

14 May 2018

Law & Ethics Committee – Report of Chair

1 The Law & Ethics Committee members appointed by Council on 28 June 2017 were Rex Anderson [convenor], Shelagh McCaughan, Ian Hamilton, Elbha Walmsley and Alan Sharp.

Council referred proposed amendments to the 'Code of Conduct' and Terms of Reference' to L&E for amendment. Council approved the amendments proposed to 'Disciplinary Procedures' and 'Standing Orders'. [Minutes Item 3]

Council referred to L&E the proposal that after a multi 2 diamond opening, players should have the right to consult their defence before bidding. [Minutes Item 14]

2 The L&E Committee met on 26 July 2017. Rex Anderson was elected as Chair.

The L&E Committee agreed a revised text for the 'Code of Conduct' and Terms of Reference'.

L&E recommended that there be no change to the present where players were not permitted to consult notes after a 2 diamond opening.

3 The revised text for the 'Code of Conduct' and Terms of Reference' were approved by Council at the 08 November 2017 meeting.

4 At the 15 March 2018 Council meeting a member of Council proposed that the L&E Committee be tasked with drawing up a NIBU policy on data protection. [Minutes Item 3]

All but one member of the L&E Committee considered that drawing up such a policy document for the NIBU was outside the L&E terms of reference. The Secretary of the NIBU was informed of that decision.

5 No appeals or matters within the current terms of reference were dealt with by the Committee other than as set out heretofore.

6 The European Bridge League and other prosecutions of bridge players alleged to be cheaters has shown that some National Bridge Organisations constitutions and regulations are deficient in that there are no powers for them to sanction players convicted by another Bridge Organisation.

Reciprocity of imposition of sanctions would require a change to the NIBU Constitution.

A change to the definitions in 1.1.1 of the NIBU Disciplinary Procedures to include contravention of Screen and Bidding Box Regulations and the addition of defining such contravention as reprehensible behaviour in Appendix One is also worthy of consideration

Neither of these matters has been referred by Council to the current L&E Committee or addressed by the current L&E Committee. The CBAI and the Irish Bridge Union intend to address these matters in the near future.

Rex Anderson