

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Corr's Corner on Sunday June 25th at 7pm.

Present: (32)	President	Ian Lindsay
	Chairperson	Anne Hassan
	Hon. Secretary	Michael McFaul
	Hon. Competitions Secretary	Liz Scott
	Hon. Master points Secretary	Robin Burns
	Councillor	Pat Johnston
	Councillor	Eric McNicholl
	Councillor	Valerie Von Hof
	Councillor	Pat Coull
	Councillor	Rosemary Kilpatrick
	Councillor	Heather Hill
	Councillor	Harold Curran
	Councillor	Ken Hammond
	Councillor	Toni Sproule

Also present: Diane Greenwood, David Greenwood, Drew Lindsay, May Brennan, Margaret Bleakley, Norma Irwin, Clare Watson, Tom McKeever, Paul Tranmer, David Leeman, Derek Cannell, Rex Anderson, Richard Coulter, John Forsythe, Tom McGarry, Dolores Boyle, Christine Byrne, Ian Hamilton,

Apologies: Alan Sharp, Brian McDowell, Neill Cauwood, Emmet Devlin, Anne Fitzpatrick, Nuala Mooney, Alan Hill, Greer Mackenzie, Colin Jeffries, Susie Jeffries, Sandie Millership, Bill Scott, John Bergin, John Murchan, Raymond Johnston, Melvin Warnock.

The Chairperson, Anne Hassan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting

On a proposal by Ken Hammond and seconded by Heather Hill, the Minutes were agreed.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes

3. Annual Reports of the Officers and Chairs of Committees

Anne Hassan said that as a booklet of Reports was provided, she would just highlight a few items of importance and suggested that others do likewise.

She said she was shocked by the deaths of four valued NIBU worker namely June Spiers, Norma Perceval-Price, Cecil Richey and Ciara Burns during the year and added that they would be sadly missed.

She also drew attention to her comment about presentation of prizes. She pleaded with all players to wait and applaud the winners at the end of an event.

She thanked Derek Cannell for his outstanding work as Editor of the NIBU magazine and expressed the urgent need for a new Editor.

Michael McFaul said that Council would be looking over the terms of membership at the September meeting. He also explained why it had been necessary to call an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Union immediately after the current proceedings

Ian Lindsay said he would speak at Agenda Item 6, on behalf of the Hon Treasurer, as she had been unable to attend the meeting.

Robin Burns congratulated all players who had gained elevated status and said he continued to enjoy carrying out the role of Master Points Secretary.

Liz Scott said she continued to be disappointed at the level of turnout for competitions even though the past season had seen a slight upturn. She urged more Intermediate players to come out and support NIBU events.

Ian Hamilton said that the League and Cup rules had been revised and passed to the Tournament Committee for approval. He urged that this be done in time for the start of the new season.

Paul Tranmer had nothing to add to his report.

Rex Anderson expressed concern that proposals emanating from the Laws & Ethics Committee in January had not yet been agreed by Council. He urged that this be addressed in time for the new season.

Diane Greenwood expanded on the work of the Youth Committee. She regretted the lack of motivation in young players and especially the fact that we had been unable to enter a team for the Peggy Bayer due to individuals withdrawing at the last moment. On a more positive note, she added that BBO training was still on-going and that NIBU players were still doing well in all-Ireland school events.

On a proposal by Heather Hill and seconded by Toni Sproule, the Reports were accepted.

4. Financial Accounts

Ian Lindsay spoke on behalf of the Hon Treasurer Anne Fitzpatrick. He was pleased to report a healthy financial position due to the absence of expenses that had been incurred in 2015-16. Ian Hamilton queried why funds held in Reserve were not invested more profitably and it was agreed that this be referred to the Treasurer and Management Committee for consideration. The President thanked his predecessor, Dr Ian Hamilton, for the income he continued to raise through the Celtic Pairs event. Derek Cannell asked how income was generated from the Celtic Pairs and Ian Hamilton confirmed it was based on the number of players actually participating.

On a proposal by Ian Hamilton and seconded by Norma Irwin, the Accounts were accepted.

5. Chairperson's Address

Anne Hassan thanked all the volunteers for their support in her first year as Chair. She mentioned Rex Anderson who had prepared papers on behalf of the Laws & Ethics and Selection Committees and on the Constitution adding a promise that these would be agreed at Council as soon as possible. She was sorry she had been unable to visit as many clubs as

she would've liked but hoped to rectify this in the new season. Her priority was to encourage more players to come out and support NIBU events. She thanked Ian Hamilton for his tireless efforts in organising the annual round of Inter-Club Pairs competitions. Ian Hamilton responded appropriately.

6. President's Address

Ian Lindsay reflected on past tensions and difficulties within the Union and was pleased to see that peace and harmony had been restored. He looked forward to a productive year ahead.

7. Election of Officers

The following were duly elected on a show of hands:

Vice-Chairman: Harold Curran – Proposed by Anne Hassan, seconded by Liz Scott

Hon. Secretary: Michael McFaul – Proposed by Rosemary Kilpatrick, seconded by Diane Greenwood

Hon. Treasurer: Anne Fitzpatrick – Proposed by Toni Sproule, seconded by Eric McNicholl

Hon. Competitions Secretary: Liz Scott – Proposed by Ian Hamilton, seconded by Pat Johnston

Hon. Master Points Secretary: Robin Burns – Proposed by Heather Hill, seconded by Eric McNicholl

8. Appointment of Examining Accountant

Peter Green of PGR was appointed on a proposal by Liz Scott, seconded by Tom McKeever

9. Appointment of Trustees

Rex Anderson reminded the meeting that although he and Ian Lindsay were current appointees, there should be at least 3 and ideally 4 trustees. On a proposal by Anne Hassan, seconded by Rex Anderson, it was agreed that John Bergin be appointed trustee of the Union subject to his consent.

10. Election of Councillors

The following 11 members were deemed to be elected in the absence of any late nominations:

Helen Hall

Raymond Johnstone

Toni Sproule

Pat Johnston

Heather Hill

Eric McNicholl

Rosemary Kilpatrick

Ken Hammond

John Bergin

Sandie Millership

Barbara Ewart

Harold Curran (ex-officio)

The full Council to include the Chairperson and 5 non-voting members comprising the President and 4 Officers.

On a proposal by Ian Hamilton, seconded by Norma Irwin, all 11 Councillors were duly elected.

11. Presentation of Trophies

Anne Hassan made a number of presentations. Michael McFaul took photographs and Ian Hamilton took a record of who received each trophy.

<u>Leagues:</u>	Premier 1 –	ATR Anderson, D Greenwood, T Currie, P Tranmer
	Premier 2 –	D Lindsay, M Brennan, R Blair, M Bleakley
	Intermediate A –	P & A Murdock, M Hogg, P Duggan, B Lawless
	Intermediate B –	V Brann, J Forsythe, T McGarry, J McCormick
	Novice –	P Cooley, C McAuley, A Overell, M Wilson
<u>Cups</u>	Kelvin Cup -	ATR Anderson, D Greenwood, T Currie, P Tranmer
	Mackinnon Cup-	I Hamilton, S Hall, G Mackenzie, J Ferguson
	Millership Cup-	A Hassan, T McKeever, E Butterwick, B McCormick

<u>Players of the Year</u> –	Senior	David Greenwood
	Inter A	Barbara Ewart
	Inter B	Valerie Young

Billy Kelso Trophy – Ian Hamilton

12. TD seminars

Michael McFaul reported that Alan Hill intended to run more seminars from the end of August, so successful had been the previous events. Interested members could contact Alan for more details if required. Anne Hassan commended Alan for his efforts in developing more TD's.

13. World Bridge Championships

Harold Curran stated that the IBU were planning to bid for the Bermuda Bowl to be held in Belfast in 2021 or possibly 2023. It was estimated that c. £500k would be needed to run the event and that it might be proposed that a small levy be placed on club members between now and then in order to support the bid. He said that 'Visit Belfast' were prepared to provide funding amounting to £75k and appealed to the meeting to campaign in support of the bid. Tom McKeever, reflecting the views of those present, said that a common statement should be drawn up and sent to all club secretaries.

The levy was agreed in principle and it was expected that a more formal decision would be taken as more details emerged.

There being no other business, the meeting was declared over at 8.15pm. However members were asked to remain seated.

The meeting concluded at 8.10pm.

Michael McFaul

Hon. Secretary

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE UNION

The attendees being the same as the AGM, the meeting was declared quorate.

Anne Hassan asked that the Constitution be amended as follows:

- a) Section 5.2 to include the Youth Committee as a Standing Committee of the Union. This was agreed on a show of hands with no dissenters.
- b) The 'Alternative Clause 4.1' replaces the existing Clause in order to reflect the decision taking by members at the 2016 Annual General Meeting. This was agreed on a show of hands by a majority of those present exceeding 2/3rds. There were 4 dissenters with Rex Anderson and Paul Tranmer speaking to oppose the adoption of delegates in place of 'one-member-one-vote' as being undemocratic.

The meeting concluded at 8.20pm.

Michael McFaul

Hon. Secretary