

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION – KELVIN & MALONE ON 5th JUNE 2013

PRESENT: -	Chairperson	C Burns
	Vice-Chairperson elect	J Bergin
	Hon Secretary	L Scott
	Hon Treasurer	N Irwin
	Hon Masterpoints Sec	R Burns
	Hon Competitions Sec	J Murchan
	President	A Sharp
	Past President	A Hill
	Past President	I Hamilton
	Past President	I Lindsay
	Past President	M O’Kane

Present – A Hassan (Congress Organiser & SMCOPA), D Cannell (Hon Magazine Editor & Holywood), J Millership (Brunswick), F Boyd (Boat Club), P Johnston (Derryvolgie), Ann Shannon (Derryvolgie), Stan Lowe (Derryvolgie), R Connolly (Downpatrick), J Spiers (Holywood), C Jeffries (K&M), M Warnock (K&M), E McNicholl (Maghera), C Willis (Shandon), D Brennan (SMCOBA), R Hill (SMCOBA), C Jeffries (K&M), C Jones (K&M), M Warnock (K&M), B McDowell (UUC), R Anderson (UUC), H Curran (Jt Secretary IBU), G Mackenzie (Selection Committee), A Hill, I Hamilton, N Cauwood, J Conlon, M McFaul, J Ferguson, S. Millership

Apologies

A Anderson, H Cole, S Cairns, A Cairns, E Devlin, P Murdock, A Murdock, B Scott, E Walmsley, R Heatherington, H Hill, C Jones, S Graham, A Fitzpatrick.

Minutes

The Minutes of the 2011 AGM were adopted on the proposal of P Johnston, seconded by E McNicholl, and signed by the chairperson, C Burns.

Matters arising from the minutes.

Under the heading, ‘Adoption of the new Constitution of the Northern Ireland Bridge Union’, the name of A Sharp was omitted from the Sub-Committee.

Reports

The Hon Secretary’s Report – L Scott – As this report was published on the net it was adopted.

The Hon Competitions Secretary’s Report – J Murchan – As this report was published on the net it was adopted.

The Hon Masterpoints Secretary’s Report – R Burns – As this report was published on the net it was adopted.

The Hon Treasurer’s Report was presented by N Irwin who said that this would be her last report to the Union. She added that she had thoroughly enjoyed working as treasurer but with the new Constitution she thought it was time to hand over to someone with a greater interest in business plans, disability policies and insurance than she had. The Treasurer said that it was pleasing to report a surplus this year of £5.7k which was largely due to the excellent deal made with La Mon House Hotel when we hosted the Camrose in January. Because the second Camrose was held in Dublin that too had reduced the expenditure as there was no flying. She added that due to the sterling work of Diane Greenwood there had been a ‘windfall’ due to the fact that the flights en route to the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer had been delayed and Easyjet’s policy of refunds compensated us handsomely. Income from competitions, affiliation and Congresses made small profits. N Irwin added that the Ballot at the Congresses had raised money to support Youth Bridge and also that it was encouraging to see so many young people at the Armagh Congress. She also commented on the excellent work done by I Hamilton with the Celtic Pairs where approximately £4k was made and of that we will get approximately £1.4k; also the Interclub events are a steady source of income. N Irwin suggested that perhaps Council should appoint someone to ‘shadow’ Ian’s work as there would be a large decrease in income if Ian gave up this job. She added that we purchased a new dealing machine at the Europeans at a very competitive price and thanked J Murchan for this. She also said that several computers had been purchased for the BBO work done at International weekends and for this R Plunkett was thanked. The competition fees had increased and therefore automatically the prize money had also increased. She thanked J Murchan for all the hard work he had done in encouraging players to enter competitions. She added that a few competitions hadn’t been run because of poor support but the majority of the rest had good entries. Some payment for playing in Cups was still outstanding and she asked that these be paid promptly. The Treasurer thanked A Hill and L Scott for lodging money for her when necessary. She also went on to thank the TDs and welcomed N Cauwood into that rank. The Treasurer added that although the Finance Sub-Committee had not met that often a lot of work had been done and she thanked M McFaul for producing an

excellent and comprehensive business plan; and added that she understood R Anderson had put a lot of work into this aspect too and thanked him for his work. She said that Ciara, as Chairperson was a breath of fresh air around the Union and thanked her for the work she had done and wished her good luck for the next year. In closing she thanked A Fitzpatrick for auditing the books. The Treasurers report was adopted on the proposal of J Murchan seconded by J Millership.

