

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

LAWS & ETHICS COMMITTEE

(Draft) Minutes of a meeting held at Kelvin and Malone on Wednesday 18 January 2017 at 2.15pm.

Present: Paul Tranmer (PT), Elbha Walmsley (EW), Norma Irwin (NI), Rex Anderson (RA) - Chair, Alan Sharp (AS), Ian Hamilton (IH), Shelagh McCaughan (SMcC)

1. **Apologies**

Michael McFaul

2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 October 2016**

The minutes were agreed.

3. **Matters Arising**

The Council meeting on 32 November 2017 raised two matters pertinent to LEC – Terms of Reference and Alerting and Announcing, both of which were agenda items for this meeting.

4. **Terms of Reference**

The present Terms state that the committee will consider matters referred to it by the Council or the Management Committee. However, under the Constitution, the Management Committee does not have the power to refer matters to LEC. **It was agreed** to drop the reference to the Management Committee from the TOR but to ask Council to consider how to address the concern raised about what would happen in a case where Council refused to refer a complaint about itself to LEC.

5. **Announcing and Alerting**

It was agreed to recommend to Council that the present NIBU guidelines be maintained, with the addition of (a) a statement to be added at the start of the document and repeated at the end explaining the purpose and spirit of the alerting and announcing procedures and (b) the EBU guidelines on opening bids above 3NT.

Since the objective of producing the guidelines is to help club players become more familiar with them and thus ease a transition to tournament bridge it was

recommended that, if approved by Council, copies should be sent to all club secretaries and club tournament directors should be encouraged to draw players' attention to them.

6. Code of Conduct

RA pointed out that Law 74 covered the need for courtesy at the table, where such matters came within the Tournament Director's jurisdiction, but that a Code of Conduct was necessary to deal with matters away from the table.

It was agreed to recommend to Council that the present paragraph headed 'Courtesy' be replaced with a new paragraph: *In accordance with sporting ideals the NIBU expects members to respect the principles of ethics and good conduct. Any breach of these principles and any reprehensible behaviour by a member of the NIBU constitutes a breach of this Code of Conduct. To uphold these principles the NIBU prohibits racial, religious and political discrimination or any violation of human rights by members of the NIBU.*

It was agreed to recommend some slight alterations to 1.1.2 of the Disciplinary Code and to add an Appendix giving indicative examples of Reprehensible Behaviour.

Action: RA

7. Rules for Leagues and Cups

The Committee **agreed** the amendments proposed by RA which would empower the LEC committee (as opposed to its chairperson) to hear all appeals on decisions made by the Competitions Secretary. **It was agreed** to recommend these changes to the Tournament Committee with a view to their submission to Council in a joint proposal.

8. Changes to Standing Orders

The Committee discussed and **agreed** changes to the Standing Orders such that:

- (a) A meeting of the Committee could be called by the chairperson or be required to be called if three members felt it necessary
- (b) The quorum for a meeting, in accordance with the decision of Council, should be more than one half of the members
- (c) It was the responsibility of the chairperson to ensure that the minutes of each meeting were taken.
- (d) The draft minutes would be published on the Union website within 7 days of the meeting.
- (e) To include the proposed confidentiality clause

Action: RA

9. Matters Raised by Members

It was agreed that, where a formal vote was taken, the result would be recorded simply as agreed or rejected without a precise statement of the numbers for and against.

It was agreed that RA should draft an additional item for the indicative list of reprehensible behaviour to cover the need to maintain confidentiality within NIBU committees.

10. Posting of LEC Documentation on the Website

Council was asked to address the ongoing issue of the accessibility and effectiveness of the website.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Members were asked to indicate to the chairperson their availability in the first two weeks of May, should a further meeting of the Committee be required.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4.00pm.

Alan Sharp

Acting Secretary to the Meeting.

Announcing & Alerting in the NIBU

The spirit of the NIBU announcing and alerting policy requires players to draw attention to conventional bids to ensure that opponents are not disadvantaged by not being made aware of agreements between partners.

Opening Bid	Description	Announcement	No Action	Alert
1♣ & 1♦	Could be fewer than 3 cards	“Could be short”		
	Could be 3 cards		✓	
	Other (Strong, Artificial)			✓
1♥ & 1♠	5 cards		✓	
1NT	Balanced	State range and, if relevant, “may contain a singleton”		
2♣	Strong, ACOL	“Strong” or “ACOL”		
	Benji			✓
	Precision			✓
2♦	Weak with ♦s	“Weak”		
	Strong with ♦s	“Strong”		
	Other (Multi, Benji etc)			✓
2♥&2♠	Weak with ♥/♠	“Weak”		
	Strong with ♥/♠	“Strong”		
	Other (Lucas, Flannery etc)			✓
2NT	Balanced	State range		
	Other			✓

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Responses to 1NT				
Response	Description	Announcement	No Action	Alert
1NT - 2♣	Simple Stayman (promissory or not)	“Stayman”		
	5 card Stayman			✓
1NT - 2♣ - 2♦	Denies 4 card major		✓	
1NT - 2♦	Transfer	“Transfer” or “Hearts”		
1NT - 2♦ - 2♥	Completes transfer		✓	

1NT - 2♥	Transfer	“Transfer” or “Spades”		
1NT - 2♥ - 2♠	Completes transfer		✓	
1NT - 2♠	11 points			✓
	Transfer to ♣s	“Transfer” or “Clubs”		
1NT – 2NT	Transfer to ♦s	“Transfer” or “Diamonds”		

Responses to 2NT				
Response	Description	Announcement	No Action	Alert
2NT - 3♣	Simple Stayman (promissory or not)	“Stayman”		
	5 card Stayman			✓
	Baron			✓
2NT - 3♣ - 3♦	Denies 4 card major		✓	
	Denies 5 card major but shows 4 card major			✓
	Shows s		✓	
2NT - 3♣ - 3♥/♠	Shows 4/5 card suit		✓	
2NT - 3♦	Transfer	“Transfer” or “Hearts”		
2NT - 3♦ - 3♥	Completes transfer		✓	
2NT - 3♥	Transfer	“Transfer” or “Spades”		
2NT - 3♥ - 3♠	Completes transfer		✓	
2NT - 3♠	5♠ & 4♥			✓
	Minor Suit Stayman			✓

Bids above 3NT		
artificial suit bids on 1 st round of the auction (for this purpose the first round of the bidding is the opening bid and three subsequent calls)		✓

A Final Reminder

The spirit of the NIBU announcing and alerting policy requires players to draw attention to conventional bids to ensure that opponents are not disadvantaged by not being made aware of agreements between partners.