



**MINUTES OF A ZOOM MEETING OF THE EXPANDED COMMITTEE OF BRIDGE GREAT  
BRITAIN HELD ON MONDAY 13TH MAY 2024.**

**Present:**

Ian Payn ( <b>IP</b> )	(Chairman, England)
Liz McGowan ( <b>LMcG</b> )	(Scotland)
Helen Hall ( <b>HH</b> )	(Northern Ireland)
Dermot O'Brien ( <b>DO'B</b> )	(Republic of Ireland)
Ceri Pierce ( <b>CP</b> )	(Wales)
Gordon Rainsford ( <b>GR</b> )	
Neil Rosen ( <b>NR</b> )	
Jeremy Dhondy ( <b>JD</b> )	
Sandra Claridge ( <b>SC</b> )	(Secretary)

1. There were no apologies for absence

**2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN TO 31ST MARCH 2025**

Ceri Pierce had again confirmed that sadly she was still not able to assume the Chairmanship on behalf of Wales, and Ian proposed, seconded by Helen Hall, that Liz McGowan be elected as Chairman for the coming year. This was agreed nem con.

Ian Payn had informed the Committee that he would be standing down as the England delegate after the meeting, and he was thanked for his service to BGB.

Neil Rosen was welcomed to the meeting, and was subsequently appointed by England as their delegate for the coming year.

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023**

**3.1 Accuracy**

Item 5.3. Helen Hall said that it was the Northern Ireland venue that had experienced the problem of keeping their bar open after the late finish of play on Friday evening.

Item 7.1. In terms of vugraph presentation of the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer, Helen Hall pointed out that it had been agreed that it was adequate to cover 2 tables, as opposed to 3, and that all players had been shown on vugraph.

**3.2 Behavioural problems & responsibilities of NPCs**

Ian Payn apologised that he had not produced the document detailing all the responsibilities of NPCs. A volunteer would be sought at the August meeting to take on this task.

Helen expressed the view that all HNBOs are aware of what is required in terms of Home Internationals, but the Match Manager's report from the first weekend of the Camrose had highlighted problems of communication, and it was agreed that it was vital that all the personnel involved were made fully aware of their responsibilities.

**Action: All delegates**

#### **4. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS & AUDITOR'S REPORT TO 31ST MARCH 2024**

The Secretary had reported that the financial position was as expected, and that the current balance of just under £10K was sufficient to cover BGB's activities in the coming year.

The accounts were adopted nem con, and the Secretary was requested to extend the Committee's thanks to Ian Lindsay for their production, and to sign and return a copy of them on the Chairman's behalf.

**Action: SC**

#### **Subscription rate for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

It was agreed nem con that the subscription rate remain at £500 for the coming year.

**Action: SC**

#### **5. HOME INTERNATIONALS**

##### **5.1 Reports from the 2024 series**

Gordon Rainsford apologised that the chosen venue for the final weekend of the Camrose had been unsuitable for the event, and that it was embarrassing that neither of the England teams had opted to stay there. In addition the provision of tea and coffee was very limited, and the hotel was unable to provide any space for team scoring.

Gordon reported that the venue for the recent Spring Foursomes in Bristol had proved both popular and convenient, and would be considered by the EBU for the Lady Milne Trophy in 2025. The cost per person was quoted as £550 per person. However, as this rate included the cost of function room space, the EBU would be in a position to absorb a proportion of it, and reclaim a small amount of VAT. It was clearly vital in all cases that the question of single and double room costs should be confirmed, and a rate for non-residents and meals costs negotiated.

Jeremy said it was clear that every HNBO had struggled to maintain the level of hospitality within their budget for their events, and some suggestion had been made that a change in the Home International schedule might result in reduced hotel charges, but the Committee felt that this was unlikely and would involve substantial changes to each HNBOs calendars.

It was noted that the HNBOs differ in terms of the level of support offered to their players, and some are prepared, and able, to subsidise their events. It was also agreed that all the participants very much enjoy the five weekends being face-to-face, and that there should be no question of any of them being played online.