The Report of the Selection Committee – R Plunkett – As this report was published on the net it was adopted. R Connolly gave a brief synopsis of the Junior Camrose saying that the team finished 3rd, a few VPs behind the winners. The Peggy Bayer Team finished 4th but as they are a very young and inexperienced team they are being worked with. R Anderson said that the Selection Committee were autonomous and their standing orders were published on the website.

Chairperson's Address – C Burns – As this report was published on the net it was adopted.

President's address – A Sharp – As this report was published on the net it was adopted.

Election of officers

The following officers were elected:-

Hon Secretary: M McFaul was proposed by A Sharp, seconded by B McDowell, L Scott was proposed by J Spiers, seconded by D Cannell. A secret ballot was held. The tellers were J Murchan and R Burns. M McFaul was duly elected.

Hon Treasurer: N Cauwood, proposed by R Anderson and seconded by I Hamilton. N Cauwood was elected.

Hon Master Points Secretary: R Burns re-elected proposed by J Ferguson, seconded by J Spiers. R Burns was elected.

President: I Hamilton proposed by R Anderson and seconded by R Burns. I Hamilton was elected.

Trustees: Three Trustees were appointed, I Lindsay, C Burns and R Anderson on the proposal of E McNicholl, seconded by F Boyd.

Delegates to NIBU Council

Nominations had been received from clubs to sit on Council however it was agreed that nominations could be taken from the floor. These nominations included those already given to the Hon Secretary by various clubs. No further nominations were made so all were elected on the proposal of J Ferguson, seconded by F Boyd.

P Johnston (Derryvolgie)
J Bergin (City of Derry) – Vice Chair elect
E McNicholl (Maghera)
R Connolly (Downpatrick)
I Lindsay (K&M)
N Irwin (K&M)
A.Hassan (SMCOBA)

AOB

J Murchan said that he was standing down as the Schools Representative. He also added that a complaint had been made by a visitor re unacceptable behaviour as the Armagh Congress. A Comment had been made at a table which deeply upset some players who happened to be visitors. He added that a lot of hard work was done to encourage people to attend the Congresses and that this type of behaviour discouraged people and that we needed all the visitors to Congresses if these were to be successful etc. It was suggested that a behavioural code should be introduced. L Scott said that this had been done during the Chairmanship of S Millership and had been sent to all clubs. J Ferguson suggested that we should have a zero tolerance policy and that perhaps this should be included in all future literature advertising Congresses etc. Much discussion ensued and R Anderson said that this should be addressed by the Laws and Ethics Sub-committee. J Murchan suggested that a written warning be given for the first offence and a possible suspension for the second. A Hill said that this event had not been reported to the TDs. J Murchan added that 3 different players were involved. I Hamilton asked if J Murchan knew the people involved and was answered in the affirmative. E McNicholl ask if an apology could be made on behalf of the Union. M McFaul asked if these people were given an opportunity to respond to the complaint. Again much discussion ensued and H Curran asked if we had anyone cited to make a complaint to, a players representative. At present we do not and it was thought perhaps that we should appoint someone and publish the name of that person prominently at Congresses and competitions. On a proposal of J Murchan, seconded by J Ferguson it was agreed to have this matter addressed by the Laws and Ethics Sub-Committee.

G Mackenzie then thanked L Scott for her sterling work as Hon Secretary over the past number of years and added that he had always got on well with her.

M Warnock then asked about the Discussion document on the Masterpoints. He said he had made comment on this about bringing us into line with CBAI as there seemed to be disparity in the Intermediate ranks between NIBU and CBAI and that in his opinion this was disadvantageous to players from NIBU who wished to play in competitions run under the auspices of the CBAI. R Burns said that the minutes of the last meeting were on the net and that we were keeping the status quo. I Hamilton said he sat on this Sub-Committee and our criteria was in line with SBU, WBU and EBU. M Warnock then added that he would just like there to be a level playing field. C Burns added that the criteria for promotion is the same for all Unions.

S Millership asked when it was decided to give Red Points for the Helm Cup and R Burns said that it had been done last year. J Murchan said he had been asked by 2 people what were the rules and regulations in terms of Red points. R Burns said that it was published on the net but that he would check.

Presentation of Prizes -

Premier II league – H Curran’s team
Kelvin Cup – I Hamilton’s team – no cup was actually presented as I Lindsay had omitted to bring it along.

Players of the Year -

Intermediate ‘B’	B Collins
Intermediate ‘A’	B Clarke
Senior	R Burns

The meeting was then declared closed at 8.30pm by the Chairperson, C Burns who thanked all those in attendance.

Signed _____ Dated _____