

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Kelvin Malone on Thursday June 23rd 2016 from 6.30pm.

Officers present: Ian Lindsay (IL), Anne Hassan (AH), Michael McFaul (MMcF) Liz Scott (LS) Robin Burns (RB),

Councillors present: Harold Curran (HC) Eric McNicholl (EMcN), John Bergin (JB), Sandie Millership (SM), Heather Hill (HH), Pat Johnston (PJ), Toni Sproule (TS).

In attendance as Observer: Elbha Walmsley

1. Apologies:

Pat Coull, Ken Hammond, Valerie Von Hof, Rosemary Kilpatrick.

2. Declarations of Interest

IL & RB declared for item 13(b) and JB declared for item 6.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on April 30th 2016

RB asked that item 9 record that '*Council ask the Masterpoints Committee to look favourably on awarding red points retrospectively for the Northern Pairs and the Provincial Mixed Pairs*'. Subject to this amendment the minutes were agreed on a proposal by LS, seconded by HC.

4. Matters Arising

Item 4/11: Results Website

MMcF confirmed there was a clear link on the front page to the 'Results' page.

Item 6/8: Playing TD's

SM asked that travel expenses be paid should a TD undertake a significant journey. Following brief discussion it was agreed that the Management Committee would table proposals at the next meeting.

Item 9: Red Point events

RB stated that he had felt ambushed when this item was raised under AOB at the meeting and that a conflict of interest should've been declared by certain members then present.

Item 11: Selection Committee Manual

The incoming committee was instructed to remove the disclaimer.

5. AGM Review

It was generally agreed that the AGM had been a success in terms of time and venue but that acoustics in the room had been poor. Discussion turned to plans for the 2017 meeting. AH proposed that a hotel would be ideal for a midweek evening meeting but HH questioned the wisdom of incurring expense when a club could easily host the event. It was agreed that Killyleagh Bridge club would be asked to host the next AGM provisionally on Tuesday June 6th 2017.

6. Laws & Ethics Committee- Report & Minutes.

JB left the room for this item. The report into a matter referred by Council to the committee was accepted on a proposal by AF and seconded by PJ. JB confirmed that he was satisfied with the outcome and on this basis the matter was now considered closed.

7. Quorums and membership of committees

IL proposed that a committee be considered quorate should half the members +1 be present. This was accepted. MMcF circulated the list of Union members who had indicated a willingness to serve. LS asked that June Spiers name be added to the Tournament Committee. It was agreed that the nominees were all acceptable and that no election would be necessary as membership was fixed at 8 plus the Hon. Secretary (ex officio). Pending confirmation of the status of the Tournament Committee it was agreed that AH could be an additional member. HH proposed HC as Chair of the Selection Committee, seconded by SM and agreed by all. Alan Sharp would be asked to Chair the Laws & Ethics Committee.

Action: MMcF to inform all committee members.

8. Election of IBU delegates

IL stated that the current NIBU Chair normally was a member of the IBU Council. It was agreed that AH would replace any member unable to attend so that the NIBU delegation never exceeded 7 places.

9. Election of BGB delegate

MMcF alerted members to Brian McDowell's intention to serve 2 more years and then stand down. This was noted.

10. Diary 2016-17

MMcF informed the meeting that a joint NIBU/CBAI diary and fixture list was being drawn up for the incoming season under the auspices of the IBU. IL asked that Camrose Trial dates be confirmed as soon as possible. EMcN reminded members that the 2017 Maghera Charity Open Cup would be held on Wednesday June 7th. JB expressed concern that the NI Teams planned for February 5th would clash with one of the Donegal cups.

11. Gala Pairs

The clash with the Sonya Britton trophy (North/South match) was noted with dismay but it was reluctantly agreed not to change the date of the Gala Pairs at this late stage. EMcN and Alan Hill were confirmed as TD's for the event.

12. EGM arrangements

It was agreed to hold an EGM at the Autumn Congress on Saturday at noon. The agenda would include confirmation of a move to delegates for future AGM's, appointment of the Examining Accountant and any minor changes to the text of the Constitution.

Action: MMcF to prepare notice in accordance with the Constitution.

13. Appointment of International Match Manager

Brian McDowell was proposed by HH and seconded by AF. Agreed by all.

14. Appointment of Congress Organiser

SM was proposed by AH and seconded by HC. Agreed by all. AH reminded those present that all officers were deemed to be members of the Congress Organising Committee.

15. Accounts

AF tabled a budget statement and a cash flow statement. A signed copy of the 2015-16 Financial Statements had previously been circulated. The Hon. Treasurer referred to correspondence between the Examining Accountant and an NIBU member. IL said that the member had raised some valid points but that these could easily be rectified at the EGM in September. The Examining Accountant, having confirmed that she had acted in accordance with the Letter of Engagement, should be paid and this was agreed by the meeting.

16. Kelvin Cup Appeal

IL and RB left the room for this item. SM, having studied the appeal document in detail, briefed the meeting. Her view was that if a named team member did not actually play at any time they could be substituted without penalty providing no more than 6 persons played in total throughout. On this basis, the decision of the Tournament Committee to reject the appeal was upheld.

17. Masterpoints Committee report

RB spoke to his paper. Red points would be awarded retrospectively depending on the number of Senior, Senior/Int. A and Int. A pairs having participated in the event. Strong views were expressed on both sides as to the merits of this approach. A vigorous discussion took place with RB strongly defending the proposed policy. He agreed to publish the methodology for awarding red points on the website.

18. Dates and Venues for meetings

After discussion it was agreed that meetings should be held on the last Wednesday of a given month and that would normally be on a tri-monthly basis. AH proposed that an appropriate hotel be found and that members meet for dinner at 6pm to precede a meeting starting at 7.15pm – it was felt that a reasonable rate of room hire (if not free) could be struck on this basis.

The next meeting to be held on September 28th at 7.15pm with venue to be confirmed. There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.25pm.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary.

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Corrs Corner Hotel on Wednesday September 28th 2016 from 7.00pm.

Councilors present:

President: Ian Lindsay (IL),

Chairperson: Anne Hassan (AH)

Harold Curran (HC) Eric McNicholl (EMcN), , Sandie Millership (SM), Pat Johnston (PJ), Toni Sproule (TS), Ken Hammond (KH), Valerie Von Hof (VVH), Rosemary Kilpatrick (RK), Pat Coull (PC),

Officers present: Secretary: Michael McFaul (MMcF), Treasurer: Anne Fitzpatrick (AF), Masterpoints Secretary: Robin Burns (RB), Competitions Secretary: Liz Scott (LS)

Observers: David Greenwood, Andrina Kelleher

1. Apologies:

Heather Hill, John Bergin

2. Declarations of Interest

None at the commencement of the meeting.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on June 23rd 2016

On a proposal by SM and seconded by AF, the Minutes were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

Item 7: Committees

MMcF stated that Alan Sharp had agreed to convene the first meeting of the Laws & Ethics Committee but did not wish to chair it.

Item 12: EGM

It had been decided NOT to hold the EGM during the Autumn Congress but instead hold it immediately before the present meeting of Council.

5. EGM Decision

As fewer than 25 members had turned up, the EGM had been declared inquorate. It was decided to hold the meeting during the NI Pairs event at the Belfast Boat Club on December 4th.

It was agreed to make a provisional appointment of an Examining Accountant namely PG and Co. Unit 2, Old Channel Road, Belfast.

Action: MMcF to circulate details of next EGM by November 20th.

6. Vacancy on Council.

MMcF stated that Michael McIlroy had felt unable to continue on Council for personal reasons. This left a vacancy. IL proposed that Council adopt the procedure whereby a vacancy arising before the end of the calendar year would be filled while any arising in the new calendar year would be left vacant pending the AGM. On this occasion it was agreed to invite the next name on the list of nominees voted on at the 2016 AGM.

Action: AH to invite Ciara Burns on to Council.

7. Tournament Committee Status

RK queried the status of this committee and it was confirmed that the TC was a sub-committee of Council. The committee would draw up its own Terms of Reference for approval at the next Council meeting.

Action: MMcF to add to TC agenda.

8. Minutes of the Selection Committee meetings held on June 28th, August 10th and September 14th 2016.

a) 280616. Item 6: Coaching Grant

TS outlined the committee's case for utilizing a grant of c. £2k from Council in order to coach Camrose and Lady Milne players at a high level. John Murchan had approached Jan Jansma of the Netherlands and Michael Byrne of England. PJ spoke favourably in support of Peter Pigot as a potential coach. IL felt that only a European coach would be acceptable to Camrose players.

It was agreed in principle to support the request for a grant on the basis that players would match-fund the cost of coaching.

Action: TS to report back to the Selection Committee and request quotes for both Camrose & Lady Milne coaching for next Council meeting

b) 100816. Item 1: Sonya Britton Trophy

SM spoke in support of comments circulated by Heather Hill concerning the accuracy of Rex Anderson's assertion that the NIBU teams had previously been picked by the Chair and President. This had never been the case and the Selection Committee had always selected the teams apart from the 'Officials' which was chosen by the Chair. Members spoke of the difficulty recruiting players to play in the August event and it was confirmed that the teams should be selected by the outgoing SC by June each year.

9. Teltscher Trophy

IL outlined the history of this Home-International competition, commonly called the 'Senior Camrose'. He stated that Greer Mackenzie and himself would sponsor the event if no other sponsor was forthcoming. He agreed to contact Sandra Claridge of BGB to see whether Bernard Teltscher would sponsor the event and send his own team.

Action: IL to contact Sandra Claridge regarding potential sponsorship of the 2017 Teltscher Trophy.

10. Selection Committee Manual

This item was deferred pending certain amendments to the text.

11. Minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on August 25th2016

a) 250816: Item 6. Tournament Director's Remuneration

Following discussion, DH proposed that all TD's and their partners (if playing) should be exempted from the entry fee. All TD's to be paid £20 for one session and £50 for 2 sessions (the latter inclusive of a meal allowance). Travel would be payable at 35p a mile. All TD's to make monthly claims. This was agreed by all.

12. Knockout Cups draw

The draws for the Kelvin, Mackinnon and Millership Cups were carried out by TS and VVH. AH carried out the draw for the Camrose trials.

