

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Corr's Corner on Wednesday June 28th 2017 at 6.30pm?

Officers present: Ian Lindsay (President), Anne Hassan (Chairperson), Michael McFaul (Hon. Secretary), Liz Scott (Hon. Competitions Secretary, Robin Burns (Hon. Master Points Secretary)

Councillors present: Pat Johnston, Barbara Ewart, Eric McNicholl, John Bergin, Rosemary Kilpatrick, and Ken Hammond.

1. Apologies

Anne Fitzpatrick (Hon. Treasurer), Heather Hill, Toni Sproule, Harold Curran, Helen Hall.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on May 11th 2017

On a proposal by Ian Lindsay and seconded by Sandie Millership, the Minutes were agreed and all business decisions were ratified.

3. Matters Arising

Item 5: Laws & Ethics Terms of Reference and related documents.

The proposed amendment to the 'Code of Conduct' was partially approved.

The 'Terms of Reference' should include a statement to the effect that all complaints are made to the Secretary. Should a complaint be made about Council or a member of Council, the Secretary will refer the matter directly to L&E.

The amendments to the 'Disciplinary Procedure' and 'Standing Orders' were accepted.

The referrals to the Tournament Committee were not discussed but the proposed course of action was agreed.

Action: MMcF to inform Rex Anderson. RA & LEC to revise documents as indicated.

Item 8(b): Commonwealth Bridge Event

It was agreed that the Selection Committee would consider whether to support sending a team in principle given the pairs who had indicated a willingness to play. Only then will Council consider what funding to provide –if any.

Action: MMcF to refer to Selection Committee.

Item 9: Selection Committee Manual

The revised version of the Manual was agreed subject to the following amendments:

- a) Section 2 (Selection Policy for Home Internationals) should include a statement to the effect that pairs finishing 1-2-3 in any trial will automatically be selected for the first weekend and that the option is retained to replace the pair finishing 3rd with the pair finishing 4th should the committee feel it desirable to do so – using a range of criteria already stated in the manual.

- b) Section 2: 2.5 (Duties of the Committee) should include a statement that the names of the 'experienced players' be made known and posted on a notice board at and during any trial.
- c) A statement should make it clear how many places players are competing for when entering a trial i.e. whether a pair(s) has been exempted.
- d) 'Selection Policy for North-South match'. 5&6 are the wrong way round i.e. Intermediate 'A' comes before 'B' – the former being the higher grade.
Action: MMcF to inform Paul Tranmer. PT to revise the Manual accordingly.

Item 11: Website Information Co-Ordinator

Liz Scott stated that Ian Hamilton had agreed to take on the role.

4. AGM Review

Anne Hassan expressed disappointment at the low turnout. Following discussion, it was agreed to return to holding the meeting on a Wednesday evening in early June with June 13th 2018 being provisionally set for the next AGM

5. EGM Review

The meeting had accomplished its purpose and there was nothing to add.

6. Appointment of 7 delegates to the Irish Bridge Union

To be: Harold Curran, Anne Fitzpatrick, Michael McFaul, Anne Hassan, Colin Jeffries, Ian Lindsay and John Murchan.

7. Appointment of a delegate to Bridge Great Britain

To be: Brian McDowell

8. Appointment of International Match Manager

To be: Brian McDowell

9. Appointment of Honorary Congress Organiser

To be: Sandie Millership

10. Appointment of Solicitor

It was considered not necessary to make such an appointment and that, should the need arise, an external source would be sought.

11. Appointment of Committee Members

a) Selection Committee (following election)

Paul Tranmer (Convenor), Nuala Mooney, Ken Hammond, Sam Hall, Eric Lesage.

b) Tournament Committee

Liz Scott (Chair & Convenor), Ian Hamilton, Brian McDowell, David Leeman, Barbara Ewart, Sandie Millership

c) Laws & Ethics Committee

Rex Anderson (Convenor), Shelagh McCaughan, Ian Hamilton, Elbha Walmsley, Alan Sharp

d) Youth Committee

Pat Johnston (Convenor), Diane Greenwood, Sandie Millership, Norma Irwin, Barbara Lomas, Rosemary Kilpatrick.

Anne Hassan reminded the meeting that all officers were members of the Congress Committee.

Action: MMcF to notify all appointees.

12. Diary 2017-18

LS asked if an additional but separate NIBU fixture list could be provided as an insert. MMcF said he would check with Paul Porteous.

13. Gala Pairs

Pat Johnston briefed the meeting on progress with entries. Anne Hassan appealed for helpers on the day (August 6th). A general discussion ensued as to the pros and cons of using La Mon as a major venue for NIBU events. It was agreed to defer a fuller discussion on the question of venues to the September meeting

14. Multi 2Diamonds defence.

Ian Lindsay asked that LEC be asked to consider whether players had a right to consult their defence to this convention at the table – as had been shown to be the case in another jurisdiction.

Action: MMcF to refer to LEC

15. Rules of Bridge

Liz Scott proposed that the Union supply all affiliated clubs with a free copy of the revised rules to be effective from September 1st 2017. This suggestion was warmly supported by all present and it was agreed to purchase 50 copies.

Action: LS to order and post or deliver a copy to all clubs and principal TD's.

16. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed to meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each alternate month excepting June to replace July. Should the date clash with an important fixture, another date the same week will be selected

Provisional dates are therefore: September 13th 2017, November 8th 2017, January 10th 2018, March 14th 2018, May 9th 2018, June 20th 2018 (AGM to be June 13th)

With business concluded, the meeting ended at 8.50pm.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary.