

# NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

## COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Corr's Corner on January 10<sup>th</sup> 2018 from 6.30pm.

Officers present: Anne Hassan (Chair), Michael McFaul (Hon. Secretary), Liz Scott (Hon. Competitions Secretary), Robin Burns (Hon. Masterpoints Secretary).

Councillors present: Harold Curran (Vice-Chair), Pat Johnston, Ken Hammond, Heather Hill, Helen Hall, Rosemary Kilpatrick, Raymond Johnston, Eric McNicholl, Tom McKeever.

Observers present: Alan Hill, Doreen Johnston

### 1. Apologies

Sandie Millership, Barbara Ewart, Ian Lindsay, Toni Sproule, John Bergin, Anne Fitzpatrick.

### 2. Membership of Council

AH said that John Bergin was unfortunately unable to attend any meetings this year due to work commitments and personal circumstances. As a consequence he had agreed to withdraw from Council to allow his position to be filled but he had offered to help in any way he could. AH expressed her thanks to JB on behalf of members present and hoped that he would continue to be involved in NIBU administration.

MMcF asked that Council agree to the co-option of Tom McKeever in his place. This was agreed by all present.

AH went on to welcome RJ to his first meeting of Council.

### 3. Minutes of the meeting held on November 8<sup>th</sup> 2017.

HHi asked that the minutes record Tom McKeever's co-option had been approved in principle. Subject to this amendment the minutes were agreed on a proposal by KH and seconded by HHi.

**Action: MMcF**

### 4. Matters Arising

**Item 8:** HHa said that she had shadowed Brian McDowell at the recent Camrose match and that, subject to Council approval in June, she would be taking over the duties of International Match Manager / BGB representative.

**Item 9:** HHa asked if Coaching was still a live issue. After some discussion it was agreed that HC would investigate the cost of online coaching.

**Action: HC**

**Item 13:** The matter of handing Congress organisation over to local control was discussed. AH said she was willing to continue working closely with the organiser(s). It was agreed that the Derry Clubs would be invited to organise the 2018 Autumn Congress. EMcN agreed to make initial approaches, then notify AH and MMcF of the response after which MMcF would extend a formal invitation.

**Action: EMcN**

**5. Calendar & Fixture List**

Concerns were expressed about changes made to the fixture list which had resulted in variances between the diary and the website calendar. It was agreed that the Tournament Committee would nominate one member to take responsibility for ensuring the final version of the fixture list (i.e. the published version) would correspond with the online version and that dates would not be changed other than in exceptional circumstances. The Tournament Committee were authorised to drop competitions that had seen little or no interest in recent years thus easing pressure on the availability of dates.

HHi asked that the Lady Milne trial dates be held in November. It was agreed that the Selection Committee would inform the Tournament Committee of its proposed dates for all trials in the next season – these to be agreed and players notified in April. Under normal circumstances the trial times would not change from one year to the next e.g. '2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in October etc.'

**Action: MMcF**

**6. Selection Committee Communication**

AH expressed concern that confusion had arisen over the procedure to be followed when a pair withdrew from the Camrose team. It was agreed that Committee Chairs would ensure that another member would deputise in their absence so that any matter requiring urgent attention could be speedily resolved.

**7. Grading Compatibility with CBAI**

KH asked if NIBU gradings could correspond with those adopted by the CBAI in order to facilitate players participating in Southern events. RB said that it was easy for him to publish lists of NIBU players with the relevant master points corresponding to CBAI grades and that he liaised with Paul Porteous over the allocation of equivalent gradings when the need arose. On this basis it was agreed to make no change to the present NIBU grading structure.

**8. 'Bridge Rules Simplified'**

An NIBU member had suggested that clubs be furnished with a free copy of David Stevenson's book. However since the NIBU had supplied all clubs with a copy of the 'full' version gratis it was felt there was no need for this. Clubs could easily buy it themselves @ £5.95 from Mr. Bridge.

#### **9. Youth Committee Business**

PJ announced that teams had been selected for both the Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer competitions. Coaching was taking place at BRA and the IBU Youth Committee were organising practice matches. Wayne Somerville and Sandie Millership were appointed NPCs for the Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer respectively.

PJ went on to announce that 4 members of the Junior Camrose team had been invited to represent Ireland at the 'White House Juniors' event in Amsterdam at the end of March. The team would be partially funded by the IBU and through sponsorship. It was agreed that 4 flights to Amsterdam would be paid for from the NIBU Youth fund.

AH thanked PJ and the other committee members for their work and time spent encouraging young people to take up bridge.

RJ then said he was highly impressed to hear of so much good work being done by individual members of Council and confirmed that he would continue to encourage participation in his locality.

#### **10. Members Database**

HHa said that 'Mailchimp' was an effective way of notifying large numbers of people simultaneously and that this would be an excellent way to attract more members to forthcoming events.

***Action: HHa to provide full details.***

#### **11. AGM 2018**

As the date set was 'Father's Day' it was agreed to change to Wednesday June 13<sup>th</sup> from 7.30pm at Corr's Corner.

#### **12. International Match Uniforms**

HHi agreed to act as Co-ordinator with regard to provision of International Match Dress. It was agreed that NPCs of Ladies, Open and Youth teams should liaise with HHi when the need arose.

#### **13. Visit of European Bridge League**

HC spoke of his involvement with the visit to Belfast in February of representatives of the European Bridge League. A 5 day conference would be held. The visit was to precede a proposed holding of the World Championships at the Waterfront Hall, possibly in 2022. HC had been the recipient of a 'Visit Belfast' award in lieu of this prestigious conference and he was congratulated and thanked by all present. HC said that John Murchan had also been heavily involved in setting up the visit.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20.20.

Michael McFaul  
Hon. Secretary