

President:

Mr Jim O'Sullivan

Vice President:

Mr Harold Curran

# The Irish Bridge Union



## IRISH BRIDGE UNION MINUTES

A meeting of the Irish Bridge Union Council was held in the City North Hotel, Gormanstown on Monday 19th of August 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: (NIBU) Anne Hassan (President), Harold Curran, Anne Fitzpatrick, Ian Lindsay, John Murchan, Liz Scott (CBAI) Martin Brady (Secretary), Neil Burke, Pat Duff, Freda Fitzgerald, Emer Kee, Gordon Lessells, Joe Moran, Jim O'Sullivan, Aileen Timoney (substituting for Rhona Bolger)

Apologies: (NIBU) Helen Hall, Michael McFaul (CBAI) Rhona Bolger

In attendance: Paul Porteous

### 2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 11th MARCH 2019

These were circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read. The minutes were passed on a proposal by Emer Kee, seconded by Anne Fitzpatrick.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Aileen Timoney noted the generosity of the North Eastern Region in sponsoring the 2019 Senior Congress, which was gratefully received by the meeting.

Harold Curran noted that he had successfully attracted an EBU tournament directors' course to Belfast which will take place at the Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast, in January/February 2020.

### 4. HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT

This was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

### 5. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

Anne Fitzpatrick had circulated the financial report prior to the meeting. There was a surplus of €4129 for the last financial year. Income was significantly increased on the last financial year with all events showing a surplus. Paul Porteous was particularly thanked for looking after the Simultaneous Pairs from CBAI headquarters, which had attracted a significant number of extra entries.

The Finance Committee's ongoing concern about the finances of the IBU were noted. Extra costs had been incurred by the qualification of our Senior team for the D'Orsi Bowl, and provision had been made in the budget for participation in future World events.

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Council noted that the new format of the Club Pairs had worked well, and agreed on a 12 noon start time for the 2020 event. Likewise strenuous efforts would be made to encourage pairs who had qualified through the Simultaneous Pairs to take up their places. In addition, the prize structure would include prizes for Best Connaught, Dublin, Leinster (excluding Dublin), Munster and Ulster pairs, subject to entry.

The financial report was adopted on the proposal of Liz Scott, seconded by Jim O'Sullivan.

Funding had not yet been agreed for the D'Orsi Bowl. It was agreed that the IBU should fund the Senior team travelling to China to the sum of €11000 (proposed Ian Lindsay, seconded Neil Burke; amended by Harold Curran, seconded Anne Hassan).

Gordon Lessells noted that the decision on funding should have been taken at a much earlier stage. Accordingly, it was agreed that Finance Committee should formulate a recommendation by the August 2020 meeting of Council.

For teams travelling to the European Championships in 2020, it was proposed that all players and NPCs should receive €200 towards flights and a *per diem* allowance of €90 (proposed Martin Brady, seconded Harold Curran). This was agreed.

## 6. OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Anne Hassan thanked all members of Council and all who had attended and participated in IBU competitions during the year. She had enjoyed playing in these events, and paid tribute to her partner in most competitions, Liz Scott. She noted that the organization of a Vugraph broadcast at the Egan Trophy in June had been particularly successful. She congratulated all prizewinners during the year and offered her best wishes to the Senior team in the D'Orsi Bowl in September.

## 7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President – the outgoing Vice President Jim O'Sullivan now assumed office and took the chair. On his election Jim offered thanks to his predecessor Anne, and congratulated her for her work promoting bridge. He expressed a desire to continue along the same path, and in particular, to ensure that the work of the IBU would be better recognized in both Unions.

Vice President – Harold Curran (proposed Liz Scott, seconded Ian Lindsay)

Joint Honorary Secretaries – Martin Brady and Anne Fitzpatrick (proposed Emer Kee, seconded John Murchan)

Honorary Treasurer – Anne Fitzpatrick (proposed John Murchan, seconded Martin Brady)

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Examining Accountant – Brian Dolan was appointed, on the proposal of Anne Fitzpatrick, seconded Gordon Lessells

Legal Adviser – Emer Joyce was appointed, on the proposal of Martin Brady, seconded Liz Scott

## 8. FINANCE COMMITTEE

This was constituted as the two Joint Secretaries, Ian Lindsay, Joe Moran, and Harold Curran, on the proposal of Liz Scott, seconded Freda Fitzgerald.

## 9. EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

This was constituted as the President, Vice President, both Hon Secretaries, and the Hon Treasurer (proposed John Murchan, seconded Anne Hassan)

## 10. INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

John Murchan circulated a typescript report. During the year, International Committee had circulated a questionnaire covering a wide range of ideas or potential initiatives that had been proposed by players in recent seasons. The result of the survey was that most suggestions did not have the backing of many players, and that players largely sought longer events, with more boards played, team trials, and 2 or more weekends of play.

The Committee plans to continue holding trials in all areas of the country, and will prioritise regions which provide significant numbers of entries for trials.

Entry fees for trials will rise to €200 per person, in line with the increase in table money agreed for all other IBU competitions last season (see Minutes, August 2018).

## 11. ELECTION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

This was constituted as John Murchan (convenor), Elva Gannon, Sam Hall, Michael McGloughlin and Diarmuid Reddan, on the proposal of Harold Curran, seconded Martin Brady.

## 12. IRISH YOUTH BRIDGE COMMITTEE REPORT

LizAnn O'Reilly's report was circulated. Council thanked the Youth Committee for their work, and all who worked in junior bridge.

Council agreed to adopt the proposed Terms of Reference document on the proposal of John Murchan, seconded Harold Curran.

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## 13. ELECTION OF IRISH YOUTH BRIDGE COMMITTEE

This was constituted as Dermot O'Brien, Karel de Raeymaecker, Hugh Gormally, Diane Greenwood, Pat Johnston, Margaret Murphy, John Phelan, Wayne Somerville, John Connolly (as player representative). Proposed Anne Hassan, seconded Emer Kee.

The Committee was left to make its own choice of chair; but for convenience, Dermot O'Brien would be tasked with convening its first meeting.

## 14. COMPETITIONS

It was agreed that the IBU Club Pairs events would start at 12 noon on both days, to allow players to travel and return home on the same day.

## 15. CORRESPONDENCE

The EBL had notified the following active suspensions, which member Unions were required to respect:

Romeo Annesi (ended 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019)

Maurizio Brivio (to end 16th October 2019)

Andrzej Jaszczak (to end 20<sup>th</sup> August 2019)

Coskun Kesgin (to end 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019)

Ranieri Simoni (to end 16th January 2020)

Professor Samantha Punch had forwarded a report on the *Keep Bridge Alive* project, as well as a draft article from the doctoral student conducting the research, Kevin Judge. Both were noted by Council.

## 16. AOB

Aileen reported on arrangements with the Cavan Crystal Hotel regarding upcoming events. She hoped also to arrange sponsorship from Cavan County Council; discussions for this were at an advanced stage. Council requested Aileen explore the possibility of hosting a Trials event in Cavan in February 2020.

The President thanked Aileen for her hard work in this and previous years organising the support of the Cavan Crystal Hotel, which had proven to be a highly successful and popular venue.

The President invited all delegates to attend his home Congress in Donegal in November 2019.

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## 17. NEXT MEETING

To be held at the City North Hotel, Gormanstown on Monday 11th of November 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

Meeting concluded at 9.20pm.

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