13. Camrose Trials

MMcF outlined the chronology of events leading to the current impasse within the Selection Committee regarding the schedule to be used. HC as Chair of Selectors defended his position in refusing to sanction a revised schedule while TS spoke on behalf of the four 'non-conflicted' SC members who had agreed that the schedule be revised to feature shorter matches on Saturday and Sunday only. After a lengthy discussion, the non-conflicted members of Council voted 6-3 in favour of retaining the published schedule i.e. to play 9x16 board matches inclusive of Friday night.

14. Dealing Machine

After discussion, it was agreed to purchase one of the machines that had been used in Poland and that the 2 existing machines would be fixed as required. HC agreed he could provide transport to England if needed.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday November 23rd from 6.30pm at Corr's Corner.

The meeting ended at 9.40pm.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary.

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Corrs Corner Hotel on Wednesday November 23rd 2016 from 6.30pm.

Councilors present:

President: Ian Lindsay (IL),

Chairperson: Anne Hassan (AH)

Harold Curran (HC) Eric McNicholl (EMcN), , Sandie Millership (SM), Pat Johnston (PJ), Toni Sproule (TS), Ken Hammond (KH), Rosemary Kilpatrick (RK), Heather Hill (HH)

Officers present: Secretary: Michael McFaul (MMcF), Treasurer: Anne Fitzpatrick (AF), Masterpoints Secretary: Robin Burns (RB), Competitions Secretary: Liz Scott (LS)

1. Apologies

John Bergin, Valerie Von Hof, Pat Coull

2. Declarations of Interest

It was agreed that, in future, such declaration would be made as and when the need arose.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on September 28th 2016

On a proposal by SM and seconded by EMcN, the minutes were adopted.

4. Matters Arising

Item 5: It was agreed to defer the EGM until the spring

Action: *February Council.*

Item 6: AH confirmed that **Ciara Burns** had accepted the vacancy on Council but was unable to attend the meeting.

Item 9: IL said that it was still hoped that a sponsor's team for the **Teltscher trophy** would be forthcoming pending the conclusion of the EBU trials. It was agreed in principle to accept such an offer, should it be made – in preference to fielding a second NIBU team.

Item 14: SM confirmed that the new **dealing machine** was now in use.

5. Minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on November 10th 2016

AF referred to the Minutes:

Item 3(b): Prize money would be increased in line with entry fees but would remain at 40% of competition income. RB argued for a more even distribution of winnings to encourage more entries. This was agreed in principle.

Item 5: It was confirmed that the entry fee & meal subsidy for NIBU teams represented at the **Inter-Provincials**, would now be a permanent feature.

Item 8: The proposal from Alan Hill to run **training sessions** for club TD's and potential Appeals Panel candidates, was warmly received and approved. On a related point, SM stated that a written notice giving the names of those comprising the Appeals Committee should be present during trials – this had not been done during the recent Lady Milne trial.

Action: MMcF to contact Alan Hill

Item 9: The increase in sales of the new **diary**, although still modest, was welcomed. MMcF stated that he had decided to give unsold copies to those bridge players attending the U3A congress at Kelvin Malone in the hope of boosting membership.

6. Minutes of the Laws & Ethics meeting held on October 25th 2016

MMcF referred to the Minutes:

Item 5: Following general discussion on the handling of potential disciplinary matters, it was confirmed that all such matters would come through Council in the first instance. If considered appropriate, LEC would be instructed to investigate and report back its findings.

On a proposal by TS, seconded by RK, the revised **Terms of Reference** were accepted subject to the amendment of paragraph 7 to read "*Convene a panel of non-conflicted members to decide on matters of interpretation regarding the Constitution of the Union.*"

Action: MMcF to amend. LEC agenda.

IL asked that all NIBU regulations around **Alerting and Systems Information** should be updated and readily available on the website. SM said that the NIBU had traditionally aligned its approach to the EBU while IL argued that it could make more sense to move closer to the CBAI in order to simplify understandings for those who played in both jurisdictions.

Action: LEC agenda

7. Minutes of the Tournament Committee meeting held on October 13th 2016

LS referred to the Minutes:

Item 3: On a proposal by HH, seconded by AF, the **Terms of Reference** were accepted subject to the deletion of the words "oversee and" ...from paragraph 5.

Action: MMcF to amend.

Item 4: LS spoke of the continuing **decline in entries** to competitions. She exhorted those present to play more regularly in NIBU events. She referred to Brian McDowell's initiative in setting up a 'Find a Partner' facility on the website.

RK said that La Mon was not a popular venue.

8. Minutes of the Selection Committee meetings held on October 16th and October 25th 2016

161016 Item 5: MMcF stated that members of both the Selection and Laws & Ethics committees had expressed the need for **confidentiality** in their dealings. He had reminded everyone that confidentiality could never be guaranteed over email correspondence as the sender had no control over its ultimate dissemination.

AH SM and PJ raised concerns that the website could not be fully accessed on **Apple devices**.

Action: MMcF to contact Greer Mackenzie.

9. (Draft) Minutes of the Selection Committee meeting held on November 20th 2016

Item 8: Members discussed the recent selection of a pair to the **Lady Milne team** who had not played in the trial or asked for an exemption. IL proposed that in future any pair so selected should be named in advance of the trial. This was agreed unanimously.

Action: MMcF to ensure the SC manual is updated accordingly.

