

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

Laws & Ethics Committee

Summary of a meeting held on May 18th 2015 at 2pm.

Venue: Kelvin-Malone

Present: A.Sharp (AS), M.McFaul (MMcF), I.Lindsay (IL), S. McCaughan (SMcC), B. Scott (BS), N. Irwin (NI)

The meeting was called to consider a report compiled following investigations carried out in response to a complaint submitted by an NIBU member. (Complaint Reference 2015/01)

The complaint centred on an incident that occurred during a Senior League match on the evening of February 25th 2015. It was alleged by the complainant that a member of the opposing team had behaved in breach of Law 74 that governs Conduct and Etiquette at the table.

As the Committee Chair was a witness to the incident in question, AS was appointed to oversee the investigation. It was agreed that BS and SMcC would act as investigators, in accordance with the NIBU Disciplinary Policy (2014).

A thorough and detailed investigation was carried out; both parties and individual witnesses being interviewed. Written statements were also submitted.

Following consideration of the report it was agreed that no disciplinary action be taken but that both parties would be reminded of their obligation to comply with Law 74 at all times. In this instance, the alleged behaviour was considered to constitute a 'minor' breach of Law 74.

AS agreed to write to both parties suggesting a 'facilitation' meeting with him in order to bring closure to the matter.

It was agreed that the question of assigning scores for the affected match (which was not completed) be left to the Tournament Director and that since any further adjustment would not affect the final league table, the matter be left as it is.

It was agreed that the following recommendation be referred to the incoming Tournament Committee:

"That steps are taken to try and ensure that all NIBU events are supervised by a non-playing tournament –director. Where this is not possible, a playing director should be empowered to impose a brief 'cooling-off' period during play in order to diffuse potential breaches of Law 74"

Members thanked AS for his handling of the complaint. He in turn thanked BS and SMcC for carrying out the investigation in such a detailed and comprehensive manner.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary

