

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

Minutes of a special meeting of the NIBU Council held at BTMM offices on Wednesday August 5th 2015 at 5.30pm.

Present: Ian Hamilton (IH)- President, John Bergin (JB)- Chairman, Anne Hassan (AH)-President-Elect, Michael McFaul (MMcF)- Hon. Secretary, Anne Fitzpatrick (AF)- Hon. Treasurer, Robin Burns (RB)- Hon. Masterpoints Secretary, Liz Scott (LS)-Hon. Competitions Secretary, Ian Lindsay (IL), Pat Johnston (PJ), Eric McNicholl (EMcN).

In Attendance: Harold Curran (HC), Sinead McNicholl (SMcN), Pat Coull (PC), Valerie Von Hof (VVH) Derek Cannell (DC), Rex Anderson (RA), Toni Sproule (TS)

Apologies: None

1. Election of Club Representatives to Council.

The Chairman stated that the meeting had been called to try and finally resolve a dispute over the legality of certain transactions at the 2015 AGM. A senior NIBU member, Alan Hill (AL.H) had contended that the election of four members to Council had not been carried out in accordance with Clause 3.1. (I) Of the Constitution. It had been proposed that the matter be resolved by the 'rump' Council appointing members to what were deemed to be vacancies on its governing body. If this was not done it was suggested that an EGM would be necessary in order to correct the alleged irregularities.

The Chairman invited comments on the proposal.

RA stated that his interpretation of the Constitution led him to believe that all members had been validly elected at the AGM. Both AF and AH spoke in disagreement.

Some discussion ensued. All those present expressed a strong desire to bring the matter to a conclusion.

It was proposed that initially two votes be taken on whether to accept the proposal:

- a) A vote by members of the 'rump' Council
- b) A vote by all members of the Council.

On a show hands there were nine votes in favour with none against ('rump' Council) and eleven in favour with two against (full Council).

It was agreed to proceed with the ballot. The Secretary distributed ballot papers to the members of the 'rump' Council. The paper listed six names as bona fide suitable appointees. IH and DC acted as tellers who subsequently reported back that HC, PC, VVH and SMcN had been duly appointed to Council.

Action: IH to report the outcome back to AL.H.

2. Ratification of Business

Following the re-instatement of the full Council, it was agreed to ratify all decisions and transactions taken during the period June 21st – August 5th 2015. This was done by a show of hands. A subsequent vote confirmed the appointments to the Selection Committee. AF, MMcF and HC, as members of said committee, did not vote.

3. Competition Secretary's report

It was agreed that John Murchan's (JM) report should be obtained and made available to Council at the next meeting.

Action: LS to contact JM.

4. Selection Committee Issues

Ciara Burns (CB) had raised a number of questions at the AGM. It was agreed to ask for the questions to be re-submitted so they could be referred back to the Committee.

Action: MMcF to ask CB for the questions to be answered.

5. Gala Pairs

Members were delighted to hear the event had been a great success. The Chairman thanked Ciara Burns, Pat Johnston, Liz Scott, Anne Hassan, Alan Hill, Eric McNicholl, Heather Hill, Anne Fitzpatrick, Sam Jones, Toni Sproule as well as those who provided trophies – Anne Fitzpatrick, Greer Mackenzie and Ian Hamilton.

6. Irish Bridge Journal

HC reminded members that subscriptions could be paid by credit card. This was welcome news and would help to increase the number of subscribers from the NIBU.

7. Newsletter

DC asked for a short summary of the meeting to be included in the latest Newsletter, publication pending.

Action: MMcF to provide summary.

8. Free cards

LS had been told that Bangor club had not received their quota of 30 packs of cards.

Action: LS agreed to provide free cards to Bangor club.

The Chairman thanked everyone present for attending and made special mention of the work done by the President in recent weeks to bring matters to a satisfactory conclusion. (*See Item 6(e) in Minutes September 2nd 2015*). He also thanked AF for use of BTMM premises.

The meeting ended at 7.50pm.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary.