

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

Council Meeting

A Meeting of NIBU Council was held at Kelvin & Malone on Wednesday 3 April 2013 at 7.30pm.

Present: C Burns (Chairperson), L Scott (Secretary), N Irwin (Treasurer), R Burns (Masterpoints Secretary), D Cannell, E McNicholl, R Connolly, I Lindsay, S Cairns.

1 **Apologies:** A Sharp, J Bergin, P Johnston

2 **Minutes**

The minutes of the GP meeting held on 3 December 2012 were passed, proposed by N Irwin, seconded by S Cairns and signed by the Chairperson. The meeting scheduled for 23 March 2013 at Enniskillen had to be abandoned due to adverse weather conditions.

3 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

4 **Report of Chair/President – C Burns/A Sharp**

The reports from the President, Chairperson, and Secretary are on the Website and are also attached to minutes going to clubs. These were accepted by Council. C Burns said that J Murchan was looking into insurance for NIBU. She said that at present there was no great interest in the first Stena Line Bridge Cruise but perhaps that was because there hadn't been sufficient time to notify all clubs although it has been advertised on our Website and on the Stena Website. She encouraged all present to endeavour to promote this in their respective areas and encourage people to come along. She said that Stena had given a prize for the ballot at the Spring Congress and asked the Treasurer to obtain the other prizes, namely 2 M&S Vouchers, wine, spirits and also said that H Curran had kindly given a voucher for the Spinning Mill.

5 **Secretary's Report – L Scott**

The report of the Secretary is on the Website, and also attached to minutes going to clubs. She said that the only thing she needed to add was the fact that D Greenwood had received compensation from Easyjet because of the delay in their flight to the Peggy Bayer and Junior Camrose matches. She said she was unaware how much this would be but Diane had agreed to lodge the money in NIBU bank account. J Murchan had asked that this money be specifically earmarked for Junior Bridge which was agreed and the Treasurer it to open an account for this separate to the NIBU account. Council agreed that this should be used for Junior Bridge. The Secretary said that she had received an email from Diane Greenwood with costings to coach Junior Bridge. Much discussion ensued and it was decided that a sub-committee should be set up to draw up recommendations for teaching in the future. C Burns said that R Anderson had a lot of teaching material and would help in any way he could. The sub-committee was then set up comprising R Connolly, J Murchan and R Anderson to consider how best to advance Junior Bridge. N Irwin said that K&M club were actively trying to contact Primary Schools to encourage after school bridge, for example children to learn to play mini bridge and then progressing to playing bridge properly. The Secretary said that she had nothing further to add.

6 **Treasurer's Report – N Irwin**

N Irwin gave those present a breakdown of the Union funds at present. She said that prize money for the various competitions had not been forwarded directly after the competitions as she had been on holiday and that this was now being done on her return. She thanked L Scott for her help whilst she was away. N Irwin thanked I Hamilton for all the work he had done for the Interclub competition and for the Celtic Sims. She added that A Hassan had suggested that prize money for Inter Club competitions be forwarded to the clubs the various prize winners were from for presentation at the club. N Irwin added that this was not possible as so many people belonged to various clubs and it was impossible to know which club to send it to unless they all named their clubs when signing in and often partners are not from the same club. Council agreed that this was not a good idea and that prize money should be forwarded to the winners directly. The Treasurer went on to say that there is no record about the non collection of entry monies for the cups and perhaps a much improved system needed to be introduced for next season. L Scott said she had been told by the winners of one cup that there was no room on the plinth to append their names. N Irwin said that if the cup were forwarded to her she would ensure that a new plinth was made. N Irwin said that the Camrose, held at La Mon had been a great success and had worked out at a cost much lower than in other years. C Burns said that the La Mon had been booked for next year's Peggy Bayer and Junior Camrose, the Lady Milne and the Camrose matches. All agreed that the venue was superb. N Irwin said she had given the Secretary a letter of resignation. She said she could no longer continue as Treasurer, she had enjoyed her 9 years as Treasurer but that she had no knowledge of Business Plans etc and that it would be much better if someone with knowledge of these things became Treasurer. She also added that she intends to travel quite a lot in the future and would possibly therefore be out of the Country for lengthy periods of time. She said she would continue until the AGM and she wished Council every success in the future. The Chairperson thanked Norma for all the work she had done over the past 9 years.

7 Masterpoint Secretary's Report – R Burns

The Masterpoints Secretary said that he had received about 10 replies to his request on the Website for comments/suggestions on the promotion thresholds. He added that these would be discussed at the next meeting of his sub-committee. L Scott asked if masterpoints gained at the Seniors Mid-week Congress in Derry would be added and R Burns said that they would be if forwarded to him. L Scott to ask F O'Boyle to forward these to R Burns.

8. Nominations for President/Vice Chair

C Burns, A Sharp and the Secretary to form a sub-committee and suggest nominations to put forward for our next meeting.

9. Constitution and Draft Manual

The Council had been asked for ratification of the Constitution. D Cannell said he had some issues which he had sent through the Chair but that it appeared nothing had been done. Some issues were discrepancies and some typographical. The Chairperson said that perhaps he should take it up directly with the author R Anderson. Ratification was also sought for the Manual which was done.

10. Re-Design of Website

R Burns brought along his laptop to the meeting and showed Council the proposals for the re-design of the website being done by G Mackenzie and himself. This is a 'work in progress' at present and it is hoped to have it completed in the near future.

11. NIBU Magazine

D Cannell the editor of our magazine was congratulated again on the production. He said he was always asking for articles for inclusion but it is proving difficult to get these. If anyone has anything they would like to insert or ask via the magazine then they should do it through him or through the Hon Secretary.

12. Junior Camrose/Peggy Bayer

The Chairperson had been contacted by the International Match Manager re the proposed withdrawal of the Welsh representation at these competitions. The Welsh Bridge Union is somewhat small like our own and finance is a problem for them and for us. We in the NIBU are concerned about their withdrawal and I Lindsay agreed to speak with B McDowell, Int Match Manager before the next BGB meeting.

13. Trophy for Wales –v- NIBU Camrose Match

Alan & Heather Hill have indicated that they wish to provide a trophy for this competition which is the only Home International competition without a trophy. Council agreed, subject to the WBU agreeing that this was a very generous offer which would be accepted.

14. Trustees

According to the new Constitution of the NIBU we need to have Trustees in place. Council had no strong thoughts on this but agreed to appoint C Burns, I Lindsay and R Anderson.

15. U3A

The Secretary said that she had had telephone contact with some people who play bridge in U3A and was wondering if there was a possibility of their being encouraged to join the NIBU. It was proposed that we endeavour to find out where these clubs play out of and perhaps pay them a friendly visit and ask if there is anything we can be of assistance with. S Cairns said he had spoken to a few unaffiliated clubs and suggested that we make contact and encourage the players to come along to our local clubs.

16. Seniors Congress

As the NIBU pay the travel expenses only of their international representatives it was agreed that this should be done for our Senior Team. This was proposed by S Cairns and seconded by E McNicholl.

17. AOB

The Chairperson informed the meeting that one of our International players had received his 101st cap for Northern Ireland. We congratulate Rex Anderson on this achievement.

18. Date of next meeting was confirmed as Saturday 27 April 2013 at Armagh at 11.00am.

Signed _____ Dated _____