10. Report on the IBU meeting held on November 14th 2016

HC drew members' attention to the proposed increase in representation at the Inter-Provincials from 2017. Three 'Inter 'A' teams would be selected to play for each province in addition to the existing Senior and Intermediate ('B') teams.

He reported that the European Bridge League would be holding its next meeting in Belfast and that plans were in hand to bring the World Championships to the city in 2021. AH thanked HC for his efforts in bringing such a high-profile event to Northern Ireland.

11. Affiliation Update

MMcF said that to date only 15 clubs had paid their fees but that more were in the pipeline. The question of multi-club membership was discussed. It was confirmed that the £5 fee is payable by a member at each club they are recorded. As some clubs do not charge a membership fee, RB reminded members that many clubs found it fairer to charge 'non-members' supplementary table money. EMcN agreed and said he would now do this at Maghera.

12. Autumn Congress report

SM tabled papers giving information on costs and entries. She expressed particular concern at the decline in entries from Intermediates and reminded the meeting that the Congress could only break even if the £1000 grant from 'Hidden Hearing' was maintained. Turning to the Spring Congress, she proposed switching from La Mon to a more distant location, possibly Enniskillen.

Action: Tournament Committee

13. Correspondence

AH referred to a late email from John Murchan which had been sent to some, but not all Council members. It was agreed to defer consideration of the contents pending receipt by all members.

Action: AH to respond

14. Schools bridge

RK said that Kelvin Malone members were unfortunately unable to carry out their programme of minibridge with a local primary school. She asked if the Youth Committee could take on the task.

Action: RK to contact Diane Greenwood and liaise with PJ.

15. Date of next meeting

Wednesday February 1st 2017 from 6.30pm.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.30pm.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Corrs Corner Hotel on Wednesday February 1st 2017 from 7pm.

Councilors present:

President: Ian Lindsay (IL),

Chairperson: Anne Hassan (AH)

Harold Curran (HC) , Sandie Millership (SM), Pat Johnston (PJ), Toni Sproule (TS), Ken Hammond (KH), Rosemary Kilpatrick (RK), Heather Hill (HH), Ciara Burns (CB), Valerie Von Hof (VVH), Pat Coull (PC), John Bergin (JB)

Officers present:

Secretary: Michael McFaul (MMcF), Treasurer: Anne Fitzpatrick (AF), Competitions Secretary: Liz Scott (LS)

In Attendance as Observers:

Paul Tranmer (PT), Alan Hill (AH), John Murchan (JM), Clare Watson (CW) Andrina Kelleher (AK), Derek Cannell (DC), David Greenwood (DG)

1. Apologies

Robin Burns, Norma Irwin, Eric McNicholl

2. Minutes of the meeting held on November 23rd 2016

On a proposal by RK and seconded by AF, the minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Item 4:5

It was agreed that **the EGM** would now take place between the two sessions of the Pairs at the Spring Congress.

Action: SM to confirm times of each session.

Item 4:9

IL stated that he and Greer Mackenzie would sponsor the **Teltscher Trophy** this year and that he would be selecting the 6th (sponsor's) team accordingly. On behalf of Council, AH thanked both sponsors for their generosity.

4. Correspondence

- a) AH referred to an email she had received immediately prior to the previous meeting but not discussed. It referred to certain perceived irregularities within the Selection Committee. The content was noted. A lengthy discussion ensued and it was confirmed that Council would appoint Chairs of the Selection Committee and Laws & Ethics Committee at its first meeting each June.

- b) AH referred to correspondence from Greer Mackenzie, Ken Hammond and Derek Cannell, all of which stated strongly their opposition to the team selection for Camrose 2. Their comments were noted.
- c) AH referred to correspondence from DC, editor of the NIBU magazine. An article had been received for publication that suggested a response would be appropriate. It was confirmed that such a response would be forthcoming and both articles would be published in the forthcoming edition.
- d) MMcF drew members' attention to the forthcoming European Open Championships in Montecatini in June 2017.
- e) AF clarified issues raised by PC in her email requesting a reduction in the cost to club members playing in Inter-Club Duplicates.

5. Selection Committee Business

Several members spoke out against the decision to drop the entire Camrose team for the second weekend, IL and CB denouncing it in very forceful terms while other members also expressed their concerns. CW responded in defence of the decision as representative of the 'non-conflicted' selectors. JM reminded all present that the Camrose circular had made it clear that the selectors would not necessarily be bound by the results of the trials.

A discussion took place around the correct way to deal with decisions in committee when 'conflicted' members were present. It was agreed that a conflicted Chairman should relinquish the Chair to a non-conflicted member.

Following further lively discussion it was agreed that a procedure for selecting International teams would be agreed at Council and formally adopted in the revised SC Manual.

HC asked that it be made clear that Council's instruction regarding the format of Camrose trials i.e. that they should replicate the actual event as far as possible must specify the requirement that all matches are 16 boards in duration. It was confirmed that this requirement had already been agreed.

6. Laws & Ethics Committee Business

Members felt they had not had time to study the documentation provided late and consideration was deferred. However a point was raised that 'Doubles' should be added in to the Alerting policy.

In the absence of any LEC member sitting on Council, it was agreed to invite the LEC Chair to the next meeting as spokesperson for the committee.

Action: LEC Chair to be invited to next Council meeting

7. Magazine

DC confirmed that he was standing down as long-standing editor. AH paid tribute to Derek's work over many years and his efforts to keep the magazine going were warmly appreciated by all present. PC suggested that appropriate contact details and miscellaneous information be included in future issues for the benefit of new readers and potential affiliates.

It was agreed that a new editor of the magazine would be sought and that a small editorial team be set up as support. CB agreed to help source articles for same.

8. Diary

AH asked that the 2017-18 joint diary be provided without an insert listing clubs i.e. that they be listed in the main body.

HH asked that great care be taken to try and avoid clashes with other NIBU fixtures and certain CBAI/IBU fixtures.

9. Competition Secretary's Report

LS briefed the meeting:

- a) The Provincial Mixed Pairs would be held in May at the Killyhevlin Hotel

- b) Entries to recent and imminent events were mixed in size. 12 teams had entered so far for the NI Teams.
- c) Barbara Ewart would be invited to join the Tournament Committee as an Intermediate representative.
- d) It would be necessary for someone to contact Bill Perceval-Price in order to collect Norma's work-in-progress. CB agreed to do this.

Action: CB

10. AGM

After much discussion it was agreed to hold the 2017 AGM at Corr's Corner on Sunday June 25th.

11. Date of next meeting

Wednesday May 3rd 2017 from 7.00pm.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10.00pm

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

Minutes of an Emergency meeting of the NIBU Council held at Cutters Wharf on Monday 6th February, 2017 at 3 p.m.

Present: T. Sproule(TS), I. Lindsay(IL), H. Hill(HH), P. Johnston (PJ), S. Millership(SM), H. Curran(HC), L. Scott(LS), A. Fitzpatrick(AF), R. Kirkpatrick(RK), K. Hammond(KH), A. Hassan(AH)

The Chairperson had advised the meeting of her late arrival.
The meeting being quorate, business began.

Apologies: M. McFaul, J. Bergin, E. McNicholl

HC proposed IL as Chairman and KH as secretary, seconded by SM.

IL said that the sixth pair in the trials was to have been selected after the Selection Committee (SC) meeting on Saturday 4th February. This pair subsequently withdrew from selection. This meant five pairs had rejected selection. Because of the time element in the Camrose selection, the Council felt it necessary to intervene.

TS suggested pairs 1, 2 and 3 in the trials should be selected and John Ferguson to be asked to be NPC. This was seconded by LS.

Questions were raised as to the possible BGB penalties for this action. It was reported it would be 1 VP per pair and each pair has to play a simplified system, the first session they play.

Selection has been taken away from the SC, as this was considered to be an emergency situation.

A vote was taken on the proposal and unanimously agreed.
The Chairperson joined the meeting and stated she agreed with the outcome of the vote.

Discussion took place as how to communicate the information
those who were to be de-selected to be advised by phone by the NIBU Chairperson or a Council member, today.
those who were to be re-selected to be contacted by phone.
TS to email members of the selection committee.

RK expressed her concern at the difficult situation the Council had been placed in.
The meeting finished at 3.30 pm.

K. Hammond (Acting Secretary)

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Corr's Corner Hotel on Thursday May 11th 2017 from 7pm.

Officers Present: Ian Lindsay (President), Anne Hassan (Chairperson), Michael McFaul (Hon. Secretary), Anne Fitzpatrick (Hon. Treasurer), Liz Scott (Hon. Competitions Secretary)

Councillors Present: Harold Curran, Sandie Millership, Pat Johnston, Toni Sproule

In Attendance: Rex Anderson.

With only 4 voting members present, the meeting was deemed to be inquorate. It was agreed to continue on the basis that formal agreement on all decisions taken would be deferred to the next meeting of Council.

Before the meeting began, the Chairman asked members to observe a minutes silence as a mark of respect for Councillor and former Chairman Ciara Burns whose sudden death had shocked the bridge-playing community throughout Ireland.

1. Apologies

Ken Hammond, Valerie Von Hof, Pat Coull, Rosemary Kilpatrick, Robin Burns, Heather Hill, Eric McNicholl, John Bergin, Paul Tranmer (as attendee)

2. Minutes of the meeting held on February 1st 2017

The Minutes were noted pending later approval.

3. Matters Arising

Item 3: EGM. It was proposed to hold the meeting that would agree the amendment to the Constitution passed at the 2016 AGM, immediately after the 2017 AGM on June 25th.

Action: MMcF to notify all club secretaries.

4. Minutes of the Emergency Meeting held on February 3rd 2017.

The Minutes were noted pending later approval.

5. (Deferred) Minutes of the Laws & Ethics Committee meeting of January 18th 2017.

RA referred to the documents previously circulated including LEC Terms of Reference, Code of Conduct & Disciplinary Procedure and Recommended Changes to the Standing Orders.

Only one Councillor had submitted comments. The various changes proposed in the LEC documents were agreed in principle pending further approval. AH thanked RA for the work he had done and RA left the meeting.

6. **Minutes of the Selection Committee meetings held on February 4th 2017, March 8th 2017, March 16th 2017 and April 11th 2017.**

040217 Item 3: **Teltscher Trial Entry.** MMcF referred to the situation where it was discovered that an entrant was not a member of an affiliated club at the time of submission. The matter had been rectified but it did reveal an anomaly in that the NIBU affiliation year (September 1st – August 31st) did not necessarily coincide with a club's year of membership. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Selection Committee would include on all trials notices the requirement that entrants should state their club and membership number.

