

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Corr's Corner on November 8th 2017 from 6.30pm.

Officers Present: Anne Hassan (Chair), Michael McFaul (Hon. Secretary), Liz Scott (Hon. Competitions Secretary), Anne Fitzpatrick (Hon. Treasurer).

Councillors present: Harold Curran (Vice-Chair), Pat Johnston, Ken Hammond, Sandie Millership, Helen Hall, Heather Hill, Barbara Ewart.

Observers present: Alan Hill.

1. Apologies

Rosemary Kilpatrick, Toni Sproule, Eric McNicholl, Robin Burns, Raymond Johnston, Ian Lindsay, John Bergin.

2. Ratification of business previously transacted.

On a proposal by AF and seconded by KH, all proceedings at the meeting held on September 13th were accepted as valid.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on September 13th 2017.

On a proposal by PJ and seconded by HC, the Minutes were accepted.

4. Matters Arising

Item 5: MMcF confirmed that the dates for the **Teltscher trials** had now been moved to March 10th-11th 2018.

Item 6: SM stated that too much low-quality finger **food** was being provided at congresses and that it would be preferable to have better quality but a smaller volume.

5. Minutes of the Selection Committee meeting held on October 15th 2017

The Minutes were noted. Members were concerned that the teams named for the Inter-Regionals were not on the website and that individual partnerships had not been informed who their team-mates were. MMcF confirmed that HC had been appointed overall Captain of the Ulster contingent and that John Ferguson had accepted the role of NPC for the forthcoming Camrose. HHi stated that Alan Hill had now been appointed NPC for the Lady Milne team.

Action: MMcF to remind PT to notify all Inter-Regional players of their team-mates.

6. Treasurer's Report

AF reported net income to the end of October to be £2,310 with £3,520 in the cash account and £35,000 on deposit. She said she had not yet paid prizes to the winners of the previous season's knockout cups.

7. Responsibilities of Councillors and Committee Members

AH spoke of the need for Councillors to take a more active role in enlisting support for NIBU events. HHa agreed to draft a flier for the NI Pairs which would be widely circulated via email. It was also decided to publicise forthcoming events at league nights.

Action: HHa to send draft flier/email to AH for approval.

8. Vacancies

AH reminded the meeting that key vacancies remained unfilled. The most pressing was International Match Manager from 2018-19 since it would be necessary for the new appointee to shadow Brian McDowell at the January Camrose match in La Mon. It was confirmed that Ian Hamilton had agreed to adopt the role of 'Information Co-Ordinator' for the website but SM said it was more important that another individual was able to post on the front page so that it presented current topics. It was felt that much of the information currently displayed was out of date, archive material.

SM said she would be happy to do the groundwork as Spring Congress Organiser but she may be unable to attend the event itself for personal reasons.

9. Coaching

It was confirmed that no coaching was being planned for the Lady Milne team in 2018. HHa asked that the trial dates be set each year well in advance and MMcF confirmed that this would now be a responsibility of the outgoing Selection Committee. The set weekends for all trials would normally be unchanged from one year to the next and that close liaison would take place with the Tournament Committee when devising the new fixture list.

10. Bermuda Bowl Levy

HC agreed to find out more information on plans to bring the event to Belfast and he would provide an update at the next meeting. He stated that representatives from the European Bridge League would be visiting Belfast in February 2018.

11. IBU Simultaneous Pairs

HC said that 12 NIBU clubs were now participating – double the previous number.

12. Trophies

HHa circulated a detailed table showing the present holders and location of trophies for all current and past NIBU events. AH expressed her thanks to HHa for the work she had done researching and compiling the document and this was warmly echoed by members present.

13. Autumn Congress

SM tabled her summary report and confirmed that in general, numbers attending were down. Members discussed the possibility of getting local clubs to organise the congress under the general guidance of the Organiser. SM said that the 'TD pack' was in preparation and would be provided alongside the wheeled suitcase previously purchased. AH thanked SM for her report and work as Congress Organiser.

14. School Competitions

PJ asked for boards to be provided to assist schools in running internal competitions. LS said she would provide boards and playing cards. AH paid tribute to the work PJ had done in promoting NIBU competitions since July.

15. Date of next meeting

January 10th 2018 at Corr's Corner from 6.30pm.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary.