

# NIBU COUNCIL

## Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at 1, Lenamore Drive, Jordanstown on April 24<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 6.30pm

In attendance: I. Hamilton (President), C. Burns (Chair), J. Bergin (Vice-Chair), M. McFaul (Hon. Secretary), N. Cauwood (Hon. Treasurer), R. Burns (Hon. Master Points Secretary), P. Johnston, N. Irwin, E. McNicholl, R. Connolly, I. Lindsay, A. Hassan.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies

2. Minutes of the meeting held on March 20<sup>th</sup> 2014

The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

20/03/14 (5) Bridgemates

The most competitive price quoted was 120 euros from the CBAI shop. It was agreed to purchase 20.

**Action: CB to contact P. Porteous.**

Playing Cards

It was agreed to purchase 2000 sets of cards incorporating the NIBU logo. Each affiliated club would be given one full set as a goodwill gesture.

**Action: AH to design symmetrical logo. EMcN to inquire with Liz Scott over reports of reliability issues regarding NIBU dealing machines.**

29/01/14 (11) Youth Development Plan

Harold Curran was unable to take an active role at this time and it was agreed that Diane Greenwood would convene a group comprising Barbara Lomas, Pat Johnston, Norma Irwin, John Murchan, Ruth Connolly and herself. The group would elect its own Chairperson and would be responsible for drawing up a three-year business plan based on a budget of £5k. It was agreed to retain but continue to ring-fence £2k for Junior Bridge pro tem.

A draft plan to be submitted to Council before June 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Action: MMcF to contact Diane Greenwood.**

4. Reports from Office-Bearers

CB briefed members on the arrangements for the forthcoming Teltscher Trophy (Senior Camrose). She also congratulated AH on the stand she had mounted at the Hilton Hotel for the 'Hidden Hearing' open day.

NC announced a year-end cash flow surplus of c. £6k + ETBB funds but said this would be reduced owing to monies owed to the CBAI.

MMcF warned that members experiencing problems with the website may be using a false link (as he had) and that the URL was [www.nibu.co.uk](http://www.nibu.co.uk)

RB confirmed that he always posts results on the website as soon as they are available but the Killyleagh A/B Challenge had been omitted due to a query over the result.

5. Draft Revised Constitution

The Consultation period had concluded and copies of comments received were circulated. There were no substantive issues raised. The barrister's comments had also been received and it was agreed to consider these prior to drafting the final, agreed version for submission to the AGM. It was hoped that the Review group could agree this via email as time was pressing.

**Action: CB to liaise with MMcF and other Constitution Review Group members.**

6. Teltscher Trophy (Senior Camrose) team selection

The team selected was unchanged. IL reiterated his objection to the fact that the Selection Committee had not nominated the 'strongest' team as required by the rules. He was supported by IH and RB.

After some discussion, a majority agreed to accept the decision. However acceptance by IL, RB and IH was conditional on a response being forthcoming following their request for information on the procedures employed in selecting the team and also on whether the issue of David Greenwood's disablement had been discussed.

**Action: MMcF agreed to seek information from John Murchan on the Selection Committee's methodology and also on its response to the '6-signature' letter of March 17<sup>th</sup>.**

7. Camrose NPC report

Correspondence from Alan Hill was considered. Members agreed that the matter should remain within the purview of the Laws & Ethics Committee. Under the present arrangements however, it was felt that a resolution to the dispute could only realistically be achieved under a re-constituted L&E body set up by the new Council in June.

**Action: Deferred**

8. Competition Secretary's request for action regarding alleged behaviour of a member

It was noted that Rex Anderson had asked for the matter to be withdrawn as the complaint had not been submitted by two Office-Bearers in accordance with Appendix 2: Paragraph 3.2 of the Constitution. It was agreed that this matter should remain within the purview of a re-constituted Laws & Ethics Committee to be set up in June.

**Action: Deferred.**

9. Kelvin Cup / Premier League – Unplayed matches

Representatives from both teams had met the previous evening in an attempt to resolve matters. Although a quid pro quo arrangement had been negotiated, an attached condition to play the League match in Dublin was not acceptable to the Lindsay team. IL agreed that his team had forfeited the right to play the League match but insisted that the Murchan team had fielded ineligible players on a number of occasions.

**At this point IL, RB, IH, RC and CB left the room and JB took the Chair.**

*(Members discussed the Kelvin Cup situation. It was felt that, although the Competitions Secretary had acted in strict accordance with the rules, it was not within the spirit of the competition to act as such on a matter in which he had a conflict of interest. It was also felt that, for similar reasons, the result of the semi-final should stand. As a consequence the final should be played before the end of May. If either team refuses to play then the non-offending team will be awarded the match. The vote in favour of this resolution was unanimous.*

**Action: Teams Lindsay and Curran to play the Kelvin Cup final by May 31<sup>st</sup> 2014.**

*Members discussed the Premier League situation at length and in particular the issues surrounding eligibility of players. It was clear that the Lindsay team were not entitled to insist on playing the match but that to balance this with issues around eligibility was fraught with difficulty, especially since it was unclear whether eligibility could be clearly ascertained or not, given current procedures.*

*The League rules require that all team members' eligibility is confirmed at the time of the first match in October. By precedent, there has been no evidence to suggest that any participating team member was ineligible and that therefore it must be assumed that the League Organiser and/or the Competitions Secretary – which ever checks the entry details – has been satisfied that all players have met the required conditions entitling them to play. However Council members were concerned that a strict procedure for checking and confirming eligibility (i.e. paid up membership of an NIBU affiliated club) did not seem to exist.*

*It was agreed to take no action on the question of ineligible players but that, in the spirit of goodwill, the outstanding match should be played at a location within Northern Ireland.)*

**Action: Teams Lindsay and Murchan to play the outstanding League match before the end of May at a venue within Northern Ireland.**

**At this point CB, IH, RB and IL were re-admitted to the room and JB outlined Council decisions.**

**IL then stated that his team were conceding the League match.**

#### 10 Laws and Ethics Committee

It was agreed that a re-constituted Laws & Ethics Committee would be stronger in numbers and would not feature any two players from the same team. This or other sub-committee as determined by Council to examine and revise the rules governing League matches and Knockout Cups for the 2014-15 season onwards

#### 11 Annual General Meeting

MMcF outlined his plans for calling the AGM and confirmed that the meeting would be called under the existing Constitution but that, if adopted at the start of the meeting, business could then be transacted under the revised Constitution. Council agreed to

nominate all existing Office-Bearers for re-election, noting that in the absence of an incoming Vice-Chairman (as per proposed structure), the outgoing Chairman becomes the Immediate Past Chairman.

12 IBU Seniors Congress

CB urged Council to encourage the wider membership to participate more fully in IBU events and competitions. She had agreed to host the next IBU Seniors' Congress at La Mon and had reserved the hotel for March 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2015.

***Action: CB and AH to organise IBU Seniors' Congress 2015.***

13 Helm Cup

PJ queried whether clubs entering more than one team would be entitled to any discount.

Following discussion, NC proposed an entry fee of £180 for one team, £300 for two teams and £420 for three teams. This was agreed by all.

The next meeting was provisionally arranged for Thursday June 12<sup>th</sup> 2014 at a time and venue to be arranged.

CB thanked AH for her hospitality and the meeting ended at 10.50pm

Michael McFaul

Hon. Secretary.