

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

(Draft) Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday August 23rd, 2020 at La Mon Hotel from 2.30pm.

Present:

President	John Murchan
Chairperson	Harold Curran
Vice-Chairperson	Heather Hill
Hon. Secretary	Michael McFaul
Hon. Treasurer	Anne Fitzpatrick
Hon. Masterpoints Secretary	Ian Hamilton
International Match Manager	Helen Hall
Councillor	John Ferguson
Councillor	Ian Lindsay
Councillor	Tom McKeever
Councillor	Norma Irwin

Other Delegates: Anne Hassan (SMCOBA), Sandie Millership (Brunswick), Richard Coulter, Liz Scott (Holywood), Robin Burns, Toni Sproule, David Leeman, Alan Hill (Kelvin & Malone), Elbha Walmsley, Diane Greenwood (Derryvolgie), Brian Mullan (Maghera), Hilary Ferguson (Quoile)

Other Members Attending: Michael Stevenson, Rosemary Kilpatrick, Florence Boyd, Geoff Booth, Heather Booth, Sheila Sharkey.

Apologies: Ethna Cahill, Christine Crockett, Pat Coull, Robert Coull, Christine Byrne, Maureen Kelly, Pat Johnston, Mary Wolsey, Dorothy Bruce, June Lyness.

Following refreshments, the Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting**

On a proposal by Heather Hill, seconded by Toni Sproule, the Minutes were accepted.

2. **Matters Arising**

None

3. **Annual Reports**

The Secretary said that an unlikely spinoff from the current pandemic was that the Union was gaining new clubs and members. This was due to the reliance on playing bridge online

and the desire of clubs to avail of expertise in running online events – which could only come from affiliating to the NIBU.

The Treasurer thanked David Leeman for continuing to carry out his annual inventory of NIBU assets.

The Masterpoints Secretary expanded on his report giving details on plans to run as many Union fixtures as possible online during the new season.

On a proposal by Liz Scott, seconded by Sandie Millership, all the Officers reports were accepted.

4. **Financial Accounts**

The Treasurer said the Financial Statements showed a deficit of £1,473 for the year.

On a proposal by Ian Lindsay, seconded by Anne Hassan, the Accounts were accepted.

5. **(Outgoing) Chairperson's Address**

The Chairperson paid tribute to all those working to keep bridge alive through online tournaments, Diane Greenwood and Roberta Madill. He thanked Anne Hassan and Pat Johnston for their tireless efforts in encouraging young people to participate in bridge. He also thanked the Officers for their work and made special mention of the dedication towards supporting clubs shown by Ian Hamilton during the current pandemic.

Harold Curran then handed over to Heather Hill and offered his support to her over the next 2 years.

Heather Hill took the Chair.

6. **Chairperson's Address**

The Incoming Chairperson thanked her predecessor and paid tribute to the work he had done over the past 2 years. She went on to remind those present of the sheer amount of hard work that is done behind the scenes, not just by the Officers but by several other individuals who have always shown a willingness to 'do their bit'.

She expressed pleasure at seeing so many Intermediate players participating in online competitions and confirmed that the Union would gladly help and support clubs whose members wished to participate in online bridge. In closing, she said that members could raise any issue with her directly and she looked forward to her term of office.

7. **President's Address**

The President welcomed the incoming Chairperson into office and went on to support her request that members should bring any issues they have directly to the Officers rather than indulge in backroom gossip and rumourmongering. He also paid tribute to the work being done behind the scenes and singled out Kevin Hinds and Sandie Millership for special mention in relation to their work with online events.

8. **Election of Officers**

On a proposal by Elbha Walmsley and seconded by Anne Hassan the incumbent Officers were all re-elected namely Michael McFaul, Anne Fitzpatrick, Ian Hamilton and Helen Hall.

9. **Election of Examining Accountant**

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

10 **Election of Councillors**

The Secretary had received 9 nominations for 11 vacancies. A further 2 members were nominated from the floor of the meeting. Consequently, no election was necessary.

On a proposal by Hilary Ferguson, seconded by Richard Coulter the following members were elected as Councillors:

Lesley Agar (Kelvin & Malone)

Christine Crockett (Maghera)

John Ferguson (Quoile)

Diane Greenwood (Derryvolgie)

Norma Irwin (Kelvin & Malone)

Ian Lindsay (Quoile)

Pat Mc Corkell (Merville)

Tom McKeever (Coleraine)

Brian Mullan (Maghera)

Michael Stevenson (Kelvin & Malone)

Liz Thomas (Kelvin & Malone)

Harold Curran (Ex Officio)

11. **Election of Trustees**

On a proposal by John Ferguson, seconded by Florence Boyd, the following were elected as trustees of the Union:

Ian Lindsay, John Murchan, Alan Hill

12. **Presentation of Trophy**

The Millership Cup had been won by Tom Young's team. In his absence Liz Scott agreed to take the cup on his behalf.

13. **Online Cheating**

Diane Greenwood reminded the meeting that BBO held a complete record of all hands played. John Ferguson referred to comments in the Daily Telegraph bridge column on the subject of suspicious play. Helen Hall referred to the development of 'Real Bridge' as a means of dealing with the problem of online cheating.

14. **Other Business**

Geoff Booth asked that changes to the weekly programme of online events be highlighted on the website as soon as possible.

Liz Scott said congratulations were due to Wayne Somerville who had finished 2nd in an online expert individual tournament.

There being no other business, the Chairperson closed the meeting and asked that Council members wait behind for a short briefing.

At the meeting of Council members, the Chairperson explained that Officers had been meeting in 'Emergency' mode via Zoom and it was anticipated that this would be the medium for Council meetings in the near future.

John Ferguson said that the Emergency Committee appeared to be working well and suggested that things continue as they were pro tem. This was agreed by all present.

The meeting closed at 3.10pm.

Michael McFaul

Hon. Secretary