

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION Council Meeting

A Meeting of NIBU Council was held at Walsh's Hotel, Maghera on Monday 3 December 2012 at 6.30pm.

Present: C Burns (Chairperson), A Sharp (President), L Scott (Secretary), N Irwin (Treasurer), R Burns (Masterpoints Secretary). D Cannell, P Johnston, J Bergin, E McNicholl, R Connolly, I Lindsay, S Cairns.

Apologies: None

Minutes

The minutes of the GP meeting held on 11th June 2012 were passed and signed by the Chairperson.

Matters Arising

D Cannell said that J Murchan (Competition's Secretary) was appointed an Officer of the Council, however the Constitution says he should not be on Council. He asked for clarification. C Burns said she would look into this with her sub-committee. P Johnston asked about the Celtic Sims. C Burns said that the running of the Celtic Sims needed to be looked at. She said I Hamilton had done a lot of work on this competition and suggested that the amount of work involved was disproportionate given the number of clubs participating and the fact that the NIBU were unaware of how they were going to benefit. C Burns agreed to speak to I Hamilton regarding this. It was said that the minutes of the meeting on 15 September 2012 had not been posted to the website and the Constitution said that this should be done within 21 days. It was also reported that the reports from the Lady Milne and Camrose Trials had not been updated. I Lindsay to ask G Mackenzie to put the results on the web. It was also noted that the Standing Orders from the Selection Committee and the Tournament and Play Committee had not been posted. This was to be chased up.

Report of Chair/President – C Burns/A Sharp

The President, A Sharp, said that we ought to ratify the Standing Orders which was done. He went on to congratulate the Competition's Secretary on the number of tables at the NI Pairs (17 tables), won by C Burns and J Murchan. He said the atmosphere was very good and it was a very enjoyable competition. C Burns, Chairperson, said that she had visited Bann Bridge Club (newly affiliated) and Downshire Hospital Bridge Club and had been received very warmly. She said that Teconnaught Bridge Club were considering re-joining the NIBU. C Burns went on to say that she had been invited to the Christmas Party in Killinchy and SMCOPA and would report further at the next meeting. The Chairperson intends to visit all our affiliated clubs during her 2 years in office.

Secretary's Report – L Scott

L Scott said that there was little for her to report on but that she had received a complaint about the cost of the leagues and had been copied into a complaint about the information available on the NIBU website. She said that she had been asked by a new club "what does the NIBU do for us" and said that C Burns and A Sharp had produced a document which would be given to each new club. It was also suggested that we should endeavour to contact all non affiliated bridge clubs. Consideration is also being given to a 'Come and Join Us' draft document compiled by R Anderson. The complaint regarding the Leagues for Premiers 1 and 2 was that the cost had risen from £120 to £160. A Sharp agreed to deal with this. With reference to the complaint about the website, J Bergin asked who loaded the website and Eric McNicholl suggested that perhaps we should think about using a Bridgewebs site for results and perhaps for notification of coming events. R Burns said that G Mackenzie did a good job but in view of the complaints one solution might be to have selected persons able to update the website. A Website sub-committee was set up comprising R Burns, G Mackenzie, C Burns and B McDowell to look at this and to have the correct details of members and officers updated.

Treasurer's Report – N Irwin

N Irwin said that the finances were good at present and that £1300 had been made at the Autumn Congress. She said A Hassan was to be congratulated for all her hard work and also the Officers of the Union who had encouraged some many people to come along to Congress. She said that she had written a lot of cheques recently, one for 8 computers (second hand) to the value of £320; £300 for table cloths which were gotten by H Curran. N Irwin was asked about the Union Insurance and she said that this had been done recently and included Officer liability insurance. C Burns added that she was in the process of researching insurance for clubs. N Irwin said that A Hill was NPC of the Lady Milne team and that she had given him a cheque for £540 for flights. She said she had also increased the amount of prize money given out as the costs of entry had gone up. She said that the Finance sub-committee had met and that the projected income was £25,000 leaving a surplus of about £6,000 over a 6 year period. N Irwin was asked about the cost of using K&M for our competitions and said it was £50 for a 2 session event. C Burns said that a lot of people were dissatisfied with having all events at K&M and suggested that competitors would prefer a hot meal at events during a 2 session event with was impossible at K&M. Tournament and Play Committee to look into this for next year. J Bergin asked about a review of the prize money at Congresses. N Irwin suggested that the Armagh Congress just about covered costs. It was suggested that the Finance and Tournament & Play sub-committees look into this. J Bergin also asked about expenses for our International Teams representing NIBU at Lady Milne and Camrose matches. N Irwin was able to inform him that we did not pay expenses to

our teams, they paid from their own pockets but that we did provide air fares which were booked well in advance and were therefore relatively cheap. C Burns suggested holding a raffle at Congresses with 4 or 5 'good' prizes supplied by the Union and this was agreed. C Burns to further this. C Burns said that a new logo for the Union had been designed with the help of H Curran and this would be put on a backdrop, donated by CBAI, at the Camrose in the La Mon Hotel. She said that the Press should be invited along and that perhaps D Cannell could hold a competition in the magazine to suggest a slogan for the Union.

7 **Masterpoint Secretary's Report – R Burns**

The Masterpoints Secretary said that he had been fairly busy updating the Masterpoints on the web which the website manager had given him access to. E McNicholl asked about our competitions clashing with some of those in Donegal. J Bergin to check on this and liaise with J Murchan re dates.

8 AOB

The Secretary said that R Anderson had reviewed the Manual and that she had emailed a copy to all Council members. As the Manual had only been received a few days before the meeting most had not had a chance to read through it.

D Cannell again asked for contributions for the Magazine and he asked C Burns to draw the winner of the Crossword competition from the hat. Florence McClintock, City of Derry was successful.

I Lindsay said that the Business Sub-committee had produced a proforma and suggested it be circulated amongst Belfast Bridge Clubs asking if they would consider joining together to purchase premises solely for bridge and bridge competitions. It was considered that this may well irk K&M as they own their own premises and that other clubs play out of recreational clubs or church premises already. The Business sub-committee to look into this further.

9 **Date of next meeting was confirmed as Saturday 23 March 2013 at Enniskillen at 10.30am.**

Signed _____ Dated _____