

At the AGM of the NIBU which took place on Saturday 27th June a large majority of delegates voted in favour of the creation of the new *Bridge Ireland*. The final dots and crosses still need to be filled in and the merger will not be official until sometime in September. As we indicated, it was the decision of the Board of K&M to vote against the amalgamation, not on principle, but on the basis of the actual deal on offer. Our main objection had been the provision that NIBU funds should be subsumed into the new body. As it turned out, this stipulation, which had been clearly stated in the information we had received from the NIBU, had at some time been revoked and was no longer part of the deal. This was a significant change and reduced the weight of our objections. Your Chairman did point out however that since, according to the provision of the agreement 90% of membership fees raised by the new regional body that replaces the NIBU will go to the centralised *Bridge Ireland*, it would be a great mistake for us to use up the existing kitty by persisting with the funding of our representative teams. It is hard to see what return N Irish bridge gets out of this, particularly in the case of the junior teams which account for most of the expenditure. He expressed the hope that the new body would seriously reconsider its position on this issue.