

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on October 13th 2016 at Kelvin-Malone from 2.30pm.

Present: Liz Scott (LS), Chair, Michael McFaul (MMcF), Secretary, David Leeman (DL), Brian McDowell (BMcD), Toni Sproule (TS), Ian Hamilton (IH)

LS welcomed all and began the meeting by paying tribute to former member June Spiers who had died on September 9th. June had worked tirelessly for the Union over many years and will be sadly missed.

1. Apologies

Anne Hassan.

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on June 9th 2016

Item 2: The new NIBU score card was warmly welcomed.

Item 3: It was agreed to ask the Management Committee to consider the question of replacing trophies.

Action: MMcF to note.

Item 6: DL confirmed that the revised Knockout Cup rules had been agreed.

3. Terms of Reference

The document tabled by MMcF was agreed subject to minor amendments.

Action: MMcF to circulate revised version then take to Council.

4. Entries to Competitions

LS asked that Council members should do more to encourage entries and should also be expected to play in NIBU events themselves. IH suggested that clubs be asked to take responsibility for encouraging entries to events in their area. He cited clubs in Newcastle, Portadown and Fermanagh as having done this. TS said entries to some team events were limited sometimes when players could not find suitable team-mates.

Concern was expressed that a Premier 2 match had taken place on a night that was not the approved alternative date.

Action: BMcD to investigate the possibility of placing a partnership desk on the website to facilitate players willing to enter competitions but needing partners or team-mates.

Action: LS to ask Pat Johnston if she would match up pairs for the Senior/Intermediate B event.

5. Helm Cup

LS suggested changing the format to teams of 8 i.e. 1 senior team plus 1 Intermediate team. Clubs could continue to enter any number of teams. All agreed this format should be adopted.

6. Inter-Club Duplicates.

IH expressed concern that the first event took place too early in the season when several clubs were still on their summer break i.e. mid-September. It was agreed that the first event would be moved to early October next year.

7. Celtic Pairs

IH confirmed the event would go ahead during the first week in December and first week in April.

8. Scoring methods

DL highlighted the fact that alternative methods of match-pointing were used by others such as the EBU. 'Neuberg' was considered superior to simple match-pointing as it catered better for half-tables, mis-boarding and sitting out pairs.

Action: MMcF to ask views of Alan Hill & Sandie Millership.

9. La Mon

LS reported that the tables used at the recent congress were still at the City Hotel in Derry. La Mon had said they would no longer provide free storage for tables.

Action: LS and Anne Hassan to discuss the situation with La Mon management.

Action: All to research possible alternative accommodation e.g. business hotels with suitable space that would welcome use at weekends.

10. Next meeting

Provisionally Thursday January 12th 2017.

The meeting closed at 4.20pm.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary