

## **NIBU Selection Committee Report 2025/20026**

**Committee Members :- Chair – Michael Coffey,  
Vice Chair:- Nuala Money,  
Committee Members:- Stan Lowe , John Baker Fergal O'Shea**

The objective of the Selection Committee is to select teams from the best available pool of players to represent Northern Ireland at the various Home International & IBU Competitions. Historically trials have been used as the basis for selection. However because of a lack of entries the majority of the scheduled trials had to be cancelled due to lack of entries. This resulted in the onus being placed on the Selection Committee to select the team.

### **Interprovincials /Camrose**

Six pairs entered the Open Trial and the teams to represent Ulster were selected on the basis of the trials result. Ulster finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the tournament. Again the Camrose Team was selected on the same basis and Ian Lindsay kindly agreed to undertake the Playing Captain role for both weekends. Unfortunately the Northern Ireland results were very disappointing over both weekends.

Expressions of interest were sought from players from the nine counties of Ulster who wanted to represent Ulster in the Masters and Intermediate Teams. Thanks to the knowledge that our Vice Chair Nuala Mooney has of the non expert pairs we successfully fielded teams at both levels. Ulster finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Masters section and runners up in the Intermediate section.

### **Lady Milne Trophy**

As hosts for this year's Lady Milne NIBU had to provide two Teams for the event. As there were only 4 entries for trials the Selection Committee decided not to run trials. We were also faced with the prospect that we may not have the six pairs necessary. As a result we requested a derogation from Bridge Great Britain to allow us to include a pair from Donegal who had expressed interest in playing on Team NIBU. Our request, which was supported by CBAI, was eventually approved by BGB. The Selection Committee would like to thank Anna Carr and Margaret Farren who played for Team NIBU and also to Anne Cairns and Una Carty, the reserve pair, who got less than twenty four hours notice that they were playing. While results for both teams, Team Northern Ireland - NPC Heather Hill and Team NIBU - NPC Alan Hill, were disappointing, hopefully the experience gained will be invaluable to all the participants.

### **Teltcher Trophy**

The Team was selected from the 3 pairs who expressed interest. Despite a good result against Scotland in the opening round the remaining results were disappointing.

### **Moylan Trophy**

NIBU took up 5 of its allocated 8 slots . Best NIBU pair were Michael Coffey & Fergal O'Shea

**Egan Trophy**

The three best places teams from the NIBU Senior League were selected to represent the NIBU at this Premier Team event. Congratulations to Team Anderson who took 1<sup>st</sup> Place breaking the stronghold of Team Hanlon.

**Sonya Britton Trophy.**

This annual event between NIBU and CBAI was hosted by NIBU at the LaMon Hotel. CBAI won the main trophy. NIBU won the Officials head-to-head.

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In summary NIBU fulfilled all its fixtures in 2025/2026. However it has to be said that is getting more difficult to get players interested in representing the NIBU at both the Home Internationals and the premier IBU events. This trend is a major concern and needs to be addressed by NIBU Council.

Finally the Selection Committee would like to thank the NPCs & PCs who gave up their time to look after the teams who participated in the Home Internationals. Also our thanks to Sandie Millership and Wayne Somerville who continue to support the Junior and Peggy Bayer teams. Hopefully we will see more of the players from the Junior ranks participate in NIBU events.

Michael Coffey  
Chair NIBU Selection Committee