

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Corr's' Corner on Wednesday September 12th 2018 from 6.30pm.

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

Observer: Alan Hill

1. Apologies

Ian Hamilton (Hon. Master points Secretary), Norma Irwin.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on June 3rd 2018

On a proposal by LS and seconded by AF, the Minutes were accepted.

3. Matters Arising

MMcF stated that several members of the teams that had played in the recent Sonya Britton Trophy had asked that their thanks be conveyed to Council for subsidising the cost of the dinner.

4. Minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on July 24th 2018

Item 5: It was agreed to purchase a second Dealing Machine for the approximate sum of £1800.

Action HC to contact Paul Porteous.

5. Minutes of the Selection Committee meetings held on June 29th 2018 and August 17th 2018

Item 4 (June 29th): It was agreed to re-install the winners of the NI Teams as the third team to represent the Union at the Egan trophy.

Also that the word 'Union' be replaced by 'Ulster' in the context of teams being selected for the Inter-Provincial championships (Page 12 section A3 of the Selection Committee Manual).

Also that the 'Commonwealth Nations Trophy' be added to the list of competitions for which the committee selects players to represent the Union. (Page 6)

The August Minutes were noted without comment.

On a proposal by LS and seconded by HHa the amendments to the Selection Committee Manual were approved.

Action: MMcF to amend SC Manual accordingly

6. Minutes of the Laws & Ethics Committee meetings held on July 6th 2018 and August 8th 2018.

Item 5 (July 6th): It was confirmed that any player banned by the EBL or the WBF would not be permitted to play in any NIBU competition.

Item 6 (July 6th): The proposed changes to the 'Disciplinary Code' text were agreed.

Item 7 (July 6th): Toni Sproule was confirmed as an additional member of the Committee.

Item 9 (August 8th): Following discussion it was agreed to adopt the revised 'League & Cup Rules' subject to amendments to sections 2.1.2 and 5.2.2. As a member of the Committee, JF was asked to take the matter up with other LEC members who were not conflicted by the possible outcome of deliberations over the revised rules.

Similarly JF was asked to reflect Council's feedback to the LEC on 'Systems & Conventions'.

On a proposal by JF and seconded by HH the 'League & Cup Rules, 'Systems & Conventions' and the 'NIBU Competitions Manual' were approved subject to the agreed changes being implemented.

Action: JF to liaise with the LEC.

7. Correspondence

Rex Anderson was thanked for his comments on the Union's contribution towards the University of Stirling PhD Studentship. It was agreed to note the comments.

AHi and HHi left the room while Members discussed AH's attendance at a TD course to be held in February 2019 at Antalya in Turkey. Following discussion it was agreed to fund AH's expenses to the sum of £750.

8. Youth Bridge

NL reported on developments with encouraging young players through contacts with primary and secondary schools. He said that it was hoped to set up a Youth Bridge website and emphasised how important it was to recruit a mentor from a younger age group. NL and NM were thanked by the Chairman for their work in this area.

9. Ranking of Peggy Bayer & Junior Camrose Players.

NL left the room for this item. PJ asked that young players who had featured in these competitions should be allowed to play in Inter 'B' events. It was confirmed that this would be allowed provided that such players adhered to any system restrictions that applied for the event.

On a proposal by AH and seconded by HHi the change was accepted.

Action: MMcF to amend SC Manual.

10. La Mon

HHa expressed concern that recent contact had shown the hotel had no record of bookings for the Junior Camrose /Peggy Bayer or the Senior Camrose in 2019. Fortunately an email trace had been possible and the hotel had admitted its mistake, now rectified.

11. Website Obituaries

MMcF reminded the meeting that Council had previously agreed that only obituaries would feature on the website of Union members who had either worked or played for the NIBU at some point.

12. East Down events

LS said she would like to run the East Down Teams and East Down Pairs on different dates at the Belfast Boat Club. HC confirmed that neither event had been included in the new fixture list as Council had previously voted to abandon both competitions due to lack of support.

On a proposal by TMcK and seconded by AH it was agreed to run with both competitions for one more year to see if the change of venue would garner more support. Dates to be announced.

Action: LS

13. IBU

AH said that, as President of the IBU for 2018-19, she was determined to see that the IBU website was improved and updated

14. Novice League

PJ said that she was doubtful if there were enough teams to run a Novice League in 2018-19.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday December 12th 2018 at Corr's Corner

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 8.50pm.

Michael McFaul

Hon. Secretary