

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held at the Belfast Boat Club on Wednesday November 25th 2015 from 5.00pm.

Present: John Bergin (JB), Michael McFaul (MMcF), Anne Hassan (AH), Anne Fitzpatrick (AF), Robin Burns (RB), Liz Scott (LS).

1. **Apologies** -None
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None
3. **Matters Arising from the minutes of the meeting on October 21st 2015**
 - a) Item 4. 'Peggy Beare' to read 'Peggy Bayer'
 - b) Item 4. JB to meet with Youth committee and confirm decision re coaching.
 - c) Item 5. No progress in devising an NIBU personal record card. The SBU had not sent their template.
 - d) Item 7. RB confirmed he had asked Eric McNicholl to offer guidance on Bridgemates to James McAllister.
 - e) Item 9. AH tabled a 'Receipts & Payments' Account for the 2015 Autumn Congress. It was agreed to address Congress funding next time the Committee discusses financial matters.
 - f) Item 13. It was confirmed that the new laptop had been purchased and was being retained by LS.
 - g) Item 14. MMcF confirmed that all current year diaries had been distributed.
 - h) Item 15. All Council minutes for meetings preceding October, had now been agreed.
4. **Entries for Competitions**

Concern was expressed about the falling level of entries and the recent cancellation of two events on the fixture list. There was general agreement that much needed to be done to motivate club players to enter for NIBU events.

Suggested action:

- a) Raise the profile of events by creating more of a 'sense of occasion' and ensure trophies and prizes are presented at the event.

- b) Sponsorship of events by different clubs with possible 'commission' being awarded.
- c) Combining an 'Entry + Meal provided' package in pleasant surroundings
- d) Making much greater use of personal contacts.
- e) Obtain feedback from players as to what needs to be done.
- f) Revise the fixture list with fewer but better and more imaginative competitions.

Action: LS to convene a meeting of the Tournament Committee in order to address concerns regarding entries to competitions.

5. AGM 2015 Minutes

AF and AH tabled a paper with suggested changes to the text of the draft minutes. MMcF agreed to make appropriate changes for Council approval at the next meeting.

Action: MMcF to finalise the draft minutes of the 2015 AGM for Council approval

The meeting ended at 7pm. It was provisionally agreed to next meet immediately prior to the Council meeting on February 3rd 2016. Venue: BTMM, Clarendon Road.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary.