

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of a meeting held at Kelvin & Malone on Thursday September 8th, 2022, from 2pm.

Present: Brian Mullan (Chair), Heather Hill (Immediate Past-Chair), Michael McFaul (Secretary), Norman Lacey (Competitions Secretary), John Murchan (President), Helen Hall (International Match Manager), Diane Greenwood, Ian Lindsay, Liz Thomas, Harold Curran

1. Apologies

Anne Fitzpatrick, Ian Hamilton, Pat McCorkell, Michael Stevenson, Lesley Agar

2. Minutes of the meeting held on April 21st, 2022.

The Minutes were accepted on a proposal by Heather Hill and seconded by Liz Thomas.

There were no Matters Arising other than Item 6 (NIBU League) which was noted as present agenda item 3.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on July 3rd, 2022

The Minutes were accepted on a proposal by Ian Lindsay and seconded by Diane Greenwood.

4. Matters Arising.

Item 3: Review of Constitution. It was agreed to set up a small sub-committee chaired by John Murchan and including Ian Lindsay and Alan Hill (invitation pending)

Action: Michael McFaul to send copies of current and past versions to John Murchan

5. League Proposals

Norman Lacey thanked all those who had helped make the Ciara Burns Gala Pairs a success. Following a vigorous discussion it was agreed to proceed with the proposals drawn up by the Tournament Committee. The Committee were asked to consider switching Thursday nights to Friday (or another night) in order to avoid clashing with a fixed NIBU online evening event. The closing date for entries to be extended until the end of September.

It was later agreed that members of other Home Nations could not enter the League unless they joined an NIBU club.

Harold Curran objected to the proposed League arrangements not being played face to face.

6. Dealing of Boards

Heather Hill reminded members that Liz Scott would shortly be no longer available to carry out this function. Norman Lacey said that the Tournament Committee would address the issue and he would liaise with Liz Scott over usage of the dealing machine.

Action: Norman Lacey

7. Draft Calendar

Norman Lacey said he would look closely at the current draft. Arrangements for future events would follow experience i.e. as to whether face to face or online, format, venues, cost of entry etc.

8. Trophies

Helen Hall circulated a comprehensive list of NIBU trophies showing their current status. It was agreed to purchase a display cabinet for trophies not in circulation. To be retained at Kelvin & Malone (if agreed). Norman Lacey suggested re-assigning redundant trophies to Novice and Intermediate events

Action: Michael McFaul to correspond with Kelvin & Malone.

9. Online TDs

Brian Mullan said there was an urgent need for a rota of Tournament Directors to run both online and face to face events. Heather Hill referred to Alan Hill's recent course which had attracted 26 members. It was agreed to set up a sub committee to draw up a register of potential TD's

Action: Diane Greenwood to liaise with Sandie Millership.

10. Proposed e-zine

Michael McFaul referred to the recent demise of the Irish Bridge Journal. He announced that a new free magazine would be published on the CBAI website 4 times a year and that he had asked that the NIBU be included in its coverage. This had been agreed.

11. Disciplinary Matter

Ian Lindsay asked if there had been any repercussions regarding the recent failed appeal. Michael McFaul said there had been no response from either player involved.

12. Entry Fees

Heather Hill asked why the entry fee for the East Down Pairs was set at £10 instead of £15. Norman Lacey said it was in order to try and attract more entries. However it was agreed to revert to the standard entry fee for subsequent events.

13. Europa Event

Harold Curran spoke of a meeting he and Helen Hall had with the Europa Hotel regarding a possible 2-day event during the current season. They would be approaching 'Visit Belfast' with a view to obtaining sponsorship for such an event.

14. Trial Entries

John Murchan asked that entries in future should be sent to the Chair of the Selection Committee in order to shorten the process. This was agreed.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday December 8th, 2022, at Kelvin & Malone.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary.