

# NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

## LAWS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held at Kelvin & Malone on Friday February 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 from 2pm.

Present: Rex Anderson (Chair), John Ferguson, Alan Sharp, Toni Sproule, Shelagh McCaughan

In Attendance: Michael McFaul (Hon. Secretary)

1. **Apologies**

There were no apologies

2. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The Minutes were accepted.

3. **Matters Arising**

Item 4: JF queried whether the committee's Terms of Reference rendered it responsible for revising the League rules. He felt the task fell within the purview of the Tournament Committee. MMcF said that the matter would be decided by Council but that he would recommend the present arrangements continue but with LEC having a consultative role before any revisions are agreed by both committees.

***Action: MMcF – Council***

4. **Procedures to Petition Council**

SMcC objected to the way in which a procedural matter had been handled by the Chair. RA felt that the matter was down to a misunderstanding but that he apologised for any confusion caused by his actions. The matter was thus resolved.

5. **Standing Orders**

MMcF said he would recommend that Council adopt a standard set of Standing Orders for all committees with appendices as necessary to cover functional variance.

RA proposed an amended text 3.2 and 3.9 – 3.12 inclusive of the current LEC Standing Orders and these were agreed by all present.

***Action: MMcF – Council Agenda – 'Ratification of Amendments'***

**6. Council Minutes –December 11<sup>th</sup> 2018**

The problem of avoiding a Conflict of Interest when dealing with rulings and disciplinary matters was identified. The field of experienced senior players continued to decline gradually. A lengthy discussion ensued in an attempt to achieve a balance between impartiality and experience. It was agreed that ensuring rules were clear and unambiguous would always facilitate meaningful decision-making.

It was further agreed that clarification would be sought from Council as to whether it wished to revise the LEC Terms of Reference i.e. with reference to Revision of League Rules and also matters concerning permitted bidding systems.

***Action: MMcF - Council***

**7. League Rules**

AS proposed an amendment to Rule 2.3..3 (d)

RA proposed amendments to Rules 1.3.2 and 10.1

***Action: MMcF – to seek TC response to proposed Rule amendments prior to ratification by Council***

**8. Next Meeting**

JF suggested the committee meet 4 times a year on pre-determined dates. No date was set for the next meeting as it was anticipated that certain members would be meeting as an appeals panel.

**9. Appeal**

RA confirmed he had been informed an appeal against a ruling by the League Organiser had been made. Dates for a hearing would be circulated.

***Action: RA***

The meeting ended at 4pm.

Michael McFaul  
Hon. Secretary