs.

8 BGB Website

Delegates joined the Secretary in thanking the Chairman for all his (continuing) work as BGB's Webmaster.

9 Gold Cup

Before leaving the meeting both Helen and Paul said that if a decision was taken to have a similar format for the Gold Cup in the coming year, they would ensure that their players were aware of the ability to enter a team. The Chairman thanked them for their attendance and comments.

9.1 2021 Finals

The current year's competition having been played exclusively online, and the uncertainty of national safety regulations in the coming months, it was agreed that the Finals on 9th & 10th October would be played on RealBridge, and that the Secretary would inform all captains of teams currently in Round 3 of this decision. It was conceded that online was an inferior experience for kibitzers, but in practice very few people had attended the finals in the last few years.

Action: SC

9.2 Closing date for entries

The closing date for entries was agreed as 30th September, and the Secretary would arrange an ad to be placed on the EBU website in July and August, and provide the ad to all EBU Counties and the Home Unions, requesting them to publicise the event as widely as possible.

Action: SC

9.3 Format for 2022

It was agreed that rounds 1 and 2 of the 2022 event would be online, and not regionalised. Thereafter, national regulations permitting, for rounds 3 onwards the default would be face-to-face, unless there

was an automatic right for a half-way venue, when online would be the default. In that event BBO would be the default but RealBridge an alternative if both teams agreed, and the Chairman would be the final arbiter in case of a dispute. In the case of online matches, it would be confirmed that no kibitzers are permitted. The entry fee for 2022 would remain at £88 per team.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Secretary was asked to establish whether all delegates would be able to attend a Zoom meeting at 10.00 on Thursday 19th August to take a decision on the format for the 2022 Camrose matches, the date of the second weekend of the Camrose, and hotel rates for 2022 (if applicable).

The date has been agreed subsequent to the meeting.

Action: SC

Closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.