

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Corr's Corner on September 13th 2017 from 6.30pm

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

Councillors present: Harold Curran (Vice-Chairman), Pat Johnston, Toni Sproule, Ken Hammond, Eric McNicholl.

1. Apologies

Helen Hall, Heather Hill, Barbara Ewart, Sandie Millership, Rosemary Kilpatrick, John Bergin, Robin Burns.

With the presence of only 5 voting councillors, the meeting was deemed to be inquorate. Any business decisions would require validation at the next meeting of Council.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on June 28th 2017.

The minutes were accepted on a proposal by TS, seconded by KH

3. Matters Arising

Item 8(b): MMcF confirmed that the NIBU would not be sending a team to the 2018 **Commonwealth Bridge Event** in Australia.

Item 12: The joint **Irish Bridge Diary** was now available on a sale-or-return basis @£5 a copy. A separate NIBU insert had been provided as requested.

Item 13: The chair congratulated PJ on her work in making the **Gala Pairs** another major success.

Item 15: The circulated version of 'Alerting & Announcing' contained an error. LS undertook to circulate an amended version to clubs.

4. Minutes of the Laws & Ethics Meeting on July 26th 2017

Items 6&7: MMcF confirmed that the '**Code of Conduct**' and '**Terms of Reference**' had been amended in line with Council's recommendations.

Item 8: IL said that, contrary to the recorded minute, BGB did allow a **defence to the Multi 2 Diamonds** to be consulted at the table in line with WBF rules.

5. Minutes of the Selection Committee on July 11th, August 9th and August 28th 2017.

Teltscher Trial dates

The committee had requested the dates be changed from November to February to be closer to the actual event. Following discussion it was clear that members present were divided on the issue. It was agreed to canvas the views of potential entrants to the Teltscher Trials and leave the date unchanged should anyone indicate that a move to February would render them unable to participate. It was agreed that, in future years, the outgoing SC would determine when trials should be held and would inform the TC accordingly. IL asked that the custom and practice of using the same weekend each year be continued.

Action: MMcF to canvas views on changing the date of Teltscher Trials.

Inter-Provincials

EMcN asked for clarification on the new CBAI 'Masters' grade and it was confirmed that this applied to players with between 10 and 40 red points. The SC had selected Ulster pairs with a similar holding for the Inter-Provincial teams.

6. Minutes of the Tournament Committee held on August 17th 2017

LS said it would not be realistic to use **Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer players** as viewgraph operators since most of them were not resident in Northern Ireland.

LS said she would be **meeting with La Mon staff** on September 27th to discuss future use by the NIBU and she would mention concern expressed by players over the quality of food provided at events.

AH raised the possibility of holding the **Spring Congress** at Corr's Corner.

7. Affiliation Fees & Membership

Following discussion it was agreed there would be no change. AF stated that the Union's finances were in a healthy state and that any increase in membership fees could be counter-productive.

8. Coaching

Camrose trial entrants had shown no interest and only 4 pairs had entered the Lady Milne trials. On this basis it was decided not to fund coaching at this time.

9. Vacancies

It was noted with concern by all present that a replacement International Match Manager / BGB Representative, Magazine Editor and Congress Organiser (i.e. 3 individuals) were required and there were no obvious successors. Furthermore LS added that new TD's were urgently needed to take on much of the work done by Alan Hill and Sandie Millership.

10. Council composition

HC said that it was obvious that an 18 person body was too large as was the number of members denied a vote due to being designated 'Officers'. It was confirmed that changes to the composition and rules of Council would require an amendment to the Constitution agreed at an AGM or EGM.

11. Date of next meeting

Wednesday November 8th 2017.

The meeting ended at 9.05pm.

Michael McFaul

Hon. Secretary