

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

Minutes of a meeting of the Laws & Ethics Committee held on July 23rd 2014 at Kelvin-Malone.

Present: A. Hill (Chair), M. McFaul (Secretary), S. Millership, P. Dufton, S. McCaughan, C. Jeffries, B. Scott. A. Sharp.

The meeting began at 7.15pm.

1. Apologies

I.Lindsay. N. Irwin

2. Minutes of the meeting of July 9th 2014

N. Irwin's apologies to be recorded. I. Lindsay to be recorded as having left the meeting prior to item '8' being discussed.

3. Matters Arising

(As following agenda items)

4. Terms of Reference

A minor change to Paragraph '4' was agreed to read 'Advise Council on any other PERTINENT matter it refers to the committee'

Action: AH to finalise agreed Terms of Reference.

5. Standing Orders

IL had queried whether co-opted members of the committee 'with suitable expertise' should be counted as contributing towards the required quorum. It was agreed that they would. PD requested that all queries from third parties with reference to the minutes should be referred to the Chair or, in his absence, to the Secretary. It was agreed to add this example of good practice to the Standing Orders as item '1.8'

6. Code of Ethics

SMcC was thanked for her draft. It was agreed to accept the changes suggested by PD and MMcF. Members considered a 'Code of Conduct' to be a more appropriate term. A discussion took place on the NIBU's role when faced with reports of unacceptable behaviour by a member within an affiliated club. While clubs are fully autonomous with regard to how members behave on their own premises, the Union was anxious to be available to offer help and support in resolving disputes. MMcF reminded members that clubs seeking affiliation did not have to be proposed or indeed satisfy any pre-conditions of membership of the NIBU.

It was agreed to simply quote WBF Law 74 as applying under 'Courtesy'

Action: MMcF to re-draft and circulate.

7. Disciplinary Code

PD outlined the models employed by the EBU, SBU and ACBL. A lengthy discussion ensued, the gist of which was, after a fact-finding stage, whether submissions would all be in writing or whether individuals would provide testimony in person.

Members agreed a procedure would have to recognise the limited resources available to the Union and that such a procedure, while not an exemplar, would be pragmatic in dealing with any issues that arose.

- Allegations must be made accompanied by a specific request for action in writing to the Tournament Director (during competitions) otherwise to the Secretary.
- Council will refer all potential disciplinary matters to the Laws & Ethics Committee
- The Committee will appoint a small sub-panel to investigate and fact-find.
- The sub-panel will report back to the full committee and the latter will submit its recommendation for action or non-action to Council
- Council, as the final Disciplinary Authority with executive responsibility, will consider whether to accept or reject the Committee's recommendation.

Action: PD to draft model Disciplinary Procedure.

8. Systems and Conventions Policy

AH tabled a final draft. SM requested a change to the text relating to when HUM systems and Brown Sticker Conventions were permissible, for the sake of clarity and AH agreed to re-draft and post on the website.

Action: AH to post agreed policy on website subject to re-wording

9. Date of next meeting

To be arranged.

The meeting ended at 9.10pm

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary