

# Tournament & Play Committee

## NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

*Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2012 meeting at 5:30pm at Kelvin & Malone.*

### **Apologies:**

Brian McDowell, Hilary Ferguson, John Lavery, Bill Scott, Norma Irwin, Anne Hassan and Alan Sharp.

In Attendance: Ciara Burns – Robin Burns – John Murchan – Alan Anderson – Maureen Murray – Christine Byrne – Colin Jeffries.

**Item 1:** Ciara Burns proposed John Murchan as Chair and this was seconded by Colin Jeffries.

**Item 2:** The standing orders below were drafted for the approval of the Committee.

### **STANDING ORDERS**

#### **Meetings**

1. The members of the Tournament & Play Committee [hereinafter called ‘the Committee’] shall meet within 6 weeks of the Council meeting of Northern Ireland Bridge Union [hereinafter called ‘the Union’] at which the members were elected at such time and place as the convenor appointed by the Council shall decide.
2. Meetings of the Committee shall be held at such times as, in the opinion of two members of the Committee or of four members of the Council of the Union, the business for discussion is sufficient to warrant the holding of a meeting.
3. Each member of the Committee and the Secretary of the Union shall be given at least 10 days notice by e-mail of each meeting of the Committee together with an agenda for the meeting.
4. The notice convening each meeting and the agenda shall be published on the website of the Union at least 7 days prior to each meeting of the Committee.
5. At the first meeting the Committee shall elect a Chairman from among the members of the Committee.

6. No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Committee unless 4 members of the Committee are present at the time when the Committee proceeds to business.
7. In the absence of a quorum within 45 minutes of the time for which a meeting was called, the meeting shall be postponed.
8. The meetings of the Committee shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Committee and in his absence the Chairman shall be elected by the meeting
9. At every meeting of the Committee [except one called for special purposes] the minutes of the immediately preceding meeting shall be considered, and the business arising out of same shall be first considered unless the Chairman directs otherwise
10. Any resolution put to a vote shall be decided by a show of hands
11. The chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote, if necessary
12. The chairman of the Committee shall arrange for minutes to be taken
13. The minutes of each meeting shall be published on the website of the Union within 14 days of each meeting after each member of the Committee attending such meeting shall have had an opportunity to comment on the draft minutes.

### **Powers**

The Committee shall have authority, subject to the direction of and in accordance with the principles laid down from time to time by the Council, to exercise the powers of the Council in relation to all NIBU competitions, including Congresses, Schools and Universities events and International matches held within Northern Ireland. The Committee will be responsible for agreeing the diary before submitting same to the Secretary of the Union. The Committee will be responsible for the appointment and training of the necessary Tournament Directors to run our various competitions. The committee will be responsible for the provision of all equipment to run said competitions. The Committee will be responsible for the provision of adequate properly certified teachers of bridge throughout Northern Ireland. The Committee shall have the power to delegate authority to relevant properly appointed sub committees to conduct business on its behalf.

### **Interpretation**

In these standing orders:

1. The masculine shall include the feminine and the singular shall include the plural.

2. Member shall mean a member of the Northern Ireland Bridge Union.
3. The Council shall mean the Council of the Northern Ireland Bridge Union.

**Item 3:** The standing orders above are submitted to Council for ratification.

**Item 4:** The 2012 / 2013 diary has gone to press.

**Item 5:** New competitions and venues are to be explored and we would ask any members of the NIBU to submit suggestions for consideration.

**Item 6:** There were numerous complaints last year about late attendance and no attendance in several league matches. There will be an automatic penalty of 1VP for any team not seated at 7:15pm on any league night. This will be extended by a further VP for each 5 minutes or part thereof up until a maximum of 30 minutes. Thereafter the match will be conceded with the attending team receiving 17 victory points (or their average, if this should be more) and the offending team will receive a score of nil points.

Any team failing to turn up for a league match will receive nil points for this match. There will no longer be any concessions whereby a team automatically receives points for not turning up. Any team wishing to appeal a decision concerning the award of no points for the concession of a match or not turning up on time must appeal to the Rules and Ethics Committee directly.

These changes are submitted to Council for approval by 01/09/2012.

**Item 7:** Our panel of Tournament Directors for year 2012 / 2013 shall consist of:

Alan Hill, Pat Johnston, Eric McNicholl and Neil Cauwood. Any further suggestion for additions to this list should be made to John Murchan.

**Item 8:** We recommend to Council and the Finance Committee that the affiliation fee for 2012 / 2013 should be raised from £5 to £6 as a matter of urgency and thereafter reviewed annually because this fee has appallingly been allowed to remain stationary for years, while the costs of the Union go up year upon year.

Entry fees for one session competitions should be raised to £8 for one session and £15 for two session events. Congress fees should be raised to £10 for one session and £20 for two session events.

We further propose that the entry fee for league competitions to be raised to £160 per team and cup competitions be raised to £40 per team. All prize money should remain at 40% of gross.

**Item 9:** We propose to Council that non playing tournament director's fees rise to £25 for one session and £50 for two session events with their meal also paid for. Mileage if claimed

should be paid at the rate of 40p per mile. Playing directors should still receive free entry with their partner but they should also both receive expenses for their meal. We propose that the cost of dealing a set of boards be raised to £5 per set of 24 or more.

**Item 10:** Robin Burns was asked to form a Sub Committee to look at the discrepancy in red points between the league and cup competitions and report back to the Chair before 01/09/2012 with a recommendation for Council.

**Item 11:** The master point appeals Sub Committee of Maureen Murray, Christine Byrne and Ciara Burns was proposed by John Murchan and seconded by Robin Burns.

**Item 12:** The Committee decided to appoint anonymous observers for all NIBU competitions to report back to the Chair after each event. The Committee further decided that the competition secretary would appoint a Tournament and Play Committee for each NIBU event made up of at least 3 playing participants and furthermore 7 playing participants for each Congress.

**Item 13:** Ciara Burns submitted a mini convention card which is the norm in Scandinavian Countries for all events and which is carried by all players as a matter of due course. It was felt that if we adopted the same, it would be helpful to everybody. This was proposed by John Murchan and seconded by Maureen Murray.

**Item 14:** Brian McDowell as International Match Manager should appoint an International Sub Committee to help him as he deems fit.

Anne Hassan as Congress Organiser should appoint a Congress Sub Committee to help her as she deems fit.

John Murchan as Schools Development Officer should appoint a Schools Sub Committee to help him as he deems fit.

John Murchan as Competitions Secretary should appoint a Teaching Sub Committee as he deems fit.

**Item 15:** The next meeting will be notified by the Chair when appropriate.

**The meeting was declared closed at 7:10pm.**