

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Corr's Corner on Thursday March 15th 2018 from 6.30pm

Present: Ian Lindsay (President) Anne Hassan(Chair), Michael McFaul, Liz Scott, Anne Fitzpatrick, Toni Sproule, Harold Curran, Rosemary Kilpatrick, Helen Hall, Heather Hill, Pat Johnston, Sandie Millership, Ken Hammond, Barbara Ewart

Observer: Alan Hill

1. Apologies

Tom McKeever, Raymond Johnston, Eric McNicholl, Robin Burns

2. Minutes of the meeting held on January 10th 2018

The Minutes were agreed on a proposal by KH and seconded by HC.

3. Matters Arising

Item 4(9): HC said that his enquiries showed that online coaching would be very expensive

Item 4(13): AH confirmed that 5 individuals from the Derry area had agreed to form a committee that would plan and organise the 2018 Autumn Congress. Ah said she would shortly be visiting the city and meeting with the planning committee.

Item 10: RK explained in detail how 'Mail chimp' would work. All emails would have to be in pdf format. It was agreed that HHa and RK would carry out further research into the feasibility of the Union adopting 'Mail chimp'. A further discussion on 'Data Protection' developed and HC proposed that the Laws & Ethics Committee be tasked with drawing up a policy on data protection.

Action: MMcF notify Rex Anderson.

4. Minutes of the Selection Committee on January 12th, February 23rd and March 14th 2018.

MMcF briefed members on deliberations concerning the Camrose 2nd weekend, Teltscher and Lady Milne team selection.

5. PhD Studentship Proposal – Partnership between EBED, UK Bridge Unions and University of Stirling.

The Chair referred to correspondence from Samantha Punch in which she had asked for contributory funding from the UK National Bridge Organisations who would then become collaborating partners in the project. The Management Proposal to contribute £1000 x 3 years was rejected by members and following a vote of 8-1 in favour, it was agreed to contribute £500 for each of the 3 years.

Action: MMcF to notify Sam Punch

6. Visit of the European Bridge League Executive Committee

HC referred to the meeting which had been held in Belfast in early February. He said the visit had been a major success and had provided excellent publicity for the city. Members were unanimous in their praise of the work and effort put in to the planning of the visit by HC over 2 year period and thanks were also expressed to Ruth Connolly and John Murchan for their significant contributions to the smooth running of the event.

7. League nights at Kelvin & Malone

MMcF referred to correspondence from Derek Cannell in which he asked that locking-up responsibility be clarified. It was confirmed that the TD at the time was responsible for making the building secure OR ensuring that another key holder present would do so.

8. TD Course

Alan Hill referred to his course planned for March 24th and said he was doing a lot of work round the clubs briefing them on matters such as operating 'bridgemates'. He felt that more senior players should attend higher level courses so that they would be well equipped to serve on Appeals Committees should the need to be familiar with the rules arise. He thanked Kelvin & Malone for making their premises available to run courses. AH paid tribute to Alan for his work in the past year and added that clubs had expressed their gratitude for these seminars.

9. Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer

HHa said she had attended the event in Coventry but that organisation of the event had been less than satisfactory. The EBU had subsequently apologised. SM reflected this view but said that although the NIBU teams did not finish well, there were promising signs of improvement, particularly with the Peggy Bayer players. It was noted that the training and opportunities offered to the England teams was way beyond anything that could reasonably be expected elsewhere.

10. Burns-Finn Cup

IL referred to this trophy in memory of Ciara Burns and Mary Finn. It would be presented to the winners of the IBU Ladies Trials. It was agreed to contribute 400 euros to the purchase of the cup.

11. Inter A & B Leagues

BE referred to discontent with the format employed to determine the winners of the leagues i.e. via a play-off scenario rather than a straight overall winner with the greatest total VPs. RK asked that the captains be consulted before deciding on the format for next season.

Action: Tournament Committee.

12. Recent League Night

SM said the behaviour of Premier 1 players who had completed their matches at the Boat Club was appalling – despite several requests to keep the noise down they had failed to do so and were disturbing the concentration of other players.

Action: Tournament Committee.

13. Affiliation

MMcF said that 40 clubs had re-affiliated and stated that only the Boat Club and SMCOPA remained outstanding.

14. Young Players

PJ said that Diane Greenwood was arranging matches on BBO for young players on a weekly basis. Two NIBU pairs had been selected to play for Ireland in the European pairs in Croatia and it was agreed to meet the cost of their flights from the NIBU Youth fund. The IBU would part-fund other expenses i.e. entrance fees and accommodation. The IBU had also part funded the two NIBU pairs selected to play for Ireland at the Whitehouse teams in Amsterdam.

PJ suggested that the NIBU clubs might be prepared to give a small contribution towards the Youth fund and AH agreed to draft a suitable text inviting clubs to consider such a request. AH thanked PJ, SM, Diane Greenwood and all the committee for their ongoing commitment to Youth Bridge.

15. Date of next meeting

Wednesday May 9th at Corr's Corner from 6.30pm.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary.