

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Kelvin-Malone Bridge Club on June 12th 2013 at 18.30.

Present: I. Hamilton (President), C.Burns (Chairperson), M.McFaul (Secretary), N.Cauwood (Treasurer), R. Burns (Masterpoints Secretary), I. Lindsay, A. Hassan, P. Johnston, J. Bergin, E. McNicholl, R. Connolly.

13.01 Apologies:

N.Irwin

13.02 Minutes of meeting held on April 27th 2013.

The minutes were approved and signed off by the Chairperson.

13.03 Matters Arising

NC referred to item 6 'Treasurer's report' and the fact that monies due in lieu of entry to cup competitions had not been forthcoming. It was agreed that options for co-ordinating payment along with entries would be considered by the Finance Committee.

13.04 Chairperson's report

CB welcomed new office bearers to Council

13.05 Secretary's report

MMcF reported he had received some electronic files from L. Scott and had arranged to meet her to collect hard copy materials.

13.06 Treasurer's report

NC thanked members for their support in nomination. He was pleased to state that NIBU was in a sound financial position and drew attention to the fact that the surplus was largely due to having negotiated highly competitive rates for the use of La Mon House as a venue.

13.07 Masterpoints Secretary's report

RB requested that the schedule for allocation of 'Red' points be reviewed before putting on the website.

13.08 President's report

IH stated that he had nothing of substance to report

13.09 Reports from Committees

There was no business to report.

13.10 Appointment of Congress Organiser

Agreed: A. Hassan with assistance from L. Scott

13.11 Appointment of International Match Manager

Agreed: B. McDowell with assistance from A. Hassan.

13.12 Appointments to Finance & Membership Committee

Agreed: Neill Cauwood (Convenor), A. Hassan, A.Fitzpatrick, R. Anderson, G. McKenzie, in addition to the President, Chair and Secretary.

13.13 Appointments to Laws & Ethics Committee

Agreed: Alan Hill (Convenor), I. Lindsay, J. Spiers, R. Anderson in addition to the Chair and Secretary.

13.14 Appointments to Tournaments Committee

Agreed: John Murchan (Convenor), C. Jeffries, C. Byrne, P.Johnston

13.15 Appointments to the Selection Committee

Agreed: Robert Plunkett (Convenor), J. Murchan, G. McKenzie, S. McCaughan, I. Lindsay, M. McFaul, P. Dufton.

13.16 Appointment of delegates to the Irish Bridge Union (IBU)

Agreed: I. Lindsay, J. Murchan, C. Burns (Vice-President designate), A. Fitzpatrick, H. Curran (Joint Hon. Secretary), J. Ferguson, T. O’Gallagher, B. Collins.

13.17 Appointment of delegate to Bridge Great Britain (BGB)

Agreed: B. McDowell

13.18 Ratification of amendments to the Constitution

The amendments were approved subject to clarification from the sub-committee on the procedure for nominating club delegates to Council i.e. on whether they should be delegates in perpetuity or subject to annual nomination. The sub-committee was asked to provide assurance that the procedure could not allow any club to monopolise nominations to Council. NC asked whether the NIBU’s status was as a Mutual Society and if so, could that be stated at the head of the Constitution. It was agreed that IL would seek clarification from Rex Anderson on the status of the NIBU.

13.19 Ratification of Standing Orders of Council

Agreed.

13.20 Ratification of New Victory Point Scale

It was agreed to adopt the WBF Continuous Scale for the Premier Leagues 1 & 2, noting that it would also be used in the Camrose. The Discrete scale would be adopted by the other leagues. The proposal to use Bridgemates in the Leagues had been dropped.

13.21 Annual General Meeting

PJ stated that the accounts, balance sheet and secretary's report were supposed to be available on the website prior to the AGM but this had not been the case. A discussion ensued in which there was general agreement that a 'Plain Guide' to the NIBU with a diagrammatic representation of its structure, would help members understand the workings of the organisation.

13.22 Website

PJ stated that the website, on recent viewing, was much improved. However the results of the Louis Herbert were not yet available. CB said that it was hoped to go live with the new website by the end of July.

13.23 Clubs

A detailed discussion took place on the means of reducing apathy in clubs and encouraging more involvement in NIBU activity. MMcF drew attention to the document 'Come and Join Us' within the Strategic Plan and outlined how it should be disseminated. It was important that a campaign to enlist greater club involvement would be carried out in a planned manner. The need to address club members directly and not just club secretaries, was emphasised.

13.24 Calendar

CB agreed to contact the Competitions Secretary regarding the new Fixture List. There was a division of opinion as to whether a simple Fixture List should replace the standard Bridge Diary with a majority voting for the Diary format. EMcN to price the diary and inform MMcF who will then circulate details to members for agreement.

13.25 Date and Time of next meeting(s)

The next meeting will take place on the morning of Saturday September 14th at the Derry Congress.

The subsequent meeting will take place in Maghera on Wednesday December 4th at 19.00.

The meeting closed a 20.20