

# NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

## COUNCIL

### **Minutes of an emergency meeting of the NIBU Council held on Tuesday October 29<sup>th</sup> 2013 at Kelvin-Malone Bridge Club**

The meeting began at 6.00pm with C. Burns in the Chair.

Present:

Council members –McNicholl (EMcN), R. Connolly (RC), P. Johnston (PJ), A. Hassan (AH), I. Lindsay (IL)

Officers – C. Burns (CB), I. Hamilton (IH), M. McFaul (MMcF), N. Cauwood (NC), R. Burns (RB)

Apologies – N. Irwin, J. Bergin

#### **1. Selection Committee situation**

CB gave a background account of recent events involving the Camrose Trials. She had written to Robert Plunkett, Selection Committee convenor, complaining about the organisation of the first weekend of trials. As a consequence, Robert had resigned his position and members Philip Dufton and Shelagh McCaughan had resigned in sympathy. Remaining members had then proceeded to continue the business of selecting the team and appointing a non-playing captain at the conclusion of trials.

#### **2. Constitutional Position**

Email correspondence from Rex Anderson contended that the reconvened Selection Committee was inquorate and therefore all actions and decisions taken following the three resignations were in breach of constitutional procedure. He also objected to the appointment of CB as NPC on the grounds that selected players had not been consulted as had been standard practice in previous years. During discussion on the latter point, both RB and CB stated that they had never been consulted as to the appointment of NPC when they had been selected for International representation. RC proposed that in future the appointment of NPC would be a matter for the Selection Committee alone and would be made without consulting selected players. All agreed.

#### **3. Officers' Proposal**

The Officers had met on October 24<sup>th</sup> and agreed a way forward. The Selection Committee would be reconvened with replacements for the members who had resigned. Nominees were Anne Fitzpatrick, Clare Watson, Robert Plunkett (as ordinary member) and John Ferguson. As there were only three vacancies a vote was taken and AF, CW and RP were

elected. It was agreed that IL would convene an early meeting of the Selection Committee (later agreed that John Murchan would undertake this role as speed was of the essence.)

MMcF stated that the sequence of events highlighted the need for clear procedures to be followed with regard to registering complaints and tendering resignations (the Secretary had not been in receipt of any correspondence from resigning members in this instance).

CB stated that she had found recent events very stressful. EMcN stated that he felt the Constitution was being used to straitjacket the organisation and was much too prescriptive. MMcF reminded the meeting that the Constitutional Review group would be convened in November and that it was hoped to make early progress on the issue of simplifying procedures.

CB asked that the reconstituted Selection Committee ensure that the strongest possible team be selected to represent Ulster in the Inter-Provincials. To that end, representation from Donegal (and also Cavan and Monaghan) would be actively encouraged.

#### **4. Minutes of the Finance & Membership Committee meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup>.**

- a) CB reported on the proposed 'Welcome Pack' for newly affiliated clubs and asked for suggestions regarding appropriate items for inclusion.
- b) IH stated that he wanted to welcome new clubs into participating in the Inter-Club events.
- c) NC clarified that while the purchase of new tables would involve initial expense, the payback period was short since there would be considerable savings in terms of hiring and transporting.
- d) CB said that La Mon had been booked for a 1-day event for Inter A&B players on August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014 and a provisional booking had been made for a 2-day Congress on January 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 2015.
- e) The proposal to increase honoraria payable to officers was outlined and accepted by all.

In respect of her recent efforts to attract unaffiliated clubs, usually including personal visits, IH proposed a vote of thanks to CB, seconded by IL. All agreed.

The meeting closed at 7pm.

**Michael McFaul**  
**Hon. Secretary.**