

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Summary of a meeting held at Belfast Boat Club on Tuesday June 28th 2016 at 6.00pm.

Present: Harold Curran, Chairman (HC), Michael McFaul (MMcF), Secretary, Clare Watson (CW), Toni Sproule (TS), Rex Anderson (RA), Nuala Mooney (NM), Norma Irwin (NI), John Murchan (JM).

Apologies: Paul Tranmer.

HC welcomed all those present to the new committee.

1. Declarations of Interest

None. Agreed that committee members could contribute to any discussion on matters in which they were conflicted but would not be present when a vote was taken.

2. SC meetings.

CW suggested meetings on set times e.g. 3rd Wednesday, bi-monthly. MMcF said the SC often had to meet at fairly short notice.

3. Election of Chair

In accordance with the SC Manual, members elected HC as Chair on a proposal by RA and seconded by NM. JM asked that the Manual, subject to any agreed amendments, be formally adopted by Council. It was agreed not to appoint a Vice-Chair but elect a temporary Chair should the need arise at the time.

4. Sonya Britton Trophy

NM tabled a list of players currently available and willing to play. For the Ladies team it was confirmed that the Lady Milne trial results would be followed i.e. Shelagh McCaughan & Florence Boyd then Toni Sproule & Dymphna X to play with Rosarie Heatherington & Helen Hall. The Open Team would follow the Camrose Trials result.

HC left the room. Remaining members agreed HC and Anne Fitzpatrick for the Open team to play with Greer Mackenzie & Hastings Campbell. Reserves to be Mick Coffey and John Lavery.

ACTION: NM to check if an Inter A pair is still available.

CW to ask Rosario Heatherington to be NPC for the Intermediate teams.

HC to check availability of all other players and finalise teams for submission.

5. Inter-Regionals.

JM proposed that the teams that finished 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Premier 1 League be the Senior representatives and that those entering future trials would be asked to express interest in playing in the Inter-Pros.

ACTION: HC to ask Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal if they want to be considered.

NM to reserve 20 rooms at the Shamrock Lodge.

6. Camrose

Trial dates were confirmed as September 30th-October 2nd and October 14th-16th. It was agreed to ask Council to grant c. £2k for the purposes of coaching Camrose players and £1k to coach Lady Milne team players. However it was agreed that players would also contribute towards the overall cost.

It was agreed that trials would be 'Pairs' but that all entrants would be asked if they would prefer a 'Team' format the following year. Entries for both Camrose and Lady Milne to be submitted to JM by midnight on Sunday August 7th. Intermediate trials to be held concurrent with the first weekend of Camrose trials.

ACTION: MMcF to add 'Coaching Grant' to Council agenda

JM to identify suitable coach, availability and estimated cost.

JM to circulate SC with draft 'Conditions of Entry to Camrose, Lady Milne and Intermediate Trials' for agreement then post to website.

7. Lady Milne

Members were divided on whether there should be 1 or 2 weekend of trials. TS, NI and CW left the room. Remaining members agreed to reserve a second weekend – December 9th-11th to be used should the level of entries justify a longer trial period.

8. Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer

Agreed that those selected to play should make themselves available for structured coaching in order to improve results.

ACTION: NI asked to reflect SC member's views to the Youth Committee.

9. Teltscher Trophy (Senior Camrose)

RA reminded the meeting that the NIBU would be hosting the event in 2017 and that we could either select a second NI team or try to recruit a sponsor's team, potentially from England. It was agreed that options would be kept open until after the trial but that the circular would state that a second NIBU team may be selected. RA emphasised that the Union would save on expenditure should a sponsor be found and that a sponsor's team would invariably be stronger than a second NIBU team.

ACTION: JM to circulate details to all 60+ players.

10. Selection Committee Manual

It was agreed to remove the disclaimer with immediate effect. All other suggestions for amendments, additions etc. to the 2016-17 version to be emailed to MMcF prior to the next meeting.

ACTION: MMcF to send a 'Word' version of the Manual to all members.

11. World Bridge Games

RA suggested that the IBU be asked to request additional funding from the NIBU & CBAI in order to provide support for the Irish Mixed Team in Poland this September. It was unfortunate that the IBU had not been approached before the Mixed Team trials.

ACTION: MMcF to write to Gordon Lessells.

12. Next Meeting

Belfast Boat Club, 7pm on Wednesday August 10th. Agenda and papers to be circulated no later than August 3rd.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary.

