

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

(Draft) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at La Mon Hotel on Sunday June 3rd at 2.30pm

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| Present: | Hon. Chairperson | Anne Hassan |
| | Hon. Secretary | Michael McFaul |
| | Hon. Treasurer | Anne Fitzpatrick |
| | Hon. Competitions Secretary | Liz Scott |
| | Hon. Master Points Secretary | Robin Burns |
| | Chairperson Elect | Harold Curran |
| | Councillor | Helen Hall (Belfast Boat Club) |
| | Councillor | Raymond Johnston (Bann) |
| | Councillor | Pat Johnston (Derryvolgie) |
| | Councillor | Ken Hammond (Spa) |

Delegates : D. Davey, (Bann); J. Johnston (Carrickfergus); Dav Greenwood (Coleraine); E. Cummings (Cookstown); R. Hall, S. Lowe, J. Young, N. Shields, N. Mooney, G. Ward (Derryvolgie); J. Ferguson, H. Ferguson (Quoile), M. Kelly, M. Wylie (Downshire); P. Tranmer (Dromore); R. Coulter (Holywood); J. Mackie, V. Linter (Killyleagh); B. Mullan (Kilrea); Di Greenwood, N. Irwin, D. Cannell, I. Hamilton, G. Mackenzie, E. Lesage (KM); C. Crockett (Maghera); D. Doyle, C. Byrne (Portadown); B. Burnett, K. Challis, H. Lowe (Shandon); N. Lacey (St. Josephs); E. Devlin (Warrenpoint)

Apologies: I. Lindsay (President), C&J Jeffries, J&K McAllister, A&H Hill, P. Coull, T. McKeever, E. McNicholl, S. Millership, R. Heatherington, S. Sharkey, B. Clarke

The Chairperson, Anne Hassan welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting

On a proposal by Diane Greenwood and seconded by Ken Hammond, 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 (Chairperson) spoke of the need to attract younger players into bridge. She asked for volunteers to go into schools where appropriate and offer to provide lessons. She suggested clubs pay £1 per member towards 'Youth Bridge'.

Michael McFaul (Secretary) thanked the Chairperson for the work she had done in producing the combined booklet and printing documents for the meeting. He stated there were still vacancies on some of the committees and asked for volunteers.

Anne Fitzpatrick (Treasurer) presented the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2018. Net surplus for the year was £3,239 with general improvements in all sources of income. Thanks were expressed to Ian Hamilton for his continued work with the Interclub and Celtic Pairs and also to all members of the hardworking committees. A question was asked regarding whether a better rate of return could be obtained on deposits but no decision was made.

Robin Burns (Master Points Secretary) said that he was standing down after 15 years but added that he had very much enjoyed his time in the role. He wished his successor well. The Chairperson thanked Robin for his work and support over the years, stating that he had been renowned for his quick responses to any communication that came his way. Her comments were warmly supported by members present.

Pat Johnston spoke of the difficulty in getting schools involved in bridge. Young players tended to move away from the province once they finished their studies. She thanked Diane Greenwood and Sandie Millership for their work in tutoring young players on BBO.

Anne Hassan thanked Alan Hill for his report and paid tribute to him for the regular and much appreciated seminars he organised on Tournament Directing.

On a proposal by Helen Hall and seconded by Norma Irwin all reports were accepted

4. Financial Accounts.

On a proposal by Ian Hamilton and seconded by Greer Mackenzie, the Accounts were accepted and Peter Green was re-elected as the Examining Accountant

5. Chairperson's Address

Anne Hassan spoke of how much she had enjoyed the past two years. She was grateful that she had presided over a period of calm in the Union. Although numbers attending competitions continued to disappoint, she was delighted to welcome 2 new clubs – Carrickfergus and Quoile, the latter being our first fully online club.

Following its vacation, the Chair was taken by Harold Curran

6. President's Address

Harold Curran spoke on behalf of President Lindsay who was unable to attend the meeting. He said Robin Burns would be sorely missed and after thanking Anne Hassan for her work, he presented her with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation of her time in post. Members showed their appreciation of this gesture in the customary manner.

7. Election of Officers.

On a proposal by Norma Irwin and seconded by Ron Hall, the following officers were elected:

Hon. Secretary – Michael McFaul (KM)

Hon. Treasurer – Anne Fitzpatrick (Quoile)

Hon. Competitions Secretary – Liz Scott (Holywood)

Hon. Master Points Secretary – Ian Hamilton (KM)

International Match Manager – Helen Hall (Belfast Boat Club)

8. Election of Councillors

On a proposal by Ian Hamilton and seconded by Derek Cannell, the following Councillors were elected:

Ken Hammond (Spa), Pat Johnston (Derryvolgie), Helen Hall (Belfast Boat Club), Norma Irwin (KM), Heather Hill (KM), Eric Lesage (KM), Tom McKeever (Coleraine), John Ferguson (Quoile), Norman Lacey (St. Josephs), Nuala Mooney (Quoile), Christine Crockett (Maghera), Anne Hassan (ex-officio)

9. Presentation of Trophies

Novice League – Team Flanagan

Inter B League – Team McCabe

Inter A League – Team Crockett

Premier 2 – Eric Lesage on behalf of the Cramp team?

Millership Cup – Anne Hassan

Mackinnon Cup – Robin Burns on behalf of Team Anderson

Kelvin Cup – David Greenwood on behalf of Team Anderson

Spring Congress Pairs – Michael McFaul

10. Other Business

Pat Johnston asked for more teams to come forward to play in the Inter A and B leagues
Anne Hassan reminded the meeting that the Autumn Congress would be held in the City Hotel, Derry on September 14th-16th and she hoped for a good turnout.

The meeting ended at 4.10pm. The Chairperson asked members to remain seated.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE UNION

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

Harold Curran asked the Secretary to outline proposed changes to the Constitution.

Michael McFaul explained why it was advisable to amend clauses 3.1.5 and 4.1.5 of the Constitution.

3.1.5 *A meeting shall be deemed to be quorate when 6 or more Councillors entitled to vote are present.*

TO

A meeting shall be deemed to be quorate when 9 or more Members are present.

AND

4.1.5 *Each affiliated club may appoint a delegate or delegates ('the delegates') to attend a general meeting. Only such delegates are entitled to vote at a general meeting.*

TO

Each affiliated club may appoint a delegate or delegates ('the delegates') to attend a general meeting. Such delegates must be members of the nominating club and only such delegates are entitled to vote at a general meeting.

On a proposal by Helen Hall and seconded by Liz Scott, the amendments were approved with no dissenters.

Michael McFaul

Honorary Secretary.

