

BGB Meeting

Wed 19th August 2026 at 10a.m.

1. **Present:** Andrea Knox (AK), Bob McKinnon (BM), Michael Hornung (MH), Brian Mullan (BrM), Dermot O'Brien (DOB), Gordon Rainsford (GR), Jeremy Dhondy (JD)

Apologies: Sandra Claridge

(Minutes use notes made at the time and Zoom AI)

2. Transgender Rules

- Discussion of transgender rules for BGB competitions and insurance coverage for potential legal issues.
- Is Bridge gender affected? The EBU Board had concluded that there was currently insufficient evidence to show that bridge was a Gender Affected Sport as defined under the Equality Act 2010
- Agreed to align policies with WBF and EBL rules, requiring gender identification based on passport or ID documents.
- AK proposed enquiring about insurance coverage for BGB to protect against potential litigation costs, as the current legal status of BGB as either an unincorporated association or collaboration of nations creates uncertainty about liability.
- AK will also check with the WBU & MH with the EBU insurers.
- Bob agreed to check with Scottish Bridge Union about their current insurance coverage position,
- CBAI have recently updated their transgender policy
- Jeremy will review and potentially amend the Home Nation regulations to clearly state the transgender eligibility policy and make sure it is line with WBF/EBL policy
- Countries don't declare their relationship with BGB. Should they? To be on the agenda for the next meeting

3. Festival of Bridge

- The EBU Board viewed the idea positively. SBU happy with proposal. NI thought two weekends in a row for Camrose players might prove to be a problem. CBAI mostly positive. An acceptance that things must change.
- WBU had a small pool of players which might make life difficult for selectors. Scheduling trials appropriately. This meant that Wales would need to vote against this proposal if there was an overlap of events but Wales respected that there were 5 votes and they would follow the result of this vote..

- A condensed programme was preferred to the idea of it stretching to 10 days. Early March was suggested.
- Holding the LM midweek might not be best.
- Lovebridge tablets should be considered
- The Mixed event (British Isles Trophy) might fit but only if Camrose was reduced to one weekend. If the 2nd Camrose was kept it could be at a different time. MH suggested keeping the Mixed online until festival is established and then reconsidering.
- Proposal to be formalised at the next meeting. Meanwhile MH would produce a paper for that meeting.
- If possible chosen date should avoid the US Nationals
- Other considerations
- **Venues:** Each country to take turns as at present but have the right to hold in another country if it has a preferable and more convenient venue.. Current rotation to be kept but re-considered if the HI becomes 4 countries.
- Costs to be split 5 ways but expenditure figure needs to be agreed.
- **Equipment:**
- Bulky, heavy to move, storage problem suggests BGB owning own set would not be best with each HNBO owning their own or borrowing it from another as appropriate.
- Likely technical help would be needed at first. GR or Jonathan Lillycrop would be glad to assist.
- Critical that a venue should have a good internet signal if this is to work
- Cost of Bridge Owl uncertain at present. It needs testing and the EBU are likely to test possibly at Crockfords, LM trials and 3rd weekend of the PL. If that is ok then Camrose 1 in January.
- Wireless cameras are around £45 per unit. A switch and laptop also needed.
- **Accommodation:** Should players be charged if they stay elsewhere? General feeling was yes unless they lived close to their home venue
- It was decided that while attendance at the final dinner would be strongly encouraged rather than mandatory, each home nation would be charged regardless of whether players attend, with any surplus potentially shared equally if sponsorship is secured.
- Regulations should be more specific on this from 2028 onwards
- One solution might be an overall entry fee charge to included accommodation/food and paid even if players stay elsewhere. Costs might be £450 per weekend (£400 if room sharing)
- Advantage would be to make it easier to budget venues

- Regulations for 2027 should be tightened to take this into account
- Minor changes for 2027. Wholesale change for 2028
- Review if and when 5 nations become 4 and transition period has passed.

4. SBU proposal

- Would remove obligation for playing venue to be in hotel or within walking distance
- SBU for Camrose in 2027 have a hotel and Bridge Club a few minutes drive away
- SBU would provide transport between the venues
- Need to check the venues are disabled friendly
- The proposal was approved but players must stay/eat at the venue hotel unless the HNBO allows local players (only) to stay at home

Next Meeting: 3rd week of October? Sandra to poll for date.