Action: Incoming Selection Committee.

110417. Item 8. **Junior Camrose.** MMcF referred to a discussion at the Selection Committee during which it was suggested that Wayne Somerville could work closely with Junior Camrose players, possibly as NPC. LS outlined some potential logistical difficulties.

7. **(Draft) Minutes of the Tournament Committee meeting held on April 27th 2017.**

LS briefed members on business transacted and outlined how the TC functioned by delegating specific responsibilities to each member. It was noted with pleasure that several 'lost' trophies had now been recovered. IL said there had been problems with using the Boat Club as a venue for league matches. HC asked that any problems should be referred to him and he would liaise with the club to ensure the facilities were up to playing standard on league nights.

8. **Correspondence.**

- a) Thanks had been expressed in writing from Heather Hill, Clare Watson and Norma Irwin in respect of the **funding provided for coaching** by Michael Byrne. All those attending agreed the sessions had been very rewarding.
- b) As at least 5 NIBU members had expressed an interest in attending the **Commonwealth Games Bridge Event** in February 2018, it was agreed to let the organisers know that the NIBU may send an official team.

Action: MMcF

- c) The recent **TD seminars** had been highly successful with 42 attendees. Alan Hill was arranging 2 more seminars in June. Members thanked AH for his efforts in developing TD skills throughout the clubs. SM asked that the NIBU adopt the revised 'Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017' from September 2017. This was agreed.

9. **Selection Committee Manual**

It was confirmed that the Manual would stipulate 1-2-3 must be selected for the 1st Camrose weekend with some flexibility on the 2nd weekend to include 4th in the trials, depending on the outcome of cross-imping. Otherwise further consideration of the Manual was deferred.

10. **Committee Membership & Council Nominations.**

MMcF reminded the meeting that all nominations for Council must be supported by an affiliated club, including all officers. However the nomination could come from any club and not just one of which the nominee was a member. Committee membership was voluntary

and self-nominating. In all cases, nominations to be sent to the secretary in writing by June 4th.

11. Website Information Coordinator

MMcF referred to discussions with Greer Mackenzie & Brian McDowell regarding the re-organising of files on the website. All agreed the website was now more user-friendly. However it was highlighted that an 'Information Coordinator' would be desirable – someone to feed news, photos, etc. to Greer whereas at present this happens randomly.

12. TD Pack.

SM suggested that a printed information pack be designed for the use of TD's running any competition or trial.

13. AGM

The meeting was confirmed as Sunday June 25th at Corr's Corner from 6.30pm.

14. Novice Ranking

PJ pointed out the anomaly that existed between the CBAI and NIBU with regard to master point grading requirement. She agreed to discuss the matter with Robin Burns to see if the grading requirements could be harmonized.

15. League Co-ordinator

IL said he was standing down but said he would be happy to continue as TD when he was available. LS said she would try and identify a replacement.

16. American visitors

HC said he had arranged an evening's Bridge at the Belfast Boat Club for a party of 20 visiting Americans on the evening of August 4th. He hoped that many local players would turn up to play and support the event.

17. Date of next meeting.

Wednesday June 28th 2017 from 6.30pm at Corr's Corner.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Corr's Corner on Wednesday June 28th 2017 at 6.30pm?

Officers present: Ian Lindsay (President), Anne Hassan (Chairperson), Michael McFaul (Hon. Secretary), Liz Scott (Hon. Competitions Secretary), Robin Burns (Hon. Master Points Secretary)

Councillors present: Pat Johnston, Barbara Ewart, Eric McNicholl, John Bergin, Rosemary Kilpatrick, and Ken Hammond.

1. Apologies

Anne Fitzpatrick (Hon. Treasurer), Heather Hill, Toni Sproule, Harold Curran, Helen Hall.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on May 11th 2017

On a proposal by Ian Lindsay and seconded by Sandie Millership, the Minutes were agreed and all business decisions were ratified.

3. Matters Arising

Item 5: Laws & Ethics Terms of Reference and related documents.

The proposed amendment to the 'Code of Conduct' was partially approved.

The 'Terms of Reference' should include a statement to the effect that all complaints are made to the Secretary. Should a complaint be made about Council or a member of Council, the Secretary will refer the matter directly to L&E.

The amendments to the 'Disciplinary Procedure' and 'Standing Orders' were accepted.

The referrals to the Tournament Committee were not discussed but the proposed course of action was agreed.

Action: MMcF to inform Rex Anderson. RA & LEC to revise documents as indicated.

Item 8(b): Commonwealth Bridge Event

It was agreed that the Selection Committee would consider whether to support sending a team in principle given the pairs who had indicated a willingness to play. Only then will Council consider what funding to provide –if any.

Action: MMcF to refer to Selection Committee.

Item 9: Selection Committee Manual

The revised version of the Manual was agreed subject to the following amendments:

- a) Section 2 (Selection Policy for Home Internationals) should include a statement to the effect that pairs finishing 1-2-3 in any trial will automatically be selected for the first weekend and that the option is retained to replace the pair finishing 3rd with the pair finishing 4th should the committee feel it desirable to do so – using a range of criteria already stated in the manual.