A debate followed encapsulating all aspects of the problems experienced, and it was agreed that whilst no change would be made in the 2025 season, further discussion was needed in terms of the format thereafter. It was therefore agreed that the Secretary would make arrangements for a further meeting in the summer to discuss the arrangements for the 2026 Home International season, and that comments and suggestions from HNBO in advance would be much appreciated.

**Action: SC**

##### **5.2 Hosting arrangements & draws for the 2025 season**

Camrose Trophy 1:	3rd-5th January - Scotland
Camrose Trophy 2:	7th-9th March – Northern Ireland
Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer Trophies:	14th-16th February - Wales
Lady Milne Trophy:	11th-13th April - England
Teltscher Trophy:	16th-18th May – Ireland

**Camrose:**

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

**Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer:**

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

**NB:** The draw for the Peggy Bayer Trophy will be produced by the Secretary when the level of entries is known.

**Action: SC**

**Lady Milne:**

Team A	Wales
Team B	N Ireland
Team C	England
Team D	Scotland
Team E	EBU
Team F	Ireland

**Teltscher:**

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

**5.2 Hotel rates for the 2025 season**

It was agreed that 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 £400 per person, or the equivalent in Euros, calculated on a single room basis.

**Note from the Secretary:**

*The rate for the Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer wasn't discussed, and I've therefore made a suggestion, as below, which needs comments please. SC*

*The package rate for the Junior Camrose Trophy and Peggy Bayer Trophy is £340 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 £400 per person, or the equivalent in Euros.*

### **5.3 Event arrangements**

Dermot reported that he had dispensed with players' badges, and event programmes were published on the event's website, only being distributed otherwise to Captains. Helen said that in her experience the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer players thoroughly enjoyed receiving a copy of the programme.

It was confirmed that all the arrangements and programme should be published on the HNBO and BGB websites a week before the event.

### **5.4. Regulations**

It was confirmed that the Home International and Gold Cup and Silver Plate Regulations for 2025 should be checked to ensure that they conformed to EBL Regulations. The same would apply to age limitations, though BGB would continue to deal with exceptions in terms of the Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer as they arose.

### **5.5 Celtic Nations Team**

It was agreed that in future, when the host nation was unable to provide a second team, a combined nations team would be invited to complete the line-up, and would compete on the same basis, i.e. they would be entitled to be "trophy" winners.

### **5.6 2025 Lady Milne Trophy**

It was confirmed that the 2025 Lady Milne Trophy will be hosted by England on the published date, i.e. 11th-13th April 2025.

## **6. ONLINE JUNIOR PAIRS**

Dermot reported that it had been extremely difficult to attract entries for the 2023 event, and it was agreed that the date be moved to January annually to seek to promote interest. Helen agreed to confirm the date in due course.

### **Action HH**

**Helen and Dermot were thanked for their attendance and contributions and then left the meeting.**

## **7. GOLD CUP & SILVER PLATE**

### **7.1 2024 event**

The Secretary reported an entry of 77 teams for the Gold Cup with an entry fee of £92.00 per team and 34 for the Silver Plate. The Finals are being held on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> October at the Mindsports Centre, London.

### **7.2 2025 event**

It was agreed to increase the entry fee for 2025 to £96.00 per team. It was also agreed that September and October are very busy weekends in the EBU calendar, and that a suggestion that the Finals move back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in December would be investigated in terms of possible clashes with international events. If December was possible for the Finals, the closing date for entries for the 2025 would be in early December 2024.

*Secretary's note: Subsequent to the meeting it was confirmed that the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in December did not constitute a clash with any other major event. The date(s) would therefore be confirmed when entries were invited for the 2025 Gold Cup, and that the congestion in the competition calendar in September and early October would be highlighted as the reason for the change.*

**All participants in the meeting were thanked for their attendance, and valuable contributions.**