

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Kelvin-Malone on 4th June 2014 at 6.30pm

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| Present: | President | Ian Hamilton |
| | Chairperson | Ciara Burns |
| | Vice-Chairperson | John Bergin |
| | Hon. Secretary | Michael McFaul |
| | Hon. Treasurer | Neill Cauwood |
| | Hon. Masterpoints Sec. | Robin Burns |
| | Hon. Competitions Sec. | John Murchan |
| | Past President | Michael O'Kane |

A.Hassan (Congress Organiser+SMCOBA), D. Cannell (Newsletter editor+Holywood), R. Johnston(Bann), N.Perceval-Price (Killyleagh), H. Hill (KM), A. Hill(KM), A. Anderson (KM), P.McAllister(Downpatrick), T.Sproule(KM), D. Johnston(Bann), D. Franklin(Holywood), R.Anderson(Coleraine), K.Hammond(Spa), P.Dufton(KM), Di.Greenwood(SMCOBA), D.Greenwood(SMCOBA), F.Boyd(Belfast Boat Club), J.McAllister(Kilrea), K.McAllister(Kilrea), R.Connolly(Downpatrick), H.Cole(Brunswick), I.Lindsay(KM), C.Watson(Derryvolgie), M.Warnock(KM), N.Irwin(KM), J.Baird(KM), N.Mooney(Derryvolgie), A.Fitzpatrick(KM), L.Scott(Holywood), M.Mackenzie, P.Johnston(Derryvolgie), G.Mackenzie(KM), E.McNicholl(Maghera), S.Lowe(Derryvolgie), J.Conlon, A.Bergin, A.McConnell(Merville), M.Sayliss(Merville)

The meeting was preceded by an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Union, the purpose of which was to adopt a new Constitution.

The reasoning behind the proposed change was outlined by C. Burns and M.McFaul who also dealt with issues requiring clarification.

After some discussion a vote was taken with 32 members voting in favour, 6 against with 2 abstentions.

The new Constitution was adopted with immediate effect.

Apologies:

C.Jeffries, S.Jeffries, J.Spiers, B.McDowell, E.Devlin, R.Kilpatrick, J.Ferguson, H.Ferguson, C.Byrne, D.Doyle, R.Edgworth, E,Walmsley.

1. Minutes of the AGM held on June 5th 2013

Adopted on the proposal by R. Connolly, seconded by H. Curran subject to a minor correction: *'That the 2012 minutes be recorded as adopted and not the 2011 minutes'*.

2. Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes

3. Officers' Reports

Written reports were tabled by the Hon. Secretary, Hon. Master Points Secretary and Hon. Competitions Secretary. R. Anderson suggested that correspondence relating to a complaint of a personal nature and a potential disciplinary matter should be mentioned in the Hon. Secretary's report. He also raised a number of issues relating to the Camrose, Senior Camrose, respective trials and Premier League eligibility with the Competitions Secretary. The latter responded to each point while confirming that the correct rules governing the Premier League would be posted on the website.

A.Anderson expressed concern that the Millership Cup had not taken place this year.

4. Report of the Hon. Treasurer

N.Cauwood tabled his report together with financial statements for the year ended March 31st 2014. He was happy to announce an increase in revenue from competitions of some 60% and congratulated J. Murchan and I.Hamilton in their efforts to increase income via open NIBU competition entries and Inter-Club Competitions. He also congratulated the Chair on attracting 10 further clubs to affiliate – resulting in an uplift of 25% in affiliation income. He also thanked the other officers for their help and support throughout the past year.

5. Report of the Chairperson of the Selection Committee

R.Anderson raised a number of issues relating to trials and team selection. These were responded to by the Chair of Selectors.

P.Dufton expressed concern at the manner in which his resignation from the Committee had been leaked. He emphasised the need for a new culture of collegiate decision-making within the NIBU with committees acting responsibly and in good faith.

6. Chairperson's Address

C.Burns tabled copies of her valedictory address and spoke of how much she had enjoyed her period in office. She regretted that the last year had been dominated by issues relating to a number of disputes between some of the most senior players but was proud to have witnessed an increase in club affiliation from 33 to 44 during the past season.

At this point C. Burns stood down and J. Bergin took the Chair.

The Chairperson thanked C. Burns for all her efforts and hard work throughout her term in office. He referred to her abundant enthusiasm, her very serious commitment to the NIBU and praised the indefatigable spirit she brought to the post of Chair. His comments were warmly received by members.

He stated that he was honoured to be taking on the role of Chair and was very much looking forward to the next two years. He referenced the challenges ahead for the NIBU and in particular, the need to promote the game. He welcomed the opportunity to work together with members to develop and expand the bridge-playing community.

7. Election of Officers.

Council's nominees were put to the meeting. A.Hassan requested that each post be voted on individually and this was agreed.

- a. Hon. Secretary – M.McFaul. Proposed by M.O’Kane, Seconded by A. Hassan
- b. Hon. Master Points Secretary – R. Burns. Proposed by H.Hill, Seconded by A. Anderson
- c. Hon. Competitions Secretary-J. Murchan. Proposed by A.Fitzpatrick, Seconded by E.McNicholl
- d. Hon. Treasurer – A.Fitzpatrick. Proposed by I.Lindsay, Seconded by H.Cole

All were elected on a show of hands.

8. Election of Members to the NIBU Council

Nine members were nominated for seven posts. Nominees were:

C. Jeffries
G. Mackenzie
I.Lindsay
P.Johnston
E. McNicholl
N.Perceval-Price
N.Irwin
A.Hassan
R.Anderson

Members were asked to vote by private ballot and as a result the following were deemed elected:

C.Jeffries
G.Mackenzie
I.Lindsay
P.Johnston
E.McNicholl
N.Irwin
A.Hassan

The decision to delegate representatives to the Irish Bridge Union, Bridge Great Britain and to appoint trustees to any vacancies was deferred to the next Council meeting.

9. Presentation of trophies

The Colonel Walshe Trophy and Ken Baxter Salver were presented to the Camrose team in lieu of it having defeated Scotland in the Home International series past.

10. Other Business

G.Mackenzie spoke strongly in support of the outgoing Chairperson. He said she had performed exceptionally well in office, referring in particular to her organising the inaugural Gala Pairs and her tireless efforts to attract clubs into affiliation. His comments were warmly received by members.

N.Irwin asked members to recognise the work done by N.Mooney, P.Johnston and J.Murchan in organising the Novice League but queried the fairness of charging an entry fee of £160 per team.

A.Anderson queried the rationale behind the change in awarding Red Points for Congress Teams events.

D.Cannell exhorted members to send him articles, news and items of interest for the NIBU Newsletter.

A.Hassan asked members to support the forthcoming autumn Congress in September.

R.Anderson asked the meeting to recognise I.Lindsay's sponsorship of the Senior Camrose and this generous act was warmly applauded.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

M.McFaul
Hon. Secretary