

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

2022 Annual General Meeting of the Executive Council

(Draft) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Union held on Sunday July 3rd, 2022, at Kelvin & Malone Bridge Club from 2.30pm

Present (31 members):

Heather Hill, Michael McFaul, John Murchan, Anne Fitzpatrick, Helen Hall, Brian Mullan, Norman Lacey, Ruth Connolly, John Forsythe, Nuala Mooney, Pat Johnston, Diane Greenwood, Toni Sproule, Sandie Millership, Stan Lowe, Michael Stevenson, David Leeman, William Dukelow, Lesley Agar, Elizabeth Thomas, Heather Booth, Geoffrey Booth, Ian Lindsay, Alan Hill, Harold Curran, Norma Irwin, Rae Seaton, Valerie Russell, Robin Burns, Anne Hassan, Rex Anderson

Heather Hill took the Chair and welcomed members to the meeting.

1. Apologies

Paul Tranmer, Alan & Catherine McKay, Christine Byrne, Pat McCorkell, Elbha Walmsley, Alan Sharp, Ian Hamilton, Christine Crockett, Tom McKeever, Frank & Judy Young, Christine Stewart, Patricia Blacker, Anne Milligan, George Harper, Liz & Bill Scott, Dolores Doyle, Emmett Devlin.

2. Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

On a proposal by Sandie Millership and seconded by Norman Lacey, the Minutes were accepted.

3. Matters Arising

Rex Anderson stated that the Constitution required the meeting to be held in June each year. Heather Hill said that the Union had been operating in Emergency Mode for the last 2 years and it had not been possible to identify a suitable date in June. There were no further objections, and the meeting was allowed to proceed.

4. Chairperson's Report and Address

Heather Hill expanded on her report in thanking all those who had assisted her during her term of office. She congratulated Diane Greenwood as a member of the Irish Ladies Team that had finished ninth in the European Championships and, in doing so, had a realistic chance of qualifying for the World Championships.

The Chain of Office was handed over to Brian Mullan who took over the Chair to members applause.

5. Officers' Reports

Michael McFaul highlighted the 'Contact Us' facility on the website and stated that two fairly common requests were for Bridge Lessons and TD training. Alan Hill said that he hoped to run a course for 'trainee' TDs and players in general on Sunday 28th August.

Anne Fitzpatrick outlined the Union's current financial position.

Ian Hamilton's report was adopted in his absence.

On a proposal by Helen Hall and seconded by Alan Hill, the reports of the Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Masterpoints Secretary were accepted.

6. Financial Accounts

On a proposal by Ian Lindsay, seconded by Norman Lacey, the Accounts were accepted.

7. Re-Election of President

Rex Anderson stated that the incumbent President could not be immediately re-elected according to the Constitution. Heather Hill said that a precedent had been set and as previously argued, the Union had been operating in Emergency Mode. As far as possible this had been in compliance with the Constitution, but this was not always practical during the pandemic. Michael McFaul said that Council should consider revising the Constitution to reflect changing circumstances.

On a proposal by Alan Hill, seconded by Ruth Connolly, John Murchan was re-elected as President for a period of 1 year.

8. President's Address

John Murchan said it had been a difficult 3 years for the Management Committee in trying to handle the Union's business during the pandemic. In the light of recent outbreaks, he was reluctant to advocate a quick return to face-to-face bridge.

9. Re-Election of Officers

On a proposal by Toni Sproule seconded by Diane Greenwood, the following Officers were re-elected:

Honorary Secretary – Michael McFaul

Honorary Treasurer – Anne Fitzpatrick

Honorary Masterpoints Secretary – Ian Hamilton.

10. Election of Competitions Secretary

On a proposal by Helen Hall seconded by Anne Hassan, Norman Lacey was elected to warm applause from members.

11. Election of Councilors

Michael McFaul announced the names of those willing to serve on Council in addition to the Officers, Chairperson, President, and Immediate Past-Chairperson.

On a proposal by Sandie Millership seconded by Toni Sproule, the following were duly elected:

Liz Thomas, Pat McCorkell, Ian Lindsay, Diane Greenwood, Michael Stevenson, Helen Hall, Lesley Agar, Harold Curran.

It was agreed to proceed with a Council of fifteen members pro tem while confirming that co-option was permitted.

12. Election of Examining Accountant

On a proposal by Alan Hill seconded by Ian Lindsay, Peter Green was elected.

13. Election of Trustees

On a proposal by Helen Hall seconded by Norman Lacey the following were elected:

Alan Hill, John Murchan, Ian Lindsay

14. Presentation of Trophies

A number of trophies were presented in accordance with details contained in the Hon. Masterpoints Secretary report.

15. Proposal to Move the Union out of 'Emergency Mode'

Brian Mullan felt that the recent upsurge in Covid suggested that it would be premature to return to normal operations. The matter was put to a vote through a show of hands. Thirty members voted to move out of Emergency Mode with one against.

16. Intermediate League

John Forsythe asked why the winners of the 2019-20 season had not been announced. The matter would be referred to Ian Hamilton.

17. Laptops

Helen Hall said she had purchased 6 Chromebooks for the Union and in doing so she now had six spare laptops. Norman Lacey said he could use them in his work with coaching young people.

18. Incoming Chairperson's Address

Brian Mullan stated that as an Intermediate player he was anxious to encourage other players at his level to move out of their comfort zone and participate in Open events. The continued drop in entries was noted with concern. Lesley Agar said she had always found senior players helpful when playing.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 3.30pm.

Michael McFaul

Honorary Secretary