

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of a meeting held at Corr's Corner on Tuesday March 26th 2019 from 6.30pm
Present: Ian Lindsay (President), Harold Curran (Chair), Michael McFaul (Hon. Secretary), Anne Fitzpatrick (Hon. Treasurer), Liz Scott (Hon. Competitions Secretary, Ian Hamilton (Hon. Master Points Secretary, Anne Hassan (Immediate Past Chairperson), John Ferguson, Christine Crockett, Norma Irwin, Heather Hill, Helen Hall, Nuala Mooney, Pat Johnston, Ken Hammond, Eric Lesage, Tom McKeever.

Observers: Rex Anderson, Alan Hill, Toni Sproule.

1. **Apologies**

Norman Lacey.

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on December 11th 2018**

Subject to a correction to item 10 – “PH” should read “PJ”; the Minutes were accepted on a proposal by JF, seconded by KH.

3. **Matters Arising**

MMcF confirmed that action proposed under item 4 had been carried out.

4. **Minutes of the Selection Committee**

110119 Item 4. HHa asked about BBO presentation. Members asked that as far as possible all International matches should be broadcast and that the quality of presentation should be as high as possible now that BBO was the normal viewing medium for spectators.

The Camrose team and NPC were congratulated on their performance, finishing third this year and winning 3 trophies – the Colonel Walshe trophy, Ken Baxter Salver and the Causeway trophy. IL asked about exhibiting the trophies and NI agreed to house them in Kelvin & Malone. NI subsequently confirmed the trophies would be covered by their club insurance.

150219 Item 4. MMcF confirmed that Ian Hamilton had been appointed Playing Captain for the 2019 Teltscher team. He stated that 8 pairs had been selected as the NIBU contingent for the Moylan trophy and that a team from Donegal would feature in the NIBU selection to contest the Egan trophy, as winners of the NI Teams. Members asked that the IBU be requested to arrange the 2020 Moylan so as not to clash with the Teltscher trophy.

Action: HC.

5. **Minutes of the Laws & Ethics Committee**

150219 Item 5. MMcF referred to a paper setting out proposed amendments to committee Standing Orders. These were accepted. MMcF went on to ask that a review of administrative documentation be carried out. This would involve merging and updating

existing manuals and policy documents in order to make current rules and information more accessible. JF spoke of the need for proper methods of Version Control and it was agreed that MMcF and JF would liaise over the process – to include ensuring all superseded documentation was removed from the website.

Action: MMcF & JF

Item 6. It was agreed that the question of System Definition for young players in closed competition should be referred to the Tournament Committee

Action: LS

6. **Minutes of the Youth Committee**

PJ said that local organisation for the Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer events had been outstanding and she praised HHa for her management of the occasion. HC said he had been very proud of the organisers and it was agreed that the quality of the NIBU effort greatly exceeded that of the other home nations. All the players had been most enthusiastic about the experience.

7. **Minutes of the Management Committee meeting on 270219**

The Minutes were noted

8. **Website Management**

HC referred to his correspondence with Brian McDowell. It was confirmed that the main website was controlled by Greer Mackenzie and that only Ian Hamilton had secondary access in his capacity as Masterpoints Secretary. The Bridgewebs site was controlled by BMcD and it was agreed in principle that only results and the calendar of events would be posted there. Related material should be posted in the 'Admin' section of the main website and relayed through the Secretary in the role of moderator.

HC asked the Secretary to write an apology on behalf of the Union to 2 players named in rulings on the website.

Action: MMcF

9. **Keeping Bridge Alive**

HC referred to the recent publicity fliers and correspondence. JF said that, as the campaign had embarked on a crowd funding appeal, the decision whether to donate should be a matter for individual clubs. This was agreed.

10. **Youth Bridge.**

PJ referred to documents which clarified matters regarding the vetting of NIBU personnel tutoring young people in schools. She agreed to take appropriate follow-up action.

Action: PJ

11. **Antalya TD Course**
Alan Hill was asked to expand on his report. He agreed to lead a follow-up seminar if sufficient demand existed. Details to MMcF for circulation in the first instance. HC congratulated AH on his report and also on his performance at the event.
12. **Blazer Badges**
This item was not dealt with and was therefore carried forward to the next meeting.
13. **Appeal to Council**
MMcF briefed members on the background to an appeal against a ruling by an LEC panel. He proposed a procedure for hearing the final appeal. Rex Anderson, having been invited to speak, said that the procedure, while not outlined in the Constitution, should be broadly similar to that carried out by the LEC. It was proposed that only those Council members not participating in the Premier 1 League were non-conflicted and that the following would comprise the Council's Appeals panel – Norma Irwin (subsequently elected Chair), Anne Hassan, Pat Johnston, Nuala Mooney and Christine Crockett. On a show of hands this was agreed by voting members with 12 in favour and none against.
Following a general discussion it was confirmed that the 2017-18 League Rules remained in force for the current season while the revised rules, once agreed in full, would apply for the 2019-20 season.
Action: NI
14. **Fundraising**
PJ asked that clubs consider donating funds to assist with the development of Youth Bridge. She agreed to draft a letter citing possible events such as charity evenings.
Action: PJ
15. **Bequest**
AF stated that the Union had been granted £2k in the will of former Welsh International Patrick Jourdain. The funding to be ring-fenced for Seniors Bridge.
16. **Vice-Chairmanship**
HC announced that he had invited Heather Hill to assume the role of incoming Vice-Chair, effective from June 2019. This news was warmly received by all present.
17. **Co-Option of Member**
RA referred to an incoming appeal to LEC and stated that only 2 members of the committee were non-conflicted. This made it necessary to co-opt a member from Council to the Appeals panel. Christine Crockett agreed to undertake the role.
18. **Premier 1 Ruling**
IL referred to the Lindsay vs. Fitzpatrick match which had not been played. He outlined the background circumstances which had resulted in the match being declared null and void. With the team captains having left the room, the matter was discussed and JF suggested that the situation was one involving 'exceptional circumstances'. He proposed the team

captains be offered the opportunity to play the match OR agree a draw and this was accepted by all. The team captains subsequently accepted that the match be considered a draw i.e. 10-10 VP.

19 **AGM**

HC asked that the meeting be postponed to Sunday June 16th and this was agreed by all present.

20. **Date of next meeting**

May 8th 2019 at Corr's Corner from 6.30pm.

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

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary