

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

FINANCE AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday October 24th 2013 at Kelvin – Malone Bridge Club.

The meeting began at 6.30pm.

Present: A. Hassan (AH) Committee Chair, N. Cauwood (NC) NIBU Hon. Treasurer, C. Burns (CB) NIBU Chair, M.McFaul (MMcF) NIBU Hon. Secretary, I.Hamilton (IH) NIBU President, G. Mackenzie (GMack), A. Fitzpatrick (AF)

1. Apologies

R. Anderson (RA)

2 Minutes of the meeting held on July 18th 2013

NC proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by GMack. All agreed.

3 Matters Arising

NC took members through comments submitted by RA in his absence.

18/07/13 – 6

MMcF reported that Council had adopted the Strategic Plan in full. The drive towards attracting unaffiliated clubs was already bearing fruit. AH proposed that a Welcome Pack be compiled for new clubs.

MMcF agreed to send the Bridge Centre questionnaire as soon as the updated list of affiliated clubs in the Greater Belfast area was known.

There had been no action taken on the role of a Marketing/Public Relations Officer.

The website would be managed by Greer Mackenzie, Robin Burns, Brian McDowell and Ruth Connolly.

Council had agreed to abandon the area structure as it no longer had any meaningful significance.

Action: AH and CB to compile Welcome Pack for new clubs. Suggested inclusions to AH.

MMcF to mail out Belfast Bridge Centre Questionnaire after November 1st.

18/07/13 – 12

CB confirmed that Ian Lindsay alone would be sponsoring the Teltscher Trophy when it was held in Northern Ireland next year.

18/07/13 – 16

NC outlined existing custom and practice on the payment of honoraria and expenses to NIBU officers and members. The present levels of honoraria had not been changed for many years and remained at £800 to the Secretary and £600 each to the Treasurer, Competitions Secretary and Masterpoints Secretary. It was proposed to raise these to £1000 for the Secretary and Competitions Secretary and £700 for the Treasurer and Masterpoints Secretary. NC reminded members that the Chair and Congress Organiser were entitled to claim reasonable expenses should they decide to do so. He agreed to draft a policy on payment of honoraria and expenses.

Action: NC to draw up a revised policy on payment of honoraria and expenses to officers and members.

18/07/13 – 17

NC reported there had been some response to his request for inventory items to help compile an assets register. He hoped to be in a position soon to produce the register in due course.

Action: NC to complete register of known assets.

18/07/13 – 18

NC reported that entry fees were still outstanding from two teams in respect of competitions held during the 2012/2013 season. He recommended writing these off as bad debts.

18/07/13 – 19

MMcF reported on the distribution of the 2013-14 NIBU diary and suggested including it in the Welcome Pack to new clubs. CB suggested awarding 10 diaries gratis to each new club.

New Business

4. Purchase of Bridge Tables

AH outlined the present cost of hiring and transporting tables to the autumn and spring congresses. The annual total cost was c. £1090. CB reported that LA Mon had agreed

to store tables free of charge and, in the light of holding more events at the hotel, it was agreed to purchase 50 tables @ £60 each.

Action: CB to consult Paul Porteous on bulk purchase of Bridge tables, best rates etc.

5. Proposed Inter 'A' & 'B' Congress

Members were unanimous in their support for a proposal to hold a congress for non-senior players. Commercial viability was not considered to be a pre-requisite for success but rather the need to attract more players into the tournament scenario was paramount. CB reported provisional dates in early August were in mind at La Mon for the event. The need for sponsorship was highlighted and it was agreed to form a sub-committee to address this consisting of CB, GMack, AH and AF.

Action: Council is recommended to agree to the running of an Inter A/B Congress in 2014 and that organisation of the event should be delegated to the Tournament committee.

6. One-day Western regional event

MMcF suggested this as a response to the recent interest being shown from previously unaffiliated clubs in Fermanagh and Tyrone. IH agreed to speak to Gerry Hegarty (St. Michaels, Enniskillen) on the likelihood of such an event attracting interest.

7. Closure of the Educational Trust for British Bridge (ETBB)

NC reported on S. Millership's email, reminding members that the funds were being divided between the home countries (c. £5k each) NC agreed to deal with the receipt of any monies due and proposed that such funds be earmarked for 'Schools Bridge'. All agreed

Action: NC to draw down funds allocated to the NIBU from closure of ETBB

8. Clothing for International Matches

A vigorous discussion took place around this topic, with clear differences of opinion being manifest. AH stated that the most important consideration was that items would be high-quality and that NIBU representatives tended to compare unfavourably with the other countries in terms of sartorial presentation. IH proposed a blazer for both genders but this was felt to be too expensive an outlay. It was agreed that female representatives would wear polo-shirts and cardigans while male representatives would wear a sweatshirt over a white shirt. Blazers would be optional – purchased by the individual but the pocket would be NIBU funded. All items to have suitable NIUBU logo / livery

Action: CB to price female items and sweatshirts with potential suppliers. IH to price blazers

9. Any other Business

a) NC tabled the **Receipts and Payments account** for the 2013 Autumn Congress. He also tabled a paper showing **cash outgoings and income** <30/09/13 while drawing members attention to the fact that most income was due in the latter half of the Bridge year. MMcF queried why earlier statements showed a current asset investment of £11k in National Savings Income Bonds appeared to be free of interest and asked what the bond terms were.

Action: NC to urgently research the background and current status of the £11k investment in National Savings Income Bond(s)

b) AH proposed that **prizes for non-expert players** be sent to club secretaries for presentation. She agreed to draw up a database that clearly identified the club(s) that NIBU members belonged to.

c) CB stated that an allowance of £100 per 3-4 hour session was provided from funds in lieu of seminars for improvers.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm without members fixing a date for a future meeting.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary.