



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRIDGE GREAT BRITAIN**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 19TH AUGUST 2024 TO**  
**CONSIDER THE FUTURE OF THE CAMROSE SERIES IN 2025/26**

**Present:** Liz McGowan (SBU delegate, Chairman)  
Neil Rosen (EBU delegate)  
Helen Hall (NIBU delegate)  
Dermot O'Brien (CBAI delegate)  
Ceri Pierce (WBU delegate)  
Andrea Knox (WBU)  
Gordon Rainsford (EBU)  
Alan Goodman (SBU)  
Jeremy Dhondy  
Sandra Claridge (Secretary)

**1. Future of the Camrose**

It was unanimously agreed that the Camrose series does have a future, and that every effort would be made to consider an acceptable format, cost-saving initiatives, and the maintenance of the spirit of the competitions by participants playing and staying at the venue hotel.

**2. Introduction of U31 and Mixed Team events**

It was agreed that an U31 event would not be introduced in the near future. However, the Chairman reported that Mike Ash (SBU) would be trialling an online Mixed Teams event on the weekend of either 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

*Secretary's note:*

Whilst the Online Junior Pairs was not included on the agenda, it is being run by the NIBU on the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025. All HNBO's are requested to publicise the event.

**3. Particular financial concerns of the participating HNBOs**

Every HNBO indicated their difficulty in achieving the package cost of £400 per person in the coming season, and accordingly some subsidies would be necessary.

Support of players varied from Union to Union, but the general feeling was that there must be equity in terms of the quality of venues, and that rates for room-sharing in terms of players and/or spouses must be determined, as well as clear information on single and double room rates.

Alan Goodman reported that one event was spoilt last season by one country's players staying and eating in an alternative venue, and that the regulations should stipulate that a condition of entry to the relevant Trial would be that the players are expected to stay at the venue hotel, though exceptions will be made where players live within a stipulated radius. In general terms it was agreed that hotels will be happy to have a guaranteed booking of 30 rooms for the weekend.

**4. Possible money-saving solutions**

Liz reported that the SBU had recently run an event in Aviemore where neither lunches nor coffee in the playing rooms were provided, and this could be considered for home international events. The general view was that necessary cost-cutting measures would be accepted by the players.

The question of the provision of dinner on Sunday evening of the first Camrose weekend was also mentioned, Gordon reporting that England does provide dinner, and both the NIBU and CBAI noting that in their case it was a necessity with nearly all players travelling home on Monday morning.

#### *4.2 Combining events*

A number of options were considered but not found to be ideal, particularly in the case of the Junior Camrose and possibly the Lady Milne, and both the NIBU and CBAI said that a combination of events would not produce a saving in their case. However, the notion of a "Festival of Bridge" comprising the Lady Milne and Teltscher Trophies with the Teltscher being played on Wednesday - Friday morning and the Lady Milne on Friday evening until Sunday evening did find favour, and this would be explored. If found to be possible there would be a saving in terms of staff costs, and each HNBO would have one year free in every five.

There was no support for reducing the Camrose Trophy to one weekend, and it was agreed in principle that from 2025/6 the first weekend of the Camrose would be played online, and the second face-to-face.

It was agreed that a firm decision on the Camrose and possible "Festival of Bridge" would be taken at the BGB AGM in May.

#### *4.3 Alternative venues or dates*

The possibility of using bridge clubs and local hotels or student venues were both rejected on the basis that they would not produce the atmosphere required.

It was agreed that with the exception of the proposed Teltscher/Lady Milne, the remainder of the current schedule would be maintained.

#### *4.1 Sponsorship*

There was general agreement that sponsorship/patronage to help to reduce the HNBOs costs of staging events was extremely difficult to attract. Gordon reported that England had in the past managed to find sponsors for the Champions Cup and the Lederer in exchange for having a team playing in the event. It was suggested by Dermot that Viscount Camrose might be a possibility and the Chairman agreed to investigate the possibility.

An idea that a "sponsored" team might be given the option of providing the 6<sup>th</sup> team in the Camrose, Lady Milne & Teltscher Trophies at an agreed rate might be worth considering, and if adopted, it was agreed that the team would compete on the same basis as the five HNBO teams, i.e. be eligible to win the relevant trophy.

**Closing the meeting the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance. She asked delegates to respond to the suggestions changes as soon as possible, and confirmed that, if formally agreed, they would be adopted in the 2025/26 season.**