

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Corr's Corner Hotel on Thursday May 11th 2017 from 7pm.

Officers Present: Ian Lindsay (President), Anne Hassan (Chairperson), Michael McFaul (Hon. Secretary), Anne Fitzpatrick (Hon. Treasurer), Liz Scott (Hon. Competitions Secretary)

Councillors Present: Harold Curran, Sandie Millership, Pat Johnston, Toni Sproule

In Attendance: Rex Anderson.

With only 4 voting members present, the meeting was deemed to be inquorate. It was agreed to continue on the basis that formal agreement on all decisions taken would be deferred to the next meeting of Council.

Before the meeting began, the Chairman asked members to observe a minutes silence as a mark of respect for Councillor and former Chairman Ciara Burns whose sudden death had shocked the bridge-playing community throughout Ireland.

1. Apologies

Ken Hammond, Valerie Von Hof, Pat Coull, Rosemary Kirkpatrick, Robin Burns, Heather Hill, Eric McNicholl, John Bergin, Paul Tranmer (as attendee)

2. Minutes of the meeting held on February 1st 2017

The Minutes were noted pending later approval.

3. Matters Arising

Item 3: EGM. It was proposed to hold the meeting that would agree the amendment to the Constitution passed at the 2016 AGM, immediately after the 2017 AGM on June 25th.

Action: MMcF to notify all club secretaries.

4. Minutes of the Emergency Meeting held on February 3rd 2017.

The Minutes were noted pending later approval.

5. (Deferred) Minutes of the Laws & Ethics Committee meeting of January 18th 2017.

RA referred to the documents previously circulated including LEC Terms of Reference, Code of Conduct & Disciplinary Procedure and Recommended Changes to the Standing Orders.

Only one Councillor had submitted comments. The various changes proposed in the LEC documents were agreed in principle pending further approval. AH thanked RA for the work he had done and RA left the meeting.

6. **Minutes of the Selection Committee meetings held on February 4th 2017, March 8th 2017, March 16th 2017 and April 11th 2017.**

040217 Item 3: **Teltscher Trial Entry.** MMcF referred to the situation where it was discovered that an entrant was not a member of an affiliated club at the time of submission. The matter had been rectified but it did reveal an anomaly in that the NIBU affiliation year (September 1st – August 31st) did not necessarily coincide with a club's year of membership. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Selection Committee would include on all trials notices the requirement that entrants should state their club and membership number.

Action: Incoming Selection Committee.

110417. Item 8. **Junior Camrose.** MMcF referred to a discussion at the Selection Committee during which it was suggested that Wayne Somerville could work closely with Junior Camrose players, possibly as NPC. LS outlined some potential logistical difficulties.

7. **(Draft) Minutes of the Tournament Committee meeting held on April 27th 2017.**

LS briefed members on business transacted and outlined how the TC functioned by delegating specific responsibilities to each member. It was noted with pleasure that several 'lost' trophies had now been recovered. IL said there had been problems with using the Boat Club as a venue for league matches. HC asked that any problems should be referred to him and he would liaise with the club to ensure the facilities were up to playing standard on league nights.

8. **Correspondence.**

- a) Thanks had been expressed in writing from Heather Hill, Clare Watson and Norma Irwin in respect of the **funding provided for coaching** by Michael Byrne. All those attending agreed the sessions had been very rewarding.
- b) As at least 5 NIBU members had expressed an interest in attending the **Commonwealth Games Bridge Event** in February 2018, it was agreed to let the organisers know that the NIBU may send an official team.

Action: MMcF

- c) The recent **TD seminars** had been highly successful with 42 attendees. Alan Hill was arranging 2 more seminars in June. Members thanked AH for his efforts in developing TD skills throughout the clubs. SM asked that the NIBU adopt the revised 'Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017' from September 2017. This was agreed.

9. **Selection Committee Manual**

It was confirmed that the Manual would stipulate 1-2-3 must be selected for the 1st Camrose weekend with some flexibility on the 2nd weekend to include 4th in the trials, depending on the outcome of cross-imping. Otherwise further consideration of the Manual was deferred.

10. Committee Membership & Council Nominations.

MMcF reminded the meeting that all nominations for Council must be supported by an affiliated club, including all officers. However the nomination could come from any club and not just one of which the nominee was a member. Committee membership was voluntary and self-nominating. In all cases, nominations to be sent to the secretary in writing by June 4th.

11. Website Information Coordinator

MMcF referred to discussions with Greer Mackenzie & Brian McDowell regarding the re-organising of files on the website. All agreed the website was now more user-friendly. However it was highlighted that an 'Information Coordinator' would be desirable – someone to feed news, photos, etc. to Greer whereas at present this happens randomly.

12. TD Pack.

SM suggested that a printed information pack be designed for the use of TD's running any competition or trial.

13. AGM

The meeting was confirmed as Sunday June 25th at Corr's Corner from 6.30pm.

14. Novice Ranking

PJ pointed out the anomaly that existed between the CBAI and NIBU with regard to master point grading requirement. She agreed to discuss the matter with Robin Burns to see if the grading requirements could be harmonized.

15. League Co-ordinator

IL said he was standing down but said he would be happy to continue as TD when he was available. LS said she would try and identify a replacement.

16. American visitors

HC said he had arranged an evening's Bridge at the Belfast Boat Club for a party of 20 visiting Americans on the evening of August 4th. He hoped that many local players would turn up to play and support the event.

17. Date of next meeting.

Wednesday June 28th 2017 from 6.30pm at Corr's Corner.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary