

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at BTMM offices on Wednesday February 3rd 2016 at 6.30pm

Present: John Bergin (JB) - Chairman, Anne Hassan (AH)-President/Chair-Elect, Michael McFaul (MMcF) - Hon. Secretary, Anne Fitzpatrick (AF) - Hon. Treasurer, Liz Scott (LS)-Hon. Competitions Secretary, Robin Burns-Hon. Master Points Secretary (RB), Eric McNicholl (EMcN), Pat Coull (PC), Ian Lindsay (IL), Valerie Von Hof (VVH), Harold Curran (HC), Sinead McNicholl (SMcN), Pat Johnston (PJ)

In attendance as Observer: Lorraine Byrne

IL asked members to stand in deference to the Chairman and the recent loss of his mother Pat. This was done and JB thanked those present for their gesture of sympathy.

1. Apologies:

Ian Hamilton

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the meeting held on October 28th 2015.

On a proposal by EMcN and seconded by LS, the minutes were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

Item 7: Dress Code for International Matches

PC circulated the tie with the NIBU logo that had been agreed. HC demonstrated how it would be worn and it was agreed to order 50 at the very reasonable unit cost of £5.99. These would be provided to International players during the 2016-17 season.

Action: PC to order 50 ties.

Item 14: Derry Ladies Club

It was confirmed that this club had now affiliated. JB added that Foyle Bridge Club had also decided to affiliate. This news was warmly received by all present.

5. Minutes of the Selection Committee meeting on October 26th 2015

The winning performance of the Intermediate teams at the Inter-Regionals was noted with great pleasure.

LS asked about the Senior Camrose Trials. HC explained that the weekend had been recorded on the NIBU website calendar some time ago but that it had not been decided by the Selection Committee of which he was Vice-Chairman. Concern was expressed as to why

and how this was done. PJ said that her understanding was that ALL trial dates should be fixed by the Selection Committee at its first meeting after the AGM. It was confirmed that this would be done in June following liaison between the Secretary, Competitions Secretary and Secretary of the CBAI. MMcF said he hoped to meet with Paul Porteous in March to discuss a united fixture list/diary designed to minimize the risk of major events in both jurisdictions clashing.

Action: MMcF & LS to furnish the Selection Committee with a fixture list in June so that dates for all trials can be identified and reserved without delay.

6. Minutes of the Tournament Committee meeting held on December 2nd 2015

LS thanked Anne and Stephen Cairns and the Fermanagh clubs for the efforts they had put into organizing the Provincial Mixed Pairs in Enniskillen, also to EMcN for directing the event. There were 9 tables in the main competition with 10 tables playing an event for Intermediates running concurrently.

LS also thanked Tom McKeever and Brian McDowell for their efforts in raising 17 teams to play in the Northern Ireland Teams at Coleraine, including several from Donegal. Council expressed its gratitude to the Donegal region for rearranging its competition schedule to accommodate the NI Teams.

EMcN suggested that low entries tended to suggest there were too many fixtures while JB asked that the Tournament Committee review the entire fixture list at its next meeting and then producing recommendations for Council. LS confirmed that this action had already been planned.

PC asked that the monthly email on forthcoming events should provide full details on time, venue etc.

Action: Tournament Committee to review NIBU competitions and produce recommendations for next Council meeting. LS to notify June Spiers

7. Draft Constitution

The Review Group was thanked for their work and it was noted that Council members were in receipt of Draft 4. Following minor amendments, it was agreed to circulate the draft to clubs for consultation with a closing date of March 12th.

Action: MMcF to circulate draft Constitution to clubs.

8. 2016 AGM

It was agreed to hold the meeting on Sunday June 5th, provisionally at La Mon. However AH undertook to organize the event.

Action: AH to firm up arrangements for the 2016 AGM.

9. Minutes of the 2015 AGM.

The minutes were agreed and would be presented to the 2016 AGM in draft form.

10. Affiliation

MMcF updated the meeting. 34 clubs were currently 'paid up'. It was agreed to refer the question of affiliation payment to the Management Committee for consideration.

Action: Management Committee to discuss payment of affiliation.

11. NIBU Results Website

Brian McDowell's paper on behalf of the Tournament Committee was tabled. EMcN spoke strongly in favour of results being made available immediately after any event. RB said it was important not to simplify the matter. He said that the problem was that sundry results were scattered in various parts of the website and what was needed was a single front page link to ALL NIBU results and not just competitions. This would include all cup competitions, leagues, International events and trials, congresses and links to the CBAI and BGB. The facility to archive old results was also desirable. It was agreed that Brian McDowell would be asked to manage the Results website and that he would liaise closely with Greer Mackenzie and RB in doing so.

Action: MMcF to notify Brian McDowell.

12. Celtic Pairs

A letter from Derek Cannell, Chairman of Kelvin-Malone had suggested that funds raised by this event were being used to assist with the cost of supporting International players who seldom played in clubs at any time or in any local competition.

The relatively low level of support for the Celtic Pairs was noted with concern especially in the light of President Hamilton's ceaseless efforts to generate interest. It was agreed that the Selection Committee would be asked to recommend to the top echelon of players that they make an effort to play in such events, if only to allow less experienced players the opportunity to play against strong opposition.

13. Safeguarding

Papers relating to the NIBU policy on Safeguarding Children & Young People were tabled. Thanks were expressed to the Youth Committee and in particular Shelagh McCaughan and Florence Boyd for their work. The policy would now facilitate young players who wished to play in any NIBU affiliated club.

14. McMenamin Bowl

Congratulations were expressed to NIBU Ladies who had won the prestigious competition for the second year. This year's winning team consisted of Helen Hall, Heather Hill, Clare Watson and Rosarie Heatherington.

15. Finance Report

AF tabled a cash flow statement showing a healthy surplus of £7371.

16. Margot McClure

The death of Margot McClure just short of her 100th birthday was noted with great sadness. Margot had been the 'Grande dame' of Northern Ireland Bridge. She had served as President

and Chair of the NIBU; her dedication and commitment having been recognized in her appointment as honorary life member. She will be remembered for generations to come.

17. Youth Committee

PJ stated that Wayne Somerville had replaced Diane Greenwood as NPC of the Junior Camrose team. The Chairman agreed to write with best wishes to both NPCs (Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer).

It was noted that expenses of £2720 were payable for the combined event and that flights had already been booked. AH added that, unlike the Camrose and Lady Milne, the Youth teams were awarded expenses for accommodation.

18. Kelvin Cup

LS raised an issue concerning the Kelvin Cup during which those present who remained in contention were asked to leave the room. It was agreed that the matter be referred to L&E committee.

19. Tables

LS tabled a letter from Norma Irwin requesting that a broken bridge table be replaced. Other members reported similar problems. It was agreed to replace recently purchased tables free of charge.

Action: LS to notify Norma Irwin.

20. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting to be held at BTMM offices on Tuesday April 5th 2016 at 6.30pm.

The meeting ended at 10.25pm.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Sec.