

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at 'The Bureau', Whiteabbey on Tuesday April 5th 2016 at 6.30pm

Present: John Bergin (JB) - Chairman, Anne Hassan (AH)-President/Chair-Elect, Michael McFaul (MMcF) - Hon. Secretary, Liz Scott (LS)-Hon. Competitions Secretary, Eric McNicholl (EMcN), Ian Lindsay (IL), Valerie Von Hof (VVH)

In attendance as Observer: Derek Cannell (DC)

1. Apologies:

Ian Hamilton, Robin Burns, Anne Fitzpatrick, Harold Curran, Sinead McNicholl, Pat Coull, Pat Johnston.

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the meeting held on February 3rd 2016

On a proposal by IL and seconded by AH, the minutes were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

Item 10: Affiliation

MMcF reported that 41 clubs were now fully affiliated.

Item 11: NIBU Results Website

This was now up and running and had been very warmly received. Members expressed their thanks to Brian McDowell for his work in setting the site up.

Item 16: Margot McClure

MMcF reported that Margot had left a legacy to the NIBU amounting to £1000.

5. Minutes of the Selection Committee meeting on February 3rd 2016

Noted.

6. Minutes of the Tournament Committee meeting held on March 24th 2016

Item 4: League Nights

David Leeman's proposals for the new season were warmly welcomed and would be discussed at the next TC meeting. AH asked that players be reminded of dates and venues shortly before each league night in order to avoid confusion.

Item 5: Missing Trophies

AH said that Norma Perceval-Price had agreed to taking on responsibility for locating all missing trophies. All agreed this was a long-standing problem and Norma was thanked for agreeing to take it on.

Item 8: Playing TD's

EMcN asked that the terms of remuneration for TD's be made clear to all potential Tournament Directors. As this was a financial matter it was agreed to refer it to the Management Committee.

Action: Management Committee agenda.

7. Minutes of the Management Committee meeting on March 9th 2016

Noted

8. Report on a matter referred to the Laws & Ethics Committee

Following a briefing and subsequent discussion it was agreed to await the outcome of deliberations by the Laws & Ethics Committee.

9. Minutes of the Youth Committee meeting on March 23rd 2016.

Item 7: Congratulations were expressed to John William Carey and Ridwan Farouki on their performance at the European Youth Championships in Sweden.

It was noted with satisfaction that some young players were now playing in clubs regularly

DC asked if the NIBU could fund the purchase of 4 tables for coaching young players at Kelvin-Malone. AH said this could only be done under the auspices of the NIBU and it was agreed to ask the Youth Committee to submit a suitable proposal that would satisfy this requirement.

Action: Youth Committee agenda

10. Report from Alan Hill on a TD course held in Prague

Alan was thanked for his report and for the seminars he had organized on his return. A third seminar had been arranged to meet demand. EMcN reported favourably on the event he had attended. It was agreed that the Management Committee should discuss how best Alan's proposals could be supported.

Action: Management Committee agenda.

11. Selection Committee Manual

IL asked that the section on NPC's should also include 'Playing Captains'

Members agreed that the disclaimer was inappropriate and should be removed.

Action: MMcF to amend and notify SC members.

12. Electronic Communication Storage

JB referred to the huge amount of e-correspondence and e-documentation. AH asked that everything be stored in backup by a third party. This would have cost implications

Action: Management Committee agenda

13. AGM 2015- Draft Minutes

Following discussion and agreement on certain amendments, a final version was agreed.

Action: MMcF to produce final draft.

14. AGM 2016

AH announced that La Mon had been provisionally booked for 7pm on June 5th.

It was confirmed that this year's AGM would be run under the present (2014) Constitution. MMcF stressed the importance of Council being unanimous in its agreement on how councilors would be elected. The advance notice would seek expressions of interest from members wishing to be considered as nominees for Council. To be considered at a Council meeting on April 30th.

Action: MMcF to prepare advance notice to clubs and members.

Action: AH to confirm venue and time.

15. Constitution

JB thanked all those clubs and members that had responded during the consultation period. He also thanked MMcF, IL and DC for their work on the Review Panel. IL said the meeting with consultees had been very positive and he took those present through the latest draft. This resulted in agreement on a final version incorporating most of the proposals put forward by consultees. On the key issue of 'one man, one vote' versus 'delegates' it was agreed that both options would be put to the AGM for majority decision prior to being adopted as the recommended option in the main document.

Action: MMcF to draft final version of the draft Constitution to be put to the AGM.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting to be held at La Mon on Saturday April 30th at 10.30am.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10.40pm.

Michael McFaul

Hon. Sec.