

# NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

Minutes of a meeting of the Laws & Ethics Committee held on September 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 at Kelvin-Malone.

Present: A. Sharp (AS, Convenor), M. McFaul (MMcF, Secretary), P. Dufton(PD), B. Scott (BS), Ian Hamilton (IH), Toni Sproule (TS), Ian Lindsay (IL), Norma Irwin (NI)

The meeting began at 2.30pm.

**1. Apologies**

Shelagh McCaughan.

**2. Election of Chairman**

IH was proposed by AS and seconded by IL. Agreed unanimously.

IH took the Chair.

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2015**

The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record of what had taken place in relation to a complaint following an incident at a Senior League match.

**4. Matters Arising**

AS reported that he had written to both parties concerned offering to facilitate at a conciliatory meeting. However one party had declined the offer and the meeting was abandoned. No further action had been proposed and the matter was now considered closed.

***Action: MMcF agreed to raise the question of 'playing TD's' with Liz Scott and the Tournament Committee.***

**5. Review of Terms of Reference, Disciplinary Matters and Code of Ethics.**

Following the recent investigation, PD had suggested an update of the Disciplinary Code to enable an informal resolution of matters to take place where it was considered appropriate to do so. Following clarification of what was intended, the revised text was proposed by TS and seconded by BS with all in favour.

***Action: MMcF agreed to take the revised Disciplinary Code to Council for agreement.***

**6. Correspondence sent to the Convenor**

a) AS read out email correspondence from **John Murchan (JM)**. The latter had been asked to submit further details about the nature of his complaint but none had yet been received. MMcF confirmed that JM had been in attendance at the recent Council meeting and had requested permission to raise a matter with the Laws & Ethics Committee. It was agreed that all complaints should be referred to Council in the first instance and that Council would delegate matters to the appropriate committee should it be considered appropriate to do so.

However it was agreed that TD's should refer any matters of concern directly to the committee and that the committee's Terms of Reference be amended to include an additional statement to that effect.

**Action: MMcF agreed to refer revised Terms of Reference to Council for agreement.**

b) AS read out email correspondence from **Ciara Burns (CB)** in which she requested action concerning the alleged behaviour of Rex Anderson at the 2014 Camrose series. The Chairman referred to the minutes of July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014 in which it was made clear that no action would be taken in relation to this matter. The alleged incident had taken place outside the playing area and was therefore not deemed to be within the purview of the committee or the Disciplinary code.

**Action: IH agreed to write to CB in response.**

c) AS read out email correspondence from **Rex Anderson (RA)**. The latter had expressed concern that an unsubstantiated allegation had been made about his behaviour on March 2014 and that the matter had been 'noted' by the committee. He requested that the current minute's record the allegation as being dismissed, there having been no evidence provided in support. In response to the request that 'the note made on the record of the NIBU member be expunged', it was pointed out that the organisation does not maintain personal records of its members. As a consequence, no such record or note existed to be expunged.

**Action: MMcF agreed to write to RA in response.**

The next meeting to be arranged at the Chairman's discretion.

With business concluded, the meeting ended at 4pm.

Michael McFaul  
Hon. Secretary