

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Kelvin Malone on Thursday June 23rd 2016 from 6.30pm.

Officers present: Ian Lindsay (IL), Anne Hassan (AH), Michael McFaul (MMcF) Liz Scott (LS) Robin Burns (RB),

Councillors present: Harold Curran (HC) Eric McNicholl (EMcN), John Bergin (JB), Sandie Millership (SM), Heather Hill (HH), Pat Johnston (PJ), Toni Sproule (TS).

In attendance as Observer: Elbha Walmsley

1. Apologies:

Pat Coull, Ken Hammond, Valerie Von Hof, Rosemary Kilpatrick.

2. Declarations of Interest

IL & RB declared for item 13(b) and JB declared for item 6.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on April 30th 2016

RB asked that item 9 record that '*Council ask the Masterpoints Committee to look favourably on awarding red points retrospectively for the Northern Pairs and the Provincial Mixed Pairs*'. Subject to this amendment the minutes were agreed on a proposal by LS, seconded by HC.

4. Matters Arising

Item 4/11: Results Website

MMcF confirmed there was a clear link on the front page to the 'Results' page.

Item 6/8: Playing TD's

SM asked that travel expenses be paid should a TD undertake a significant journey. Following brief discussion it was agreed that the Management Committee would table proposals at the next meeting.

Item 9: Red Point events

RB stated that he had felt ambushed when this item was raised under AOB at the meeting and that a conflict of interest should've been declared by certain members then present.

Item 11: Selection Committee Manual

The incoming committee was instructed to remove the disclaimer.

5. AGM Review

It was generally agreed that the AGM had been a success in terms of time and venue but that acoustics in the room had been poor. Discussion turned to plans for the 2017 meeting. AH proposed that a hotel would be ideal for a midweek evening meeting but HH questioned the wisdom of incurring expense when a club could easily host the event. It was agreed that Killyleagh Bridge club would be asked to host the next AGM provisionally on Tuesday June 6th 2017.

6. Laws & Ethics Committee- Report & Minutes.

JB left the room for this item. The report into a matter referred by Council to the committee was accepted on a proposal by AF and seconded by PJ. JB confirmed that he was satisfied with the outcome and on this basis the matter was now considered closed.

7. Quorums and membership of committees

IL proposed that a committee be considered quorate should half the members +1 be present. This was accepted. MMcF circulated the list of Union members who had indicated a willingness to serve. LS asked that June Spiers name be added to the Tournament Committee. It was agreed that the nominees were all acceptable and that no election would be necessary as membership was fixed at 8 plus the Hon. Secretary (ex officio). Pending confirmation of the status of the Tournament Committee it was agreed that AH could be an additional member. HH proposed HC as Chair of the Selection Committee, seconded by SM and agreed by all. Alan Sharp would be asked to Chair the Laws & Ethics Committee.

Action: MMcF to inform all committee members.

8. Election of IBU delegates

IL stated that the current NIBU Chair normally was a member of the IBU Council. It was agreed that AH would replace any member unable to attend so that the NIBU delegation never exceeded 7 places.

9. Election of BGB delegate

MMcF alerted members to Brian McDowell's intention to serve 2 more years and then stand down. This was noted.

10. Diary 2016-17

MMcF informed the meeting that a joint NIBU/CBAI diary and fixture list was being drawn up for the incoming season under the auspices of the IBU. IL asked that Camrose Trial dates be confirmed as soon as possible. EMcN reminded members that the 2017 Maghera Charity Open Cup would be held on Wednesday June 7th. JB expressed concern that the NI Teams planned for February 5th would clash with one of the Donegal cups.

11. Gala Pairs

The clash with the Sonya Britton trophy (North/South match) was noted with dismay but it was reluctantly agreed not to change the date of the Gala Pairs at this late stage. EMcN and Alan Hill were confirmed as TD's for the event.

12. EGM arrangements

It was agreed to hold an EGM at the Autumn Congress on Saturday at noon. The agenda would include confirmation of a move to delegates for future AGM's, appointment of the Examining Accountant and any minor changes to the text of the Constitution.

Action: MMcF to prepare notice in accordance with the Constitution.

13. Appointment of International Match Manager

Brian McDowell was proposed by HH and seconded by AF. Agreed by all.

14. Appointment of Congress Organiser

SM was proposed by AH and seconded by HC. Agreed by all. AH reminded those present that all officers were deemed to be members of the Congress Organising Committee.

15. Accounts

AF tabled a budget statement and a cash flow statement. A signed copy of the 2015-16 Financial Statements had previously been circulated. The Hon. Treasurer referred to correspondence between the Examining Accountant and an NIBU member. IL said that the member had raised some valid points but that these could easily be rectified at the EGM in September. The Examining Accountant, having confirmed that she had acted in accordance with the Letter of Engagement, should be paid and this was agreed by the meeting.

16. Kelvin Cup Appeal

IL and RB left the room for this item. SM, having studied the appeal document in detail, briefed the meeting. Her view was that if a named team member did not actually play at any time they could be substituted without penalty providing no more than 6 persons played in total throughout. On this basis, the decision of the Tournament Committee to reject the appeal was upheld.

17. Masterpoints Committee report

RB spoke to his paper. Red points would be awarded retrospectively depending on the number of Senior, Senior/Int. A and Int. A pairs having participated in the event. Strong views were expressed on both sides as to the merits of this approach. A vigorous discussion took place with RB strongly defending the proposed policy. He agreed to publish the methodology for awarding red points on the website.

18. Dates and Venues for meetings

After discussion it was agreed that meetings should be held on the last Wednesday of a given month and that would normally be on a tri-monthly basis. AH proposed that an appropriate hotel be found and that members meet for dinner at 6pm to precede a meeting starting at 7.15pm – it was felt that a reasonable rate of room hire (if not free) could be struck on this basis.

The next meeting to be held on September 28th at 7.15pm with venue to be confirmed. There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.25pm.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary.

