

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the NIBU Council held at Corr's Corner on Tuesday, 11th December 2018 at 6.30pm.

Minutes taken by LS in the absence of the Hon Secretary.

1. Present

Harold Curran (Chairman), Ian Lindsay (President), Anne Fitzpatrick (Hon Treasurer), Liz Scott (Hon Competitions Secretary), Ian Hamilton (Hon Masterpoints Secretary), Anne Hassan (Immediate Past Chair & Congress Organiser), Ken Hammond, Norma Irwin, Norman Lacey, Pat Johnston, Tom McKeever.

2. Apologies

Michael McFaul (Hon Secretary), Helen Hall (International Match Manager), Nuala Mooney, Eric Lesage, Christine Crockett, Heather Hill.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 12 September 2018

On a proposal by AF, seconded by KH the minutes were accepted and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

Item 4: Purchase of a second dealing machine to be arranged **(HC)**.

Item 5: Updating of Selection Committee Manual – in the absence of the Hon Secretary this matter was left in abeyance **(MMcF)**.

Item 6: To be checked by the Secretary that this had been done **(MMcF)**.

Item 9: To be checked by the Secretary that this had been done **(MMcF)**.

Item 12: LS said hat no dates had been arranged for the East Down Competitions but that this would be addressed at the next TC meeting **(LS)**.

5. Minutes of Selection Committee meetings

JF asked if the 4th pair in the Camrose Trials were the reserve pair and if they had been informed that they may be required to play. KH said that after the results of the first match were forthcoming then if need be this would be considered. JF said that generally after the first match if the NPC reports that there should be no change the SC usually accept that. IH said that the Manual should say how the results are scored, ie in Cross Imps as opposed to VPs and this too will be further discussed. PJ asked if there should be a playing Captain? KH suggested that this may be the case considering that we had difficulties with such few numbers. IL said that in the Senior Camrose we had a playing Captain. JF suggested that because of personal issues it would be better, at International level, that we didn't have a playing Captain if at all possible. IL said that he would be NPC at the next Camrose match.

Peggy Bayer and Junior Camrose

PJ Said that the teams would be John William Carey, Gavin Irvine, Ridwan Faurouki, Philip Martin, Ryan Lightowler and Craig Smylie with the NPC being Diane Greenwood and Molly O'Donnell, Conor Gallagher, Aileen Armstrong, Luke McGarvey. Lucy O'Kane and Xander Todd with the NPC being Sandie Millership. JF enquired about the vetting of those working with children and NL said that this had been done.

Lady Milne Trials

NI said that the players profiles were not available to competitors until 24 hours before play began and that this made it very difficult for the participants to have time to read up on who played what system etc. NI said that because of the late withdrawal of a pair (because of sudden illness) there as a long sit-out, usually at the beginning or end of a session, however some had to sit out in the middle of the session and this meant that their concentration was disturbed. It was agreed that this was not ideal but circumstances this year were such that there was no alternative.

6. Tournament Committee

LS said that the TC had met to consider the re-writing/updating of the Rules primarily for the Leagues and that it had been a short meeting. She said that Council owed a great deal of thanks to Ian Hamilton and David Leeman for the amount of work they had put into amending/updating the rules. All Council agreed and the Chairman reiterated the thanks. LS invited IH to

explain and he said that due to anomalies which had been discovered it was necessary to amend the rules and this had now been addressed. Council had passed the original first draft of the rules with the exception of rule 2.3.2 which had been passed to the L&E Committee for clarification which had been done. The new rules will come into effect next year prior to the start of our bridge year. LS was of the opinion that the TC were responsible for updating the rules and that the LEC were responsible for any infringements which occurred during play and it was her understanding that all Sub-Committees were of equal standing so she didn't see why the TC should 'bow' to the LEC. It was noted that numbers at competition were dropping off and that we would have to look at a way of increasing our players at competition. JF said that in his opinion emails didn't work and that we should address players personally. AH said that Council members had been asked to endeavour to produce players for the various competitions. LS said that Barbara Ewart had been doing just that for Intermediate players but without a great deal of success. It was suggested that perhaps we should have a competition within the NI Pairs specifically for Intermediate players. NL said that he had spoken to many Intermediate players and he thought the personal touch encouraged people and perhaps we should have a database with specific details of Intermediates. LS suggested this may well infringe of Data protection. NL said that he would chat to League Captains to endeavour to have their team members compete in the various competitions.

7. CBAI Promotion and Development Meeting

NL said that he had attended this meeting chaired by J Mullally. There were about 30 people in attendance and there had been a lot of enthusiasm and grievances aired. A list had been drawn up of ways to move forward, eg to approach a Government Department for sponsorship. NL will continue to work with this committee. Overall he said it had been a good and constructive meeting. HC thanked NL for agreeing to sit on this committee.

8. EBL

Correspondence had been received from EBL and circulated throughout Council membership. It was agreed that no action needed to be taken.

9. Correspondence from R Anderson

It was suggested that a ruling by LEC should not be allowed to stand as the members ruling were all conflicted. It was suggested that in all of our committees there was confliction, however as all the discussions were of a high level, no personality conflicts had occurred. Discussion took place and it was agreed that an appellant has the right of appeal to Council.

10. L&E Committee

PJ asked about systems allowed at various levels and suggested that Council should have a policy whereby all levels knew what systems they were allowed to play. She had previously enquired about this and had been advised that we follow the EBU guidelines. IL said that we had adopted the guidelines of the EBU. NI said that K&M Club had systems within their club for the various club competitions. JF suggested that these were no official and suggested that all competitions should abide by the general rules of the NIBU. It was further suggested that the TC look at the rules and try to sort out systems agreeable to all. This was agreed on a proposal by PH seconded by NL. A vote was then taken and this was unanimously agreed.

11. Youth Bridge

NI said that her committee were working with a number of schools and that several tutors had been recruited. Another meeting with the tutors was being arranged for the start of January. She said that crib sheets had been arranged and that each class was scheduled to last for 10 weeks. NI thanked all those who had agreed to assist with the teaching at both Primary and Secondary levels. HC thanked NI and NL for the work they had put in to getting this up and running. NI said that they would need some equipment and with the exception of playing cards she thought that most of this would come from clubs. LS will give NI 30 sets of playing cards next week. NL had contacted a lot of schools and he was confident he could get more on board. JF proposed that we ringfence £1500 for the schools budget and this was seconded by KH.

12. Report of Hon Treasurer

AF produced a detailed breakdown of NIBU cashflow. She said that the IBU had asked for an increase in our subscription. After discussion it was proposed by AH and seconded by NI that we should increase our subscription.

13.AOB

- (a) LS said that she had been asked to raise a matter regarding the League play-off after the break-up of a League team and referred to rule 6.3.3. KH proposed that as events had been overtaken now the NIBU should accept their mistake and move on. This was seconded by PJ.
- (b) PJ said she had received a letter from J Reid (Carrick), S Graham (BRA) and A Walker (Bangor) requesting a contribution towards travel for the children to get to the competitions. A lot of discussion then took place as to how any grant would be administered and accounted for. TMcK suggested that we should assist with travel costs for the young people. Council agreed to give £500 to the Youth Committee and they would oversee the expenses.
- (c) AH said that Council should pay accommodation for those playing in the Peggy Bayer/Junior Camrose. It would cost Council approximately £1700 in total. This was agreed on a proposal by AH seconded by KH.
- (d) NI said that she had been playing in Peebles Congress and with her partner had come second, it had cost her £15 to play, there were 38 pairs and the prize which she had her partner received was a voucher to the value of £10 each from M&S. She was chatting to one of the organisers about the prize who said that she had loved coming to NI Congresses in the past because she got such a whopping amount of money.

14.Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on 12th March 2019 at 6.30pm

H CURRAN

Chairman NIBU

