

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at BTMM offices on Wednesday October 28th 2015 at 5.30pm.

Present: John Bergin (JB)- Chairman, Anne Hassan (AH)-President/Chair-Elect, Michael McFaul (MMcF)- Hon. Secretary, Anne Fitzpatrick (AF)- Hon. Treasurer, Liz Scott (LS)-Hon. Competitions Secretary, Eric McNicholl (EMcN), Pat Coull (PC), Ian Lindsay (IL), Valerie Von Hof (VVH)

In Attendance: Toni Sproule

1. Apologies:

Ian Hamilton, Robin Burns, Pat Johnston, Sinead McNicholl, Harold Curran.

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Chairman's Remarks.

On behalf of everyone present, JB offered congratulations to the Irish Senior Team on their performance in the D'Orsi Trophy in Chennai.

The death of Norma Franklin was noted with great sadness. Norma had been a regular NIBU representative on the Lady Milne team and condolences were offered to her husband David with whom she had played regularly.

4. (Amended) Minutes of the meeting held on June 24th 2015.

Following discussion, the Minutes were agreed on a proposal by AF and seconded by EMcN.

5. (Amended) Minutes of the meeting held on August 5th 2015.

Following discussion, the Minutes were agreed on a proposal by LS and seconded by AF.

6. Minutes of the meeting held on September 2nd 2015.

The Minutes were agreed on a proposal by PC and seconded by AH.

7. Matters Arising from the meeting held on September 2nd 2015.

a) ***Item 10(e) Dress Code for International Matches.***

PC tabled samples of ties that could be adapted with the NIBU logo and purchased at a very reasonable cost. It was agreed to purchase 50 men's ties @ £5.99 each. Along with a lounge suit, these will be mandatory for male players representing the NIBU at the Camrose post-match dinner.

Action: AH to send logo to PC who will then order 50 men's ties.

b) ***Item 12: Selection Committee Autonomy.***

MMcF asked that this item be deferred pending agreement within the Selection Committee on the full contents of the SC Manual.

c) ***Item 14: Diaries.***

It was agreed to allocate free diaries to unaffiliated clubs as an incentive to join the NIBU. PC and VVH agreed to distribute to clubs in the North-West. EMcN agreed to distribute diaries to players in Donegal at the forthcoming Congress.

8. Minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on October 21st 2015.

Item 4: Inter-Regionals

Concern was expressed at the reluctance of Donegal players to participate in the Ulster team because the former felt that the NIBU did not always send its best players. JB and AF undertook to do their best to convince Donegal players that the NIBU was now doing all it could to select its best players for the event.

9. Minutes of the meeting of the Selection Committee held on September 9th 2015

The Minutes were noted.

10. Minutes of the meeting of the Laws and Ethics Committee held on September 7th 2015.

Item 5: Disciplinary Code

MMcF outlined a proposed change that would allow a more informal investigation should circumstances suggest it would be appropriate to do so. He also outlined changes to the Committee's Terms of Reference that clarified all complaints should be directed initially to Council other than 'routine' referrals from TD's. The proposed changes were agreed.

11. Minutes of the 2015 AGM

It was decided that the Management Committee would agree the text of the draft minutes at its next meeting and present them to the next Council meeting.

12. Constitution Review

Comments from an NIBU member on the current draft were welcomed and noted. The Review group would meet and draw up a final version for agreement by the Management Committee in the first instance and Council at its next meeting. JB thanked the Review Group members for their work on the Constitution.

Action: MMcF to convene meeting of the Constitution Review Group.

13. Policy on Posting of Council Minutes on the Website.

In future the sequence will be:

- a) Secretary and Chair agree draft Minutes
- b) Draft circulated to all Council members only.
- c) Draft minutes agreed with amendments if necessary, at next meeting
- d) Agreed Minutes posted on the NIBU website.

14. Derry Ladies Club

PC enquired about the affiliation process and MMcF agreed to send details. It was agreed that free diaries would be added to the 'Welcome Pack' that was awarded to newly-affiliating clubs.

Action: MMcF to email details and 'Come and Join Us' to PC.

15. Recent NIBU Competitions

LS expressed concern at the very low level of entries to NIBU events. She highlighted the cancellation of both the NI Mixed Pairs and the Robb Cup and also the fact that the East Down Teams only attracted five entries.

16. Derryvolgie Club

It was noted that Derryvolgie had raised £260 in support of sending Rex Anderson to Chennai as part of the Irish Senior team. IL asked Council to record its gratitude and thanks to Pat Johnston for her tireless efforts to recruit players to the Intermediate Leagues. This suggestion was warmly received.

17. Date of the Next Meeting

The Management Committee (Councillors welcome) to meet in Jordanstown on Wednesday November 25th and Council to meet on Wednesday February 3rd 2016 at Clarendon Road. Both meetings from 5.30pm.

With business concluded, JB thanked AF for her hospitality and the meeting ended at 8.50pm.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Sec.