

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Corrs Corner Hotel on Wednesday September 28th 2016 from 7.00pm.

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), Valerie Von Hof (VVH), Rosemary Kilpatrick (RK), Pat Coull (PC),

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

Observers: David Greenwood, Andrina Kelleher

1. Apologies:

Heather Hill, John Bergin

2. Declarations of Interest

None at the commencement of the meeting.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on June 23rd 2016

On a proposal by SM and seconded by AF, the Minutes were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

Item 7: Committees

MMcF stated that Alan Sharp had agreed to convene the first meeting of the Laws & Ethics Committee but did not wish to chair it.

Item 12: EGM

It had been decided NOT to hold the EGM during the Autumn Congress but instead hold it immediately before the present meeting of Council.

5. EGM Decision

As fewer than 25 members had turned up, the EGM had been declared inquorate. It was decided to hold the meeting during the NI Pairs event at the Belfast Boat Club on December 4th.

It was agreed to make a provisional appointment of an Examining Accountant namely PG and Co. Unit 2, Old Channel Road, Belfast.

Action: MMcF to circulate details of next EGM by November 20th.

6. Vacancy on Council.

MMcF stated that Michael McIlroy had felt unable to continue on Council for personal reasons. This left a vacancy. IL proposed that Council adopt the procedure whereby a vacancy arising before the end of the calendar year would be filled while any arising in the new calendar year would be left vacant pending the AGM. On this occasion it was agreed to invite the next name on the list of nominees voted on at the 2016 AGM.

Action: AH to invite Ciara Burns on to Council.

7. Tournament Committee Status

RK queried the status of this committee and it was confirmed that the TC was a sub-committee of Council. The committee would draw up its own Terms of Reference for approval at the next Council meeting.

Action: MMcF to add to TC agenda.

8. Minutes of the Selection Committee meetings held on June 28th, August 10th and September 14th 2016.

a) 280616. Item 6: Coaching Grant

TS outlined the committee's case for utilizing a grant of c. £2k from Council in order to coach Camrose and Lady Milne players at a high level. John Murchan had approached Jan Jansma of the Netherlands and Michael Byrne of England. PJ spoke favourably in support of Peter Pigot as a potential coach. IL felt that only a European coach would be acceptable to Camrose players.

It was agreed in principle to support the request for a grant on the basis that players would match-fund the cost of coaching.

Action: TS to report back to the Selection Committee and request quotes for both Camrose & Lady Milne coaching for next Council meeting

b) 100816. Item 1: Sonya Britton Trophy

SM spoke in support of comments circulated by Heather Hill concerning the accuracy of Rex Anderson's assertion that the NIBU teams had previously been picked by the Chair and President. This had never been the case and the Selection Committee had always selected the teams apart from the 'Officials' which was chosen by the Chair. Members spoke of the difficulty recruiting players to play in the August event and it was confirmed that the teams should be selected by the outgoing SC by June each year.

9. Teltscher Trophy

IL outlined the history of this Home-International competition, commonly called the 'Senior Camrose'. He stated that Greer Mackenzie and himself would sponsor the event if no other sponsor was forthcoming. He agreed to contact Sandra Claridge of BGB to see whether Bernard Teltscher would sponsor the event and send his own team.

Action: IL to contact Sandra Claridge regarding potential sponsorship of the 2017 Teltscher Trophy.

10. Selection Committee Manual

This item was deferred pending certain amendments to the text.

11. Minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on August 25th2016

a) 250816: Item 6. Tournament Director's Remuneration

Following discussion, DH proposed that all TD's and their partners (if playing) should be exempted from the entry fee. All TD's to be paid £20 for one session and £50 for 2 sessions (the latter inclusive of a meal allowance). Travel would be payable at 35p a mile. All TD's to make monthly claims. This was agreed by all.

12. Knockout Cups draw

The draws for the Kelvin, Mackinnon and Millership Cups were carried out by TS and VVH. AH carried out the draw for the Camrose trials.

13. Camrose Trials

MMcF outlined the chronology of events leading to the current impasse within the Selection Committee regarding the schedule to be used. HC as Chair of Selectors defended his position in refusing to sanction a revised schedule while TS spoke on behalf of the four 'non-conflicted' SC members who had agreed that the schedule be revised to feature shorter matches on Saturday and Sunday only. After a lengthy discussion, the non-conflicted members of Council voted 6-3 in favour of retaining the published schedule i.e. to play 9x16 board matches inclusive of Friday night.

14. Dealing Machine

After discussion, it was agreed to purchase one of the machines that had been used in Poland and that the 2 existing machines would be fixed as required. HC agreed he could provide transport to England if needed.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday November 23rd from 6.30pm at Corr's Corner.

The meeting ended at 9.40pm.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary.