

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

Minutes of a meeting of the Laws & Ethics Committee held on July 9th 2014 at Kelvin-Malone

Present: A. Hill, M.McFaul, I.Lindsay, C. Jeffries, P. Dufton, S. McCaughan, B. Scott, A. Sharp.

1. Apologies

S. Millership

2. Election of Chairman

AH was proposed by IL, seconded by PD and agreed by all. AH took the chair.

3. Declarations of Interest

AH outlined the views of the NIBU Chairman on the need for this item at the commencement of each meeting.

4. Terms of Reference

AH tabled the existing version and a proposed a revised, shortened version. PD referred to the Disciplinary procedure and the apparent need for a 'separation of powers' when hearing cases brought to the committee. He cited the codes employed by the other Home Unions. A lengthy discussion ensued. It was agreed to accept the proposed Terms of Reference subject to paragraph '2' being re-worded.

Action: AH to re-draft 'Terms of Reference'.

5. Standing Orders

It was agreed that the existing Standing Orders no longer applied and that a new version would be re-drafted. For all meetings to be quorate, at least five members must be in attendance at the beginning of the meeting.

Action: AH to re-draft Standing Orders.

6. Code of Ethics

It was agreed that only behaviour of NIBU members within a bridge-related context could be considered relevant when reviewing alleged breaches of the code. SMcC tabled a model code employed by the Civil Service and agreed to produce a version for the Committee using this template.

Action: SMcC to draft proposed Code of Ethics.

7. Systems & Conventions

AH announced that Council had agreed to adopt the WBF policy and a brief discussion ensued on the practical implications of this.

Action: AH to post agreed policy on the NIBU website.

8. Disciplinary Matters Postponed from Last Year

AH tabled the Camrose NPC report and a lengthy discussion followed. It was concluded that nothing contained in the report could be considered as having breached any law thus rendering it as irrelevant to the Committee's deliberations. It was felt that the matter was one solely within the purview of the Selection Committee and that the report be dealt with by that Committee as it sees appropriate.

The March 20th email to the Secretary from the Competitions Secretary in which strong views were expressed concerning the alleged behaviour of an NIBU member was also considered. It was agreed to note the contents but to take no further action given the absence therein of any specific allegation supported by evidence.

Action: MMcF to brief the Selection Committee Chair of the decision to refer the Camrose NPC report to that Committee.

9. Any Other Business

AS proposed that the Committee should agree in principle that only items of business submitted to the Chair or Secretary in advance be considered. This was agreed by all.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday July 23rd, 7.15pm at Kelvin-Malone.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary