

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of a meeting held at Corr's Corner on Wednesday May 8th, 2019 from 6.30pm

Present: Ian Lindsay (President), Harold Curran (Chairman), Michael McFaul (Hon. Secretary), Anne Fitzpatrick (Hon. Treasurer), Liz Scott (Hon. Competitions Secretary), Ian Hamilton, (Hon. Masterpoints Secretary), Anne Hassan (Immediate Past Chair), Norman Lacey, Nuala Mooney, Pat Johnston, Ken Hammond, Eric Lesage, Christine Crockett, John Ferguson, Heather Hill, Tom McKeever.

Observers: Toni Sproule, Alan Hill, Patrick Rice.

1. Apologies

Helen Hall, Norma Irwin.

2. Website Manager

HC introduced Patrick Rice to the meeting and said he would be taking over management of the Union website at the end of the current season. In the meantime, he would work closely with Greer Mackenzie for a transition period of c. 6 months. Members briefly discussed some possible ideas for the new website.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on March 26th, 2019.

The Minutes were agreed on a proposal by Anne Fitzpatrick, seconded by Heather Hill.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Minutes of the Selection Committee meeting held on April 26th, 2019.

Item 6: Sonya Britton Trophy ("North-South match") MMcF asked that players interested in being considered for either the Open or Masters Team should submit their names to him before the middle of June.

6. Correspondence.

Rex Anderson's email highlighting perceived irregularities in Council's approach to resolving a recent appeal, was considered. IH said that Council had ignored the (League) Rules and that this had been conceded in the final Appeal Panel's judgement. HC and IL both stated that the panel's decision in upholding the appeal was final. MMcF pointed out that a second appeal in lieu of the Fitzpatrick – Murchan match had been rejected by the LEC Appeals Panel. Consequently, Council must now decide whether to convene a second Final Appeal hearing. IL argued that Council accept this appeal to be broadly similar to the first one and that the judgement on the latter also apply in this case. HH proposed the matter be put to a vote, seconded by NL.

AF and HC left the room and on a show of hands 11 voted in favour and none against. Consequently, there would be no need for a further appeal hearing and it was confirmed that the scores awarded on the night would be restored in respect of Team Murchan's matches against Team Cramp and Team Fitzpatrick. The 10-10 draw awarded for the Team

Fitzpatrick against Team Lindsay match was also confirmed, bringing the final results of Premier 1 League to a conclusion.

7. Child Protection

NL pointed out the importance of the Union recognising its responsibilities in this area. With regard to the work in schools, he said that much of the paperwork could be done in house rather than in the schools where bridge was being taught. PJ confirmed that Florence Boyd was the Union member with responsibility for Child Protection and IL undertook to check with the latter if she felt able to continue in the role. It was felt that Shelagh McCaughan's background made her ideally suited to advising on the NIBU's responsibilities in this area. HH congratulated NL, NI and others for the outstanding work they were doing in schools. NL drew attention to the paper he had circulated, recording the very favourable comments by school pupils who had been learning to play bridge.

Action: IL & MMcF

8. Annual General Meeting

MMcF confirmed the meeting would be held now on June 16th at La Mon from 1.30pm, followed immediately by the inaugural meeting of the new Council.

9. Coaching

NL asked if coaching could be offered to Intermediate players who were keen to improve and develop their skills. It was agreed that JF would organise coaching, initially for Intermediate players selected to represent the Union. This would be funded by the Union. All other proposals in respect of possible coaching would be considered by the incoming Selection Committee.

10. Accounts

AF asked that her Financial Report be a standing item to be taken at the beginning of each meeting. She went on to highlight a deficit for the year 2018-19.

11. Leagues

JF asked that a change in the structure of the leagues be considered. He proposed an expanded Premier League of 16 teams playing on a Swiss format. HH proposed that the views of team captains be ascertained on this matter.

Action: JF to canvas views.

12. East Down Pairs.

TS was invited to speak. She expressed her disappointment that this event was not being held despite it being noted on the website calendar.

13. 'Taster Article'

NL said he would send an article designed to promote bridge to MMcF for circulation.

Action: NL

The meeting ended at 8.25pm.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary.