

# NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

## COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Corrs Corner Hotel on Wednesday November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016 from 6.30pm.

Councilors present:

President: Ian Lindsay (IL),

Chairperson: Anne Hassan (AH)

Harold Curran (HC) Eric McNicholl (EMcN), , Sandie Millership (SM), Pat Johnston (PJ), Toni Sproule (TS), Ken Hammond (KH), Rosemary Kilpatrick (RK), Heather Hill (HH)

Officers present: Secretary: Michael McFaul (MMcF), Treasurer: Anne Fitzpatrick (AF), Masterpoints Secretary: Robin Burns (RB), Competitions Secretary: Liz Scott (LS)

**1. Apologies**

John Bergin, Valerie Von Hof, Pat Coull

**2. Declarations of Interest**

It was agreed that, in future, such declaration would be made as and when the need arose.

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on September 28<sup>th</sup> 2016**

On a proposal by SM and seconded by EMcN, the minutes were adopted.

**4. Matters Arising**

**Item 5:** It was agreed to defer the EGM until the spring

**Action: *February Council.***

**Item 6:** AH confirmed that **Ciara Burns** had accepted the vacancy on Council but was unable to attend the meeting.

**Item 9:** IL said that it was still hoped that a sponsor's team for the **Teltscher trophy** would be forthcoming pending the conclusion of the EBU trials. It was agreed in principle to accept such an offer, should it be made – in preference to fielding a second NIBU team.

**Item 14:** SM confirmed that the new **dealing machine** was now in use.

**5. Minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on November 10<sup>th</sup> 2016**

AF referred to the Minutes:

**Item 3(b): Prize money** would be increased in line with entry fees but would remain at 40% of competition income. RB argued for a more even distribution of winnings to encourage more entries. This was agreed in principle.

**Item 5:** It was confirmed that the entry fee & meal subsidy for NIBU teams represented at the **Inter-Provincials**, would now be a permanent feature.

**Item 8:** The proposal from Alan Hill to run **training sessions** for club TD's and potential Appeals Panel candidates, was warmly received and approved. On a related point, SM stated that a written notice giving the names of those comprising the Appeals Committee should be present during trials – this had not been done during the recent Lady Milne trial.

**Action: MMcF to contact Alan Hill**

**Item 9:** The increase in sales of the new **diary**, although still modest, was welcomed. MMcF stated that he had decided to give unsold copies to those bridge players attending the U3A congress at Kelvin Malone in the hope of boosting membership.

**6. Minutes of the Laws & Ethics meeting held on October 25<sup>th</sup> 2016**

MMcF referred to the Minutes:

**Item 5:** Following general discussion on the handling of potential disciplinary matters, it was confirmed that all such matters would come through Council in the first instance. If considered appropriate, LEC would be instructed to investigate and report back its findings.

On a proposal by TS, seconded by RK, the revised **Terms of Reference** were accepted subject to the amendment of paragraph 7 to read "*Convene a panel of non-conflicted members to decide on matters of interpretation regarding the Constitution of the Union.*"

**Action: MMcF to amend. LEC agenda.**

IL asked that all NIBU regulations around **Alerting and Systems Information** should be updated and readily available on the website. SM said that the NIBU had traditionally aligned its approach to the EBU while IL argued that it could make more sense to move closer to the CBAI in order to simplify understandings for those who played in both jurisdictions.

**Action: LEC agenda**

**7. Minutes of the Tournament Committee meeting held on October 13<sup>th</sup> 2016**

LS referred to the Minutes:

**Item 3:** On a proposal by HH, seconded by AF, the **Terms of Reference** were accepted subject to the deletion of the words "oversee and" ...from paragraph 5.

**Action: MMcF to amend.**

**Item 4:** LS spoke of the continuing **decline in entries** to competitions. She exhorted those present to play more regularly in NIBU events. She referred to Brian McDowell's initiative in setting up a 'Find a Partner' facility on the website.

RK said that La Mon was not a popular venue.

**8. Minutes of the Selection Committee meetings held on October 16<sup>th</sup> and October 25<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**161016 Item 5:** MMcF stated that members of both the Selection and Laws & Ethics committees had expressed the need for **confidentiality** in their dealings. He had reminded everyone that confidentiality could never be guaranteed over email correspondence as the sender had no control over its ultimate dissemination.

AH SM and PJ raised concerns that the website could not be fully accessed on **Apple devices**.

**Action: MMcF to contact Greer Mackenzie.**

**9. (Draft) Minutes of the Selection Committee meeting held on November 20<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**Item 8:** Members discussed the recent selection of a pair to the **Lady Milne team** who had not played in the trial or asked for an exemption. IL proposed that in future any pair so selected should be named in advance of the trial. This was agreed unanimously.

**Action: MMcF to ensure the SC manual is updated accordingly.**

**10. Report on the IBU meeting held on November 14<sup>th</sup> 2016**

HC drew members' attention to the proposed increase in representation at the Inter-Provincials from 2017. Three 'Inter 'A' teams would be selected to play for each province in addition to the existing Senior and Intermediate ('B') teams.

He reported that the European Bridge League would be holding its next meeting in Belfast and that plans were in hand to bring the World Championships to the city in 2021. AH thanked HC for his efforts in bringing such a high-profile event to Northern Ireland.

**11. Affiliation Update**

MMcF said that to date only 15 clubs had paid their fees but that more were in the pipeline. The question of multi-club membership was discussed. It was confirmed that the £5 fee is payable by a member at each club they are recorded. As some clubs do not charge a membership fee, RB reminded members that many clubs found it fairer to charge 'non-members' supplementary table money. EMcN agreed and said he would now do this at Maghera.

**12. Autumn Congress report**

SM tabled papers giving information on costs and entries. She expressed particular concern at the decline in entries from Intermediates and reminded the meeting that the Congress could only break even if the £1000 grant from 'Hidden Hearing' was maintained. Turning to the Spring Congress, she proposed switching from La Mon to a more distant location, possibly Enniskillen.

***Action: Tournament Committee***

**13. Correspondence**

AH referred to a late email from John Murchan which had been sent to some, but not all Council members. It was agreed to defer consideration of the contents pending receipt by all members.

***Action: AH to respond***

**14. Schools bridge**

RK said that Kelvin Malone members were unfortunately unable to carry out their programme of minibridge with a local primary school. She asked if the Youth Committee could take on the task.

***Action: RK to contact Diane Greenwood and liaise with PJ.***

**15. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 from 6.30pm.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.30pm.

Michael McFaul  
Hon. Secretary