- b) Section 2: 2.5 (Duties of the Committee) should include a statement that the names of the 'experienced players' be made known and posted on a notice board at and during any trial.
- c) A statement should make it clear how many places players are competing for when entering a trial i.e. whether a pair(s) has been exempted.
- d) 'Selection Policy for North-South match'. 5&6 are the wrong way round i.e. Intermediate 'A' comes before 'B' – the former being the higher grade.
Action: MMcF to inform Paul Tranmer. PT to revise the Manual accordingly.

Item 11: Website Information Co-Ordinator

Liz Scott stated that Ian Hamilton had agreed to take on the role.

4. AGM Review

Anne Hassan expressed disappointment at the low turnout. Following discussion, it was agreed to return to holding the meeting on a Wednesday evening in early June with June 13th 2018 being provisionally set for the next AGM

5. EGM Review

The meeting had accomplished its purpose and there was nothing to add.

6. Appointment of 7 delegates to the Irish Bridge Union

To be: Harold Curran, Anne Fitzpatrick, Michael McFaul, Anne Hassan, Colin Jeffries, Ian Lindsay and John Murchan.

7. Appointment of a delegate to Bridge Great Britain

To be: Brian McDowell

8. Appointment of International Match Manager

To be: Brian McDowell

9. Appointment of Honorary Congress Organiser

To be: Sandie Millership

10. Appointment of Solicitor

It was considered not necessary to make such an appointment and that, should the need arise, an external source would be sought.

11. Appointment of Committee Members

a) Selection Committee (following election)

Paul Tranmer (Convenor), Nuala Mooney, Ken Hammond, Sam Hall, Eric Lesage.

b) Tournament Committee

Liz Scott (Chair & Convenor), Ian Hamilton, Brian McDowell, David Leeman, Barbara Ewart, Sandie Millership

c) Laws & Ethics Committee

Rex Anderson (Convenor), Shelagh McCaughan, Ian Hamilton, Elbha Walmsley, Alan Sharp

d) Youth Committee

Pat Johnston (Convenor), Diane Greenwood, Sandie Millership, Norma Irwin, Barbara Lomas, Rosemary Kilpatrick.

Anne Hassan reminded the meeting that all officers were members of the Congress Committee.

Action: MMcF to notify all appointees.

12. Diary 2017-18

LS asked if an additional but separate NIBU fixture list could be provided as an insert. MMcF said he would check with Paul Porteous.

13. Gala Pairs

Pat Johnston briefed the meeting on progress with entries. Anne Hassan appealed for helpers on the day (August 6th). A general discussion ensued as to the pros and cons of using La Mon as a major venue for NIBU events. It was agreed to defer a fuller discussion on the question of venues to the September meeting

14. Multi 2Diamonds defence.

Ian Lindsay asked that LEC be asked to consider whether players had a right to consult their defence to this convention at the table – as had been shown to be the case in another jurisdiction.

Action: MMcF to refer to LEC

15. Rules of Bridge

Liz Scott proposed that the Union supply all affiliated clubs with a free copy of the revised rules to be effective from September 1st 2017. This suggestion was warmly supported by all present and it was agreed to purchase 50 copies.

Action: LS to order and post or deliver a copy to all clubs and principal TD's.

16. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed to meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each alternate month excepting June to replace July. Should the date clash with an important fixture, another date the same week will be selected

Provisional dates are therefore: September 13th 2017, November 8th 2017, January 10th 2018, March 14th 2018, May 9th 2018, June 20th 2018 (AGM to be June 13th)

With business concluded, the meeting ended at 8.50pm.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary.

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Corr's Corner on September 13th 2017 from 6.30pm

Officers present: Ian Lindsay (President), Anne Hassan (Chairperson), Michael McFaul (Hon. Secretary), Liz Scott (Hon. Competitions Secretary), Anne Fitzpatrick (Hon. Treasurer).

Councillors present: Harold Curran (Vice-Chairman), Pat Johnston, Toni Sproule, Ken Hammond, Eric McNicholl.

1. Apologies

Helen Hall, Heather Hill, Barbara Ewart, Sandie Millership, Rosemary Kilpatrick, John Bergin, Robin Burns.

With the presence of only 5 voting councillors, the meeting was deemed to be inquorate. Any business decisions would require validation at the next meeting of Council.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on June 28th 2017.

The minutes were accepted on a proposal by TS, seconded by KH

3. Matters Arising

Item 8(b): MMcF confirmed that the NIBU would not be sending a team to the 2018 **Commonwealth Bridge Event** in Australia.

Item 12: The joint **Irish Bridge Diary** was now available on a sale-or-return basis @£5 a copy. A separate NIBU insert had been provided as requested.

Item 13: The chair congratulated PJ on her work in making the **Gala Pairs** another major success.

Item 15: The circulated version of 'Alerting & Announcing' contained an error. LS undertook to circulate an amended version to clubs.

4. Minutes of the Laws & Ethics Meeting on July 26th 2017

Items 6&7: MMcF confirmed that the '**Code of Conduct**' and '**Terms of Reference**' had been amended in line with Council's recommendations.

Item 8: IL said that, contrary to the recorded minute, BGB did allow a **defence to the Multi 2 Diamonds** to be consulted at the table in line with WBF rules.

5. Minutes of the Selection Committee on July 11th, August 9th and August 28th 2017.

Teltscher Trial dates

The committee had requested the dates be changed from November to February to be closer to the actual event. Following discussion it was clear that members present were divided on the issue. It was agreed to canvas the views of potential entrants to the Teltscher Trials and leave the date unchanged should anyone indicate that a move to February would render them unable to participate. It was agreed that, in future years, the outgoing SC would determine when trials should be held and would inform the TC accordingly. IL asked that the custom and practice of using the same weekend each year be continued.

Action: MMcF to canvas views on changing the date of Teltscher Trials.

Inter-Regionals

EMcN asked for clarification on the new CBAI 'Masters' grade and it was confirmed that this applied to players with between 10 and 40 red points. The SC had selected Ulster pairs with a similar holding for the Inter-Regional teams.

6. Minutes of the Tournament Committee held on August 17th 2017

LS said it would not be realistic to use ***Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer players*** as viewgraph operators since most of them were not resident in Northern Ireland.

LS said she would be ***meeting with La Mon staff*** on September 27th to discuss future use by the NIBU and she would mention concern expressed by players over the quality of food provided at events.

AH raised the possibility of holding the ***Spring Congress*** at Corr's Corner.

7. Affiliation Fees & Membership

Following discussion it was agreed there would be no change. AF stated that the Union's finances were in a healthy state and that any increase in membership fees could be counter-productive.

8. Coaching

Camrose trial entrants had shown no interest and only 4 pairs had entered the Lady Milne trials. On this basis it was decided not to fund coaching at this time.

9. Vacancies

It was noted with concern by all present that a replacement International Match Manager / BGB Representative, Magazine Editor and Congress Organiser (i.e. 3 individuals) were required and there were no obvious successors. Furthermore LS added that new TD's were urgently needed to take on much of the work done by Alan Hill and Sandie Millership.

10. Council composition

HC said that it was obvious that an 18 person body was too large as was the number of members denied a vote due to being designated 'Officers'. It was confirmed that changes to the composition and rules of Council would require an amendment to the Constitution agreed at an AGM or EGM.

11. Date of next meeting

Wednesday November 8th 2017.

The meeting ended at 9.05pm.

Michael McFaul

Hon. Secretary

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Corr's Corner on November 8th 2017 from 6.30pm.

Officers Present: Anne Hassan (Chair), Michael McFaul (Hon. Secretary), Liz Scott (Hon. Competitions Secretary), Anne Fitzpatrick (Hon. Treasurer).

Councillors present: Harold Curran (Vice-Chair), Pat Johnston, Ken Hammond, Sandie Millership, Helen Hall, Heather Hill, Barbara Ewart.

Observers present: Alan Hill.

1. Apologies

Rosemary Kilpatrick, Toni Sproule, Eric McNicholl, Robin Burns, Raymond Johnston, Ian Lindsay, John Bergin.

2. Ratification of business previously transacted.

On a proposal by AF and seconded by KH, all proceedings at the meeting held on September 13th were accepted as valid.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on September 13th 2017.

On a proposal by PJ and seconded by HC, the Minutes were accepted.

4. Matters Arising

Item 5: MMcF confirmed that the dates for the Teltscher trials had now been moved to March 10th-11th 2018.

Item 6: SM stated that too much low-quality finger **food** was being provided at congresses and that it would be preferable to have better quality but a smaller volume.

5. Minutes of the Selection Committee meeting held on October 15th 2017

The Minutes were noted. Members were concerned that the teams named for the Inter-Regionals were not on the website and that individual partnerships had not been informed who their team-mates were. MMcF confirmed that HC had been appointed overall Captain of the Ulster contingent and that John Ferguson had accepted the role of NPC for the forthcoming Camrose. HHi stated that Alan Hill had now been appointed NPC for the Lady Milne team.

Action: MMcF to remind PT to notify all Inter-Regional players of their team-mates.

6. Treasurer's Report

AF reported net income to the end of October to be £2,310 with £3,520 in the cash account and £35,000 on deposit. She said she had not yet paid prizes to the winners of the previous season's knockout cups.

7. Responsibilities of Councillors and Committee Members

AH spoke of the need for Councillors to take a more active role in enlisting support for NIBU events. HHa agreed to draft a flier for the NI Pairs which would be widely circulated via email. It was also decided to publicise forthcoming events at league nights.

Action: HHa to send draft flier/email to AH for approval.

8. Vacancies

AH reminded the meeting that key vacancies remained unfilled. The most pressing was International Match Manager from 2018-19 since it would be necessary for the new appointee to shadow Brian McDowell at the January Camrose match in La Mon. It was confirmed that Ian Hamilton had agreed to adopt the role of 'Information Co-Ordinator' for the website but SM said it was more important that another individual was able to post on the front page so that it presented current topics. It was felt that much of the information currently displayed was out of date, archive material.

SM said she would be happy to do the groundwork as Spring Congress Organiser but she may be unable to attend the event itself for personal reasons.

AH proposed that, should a vacancy arise on Council, then Tom McKeever should be co-opted. This was agreed in principle by all present.

9. Coaching

It was confirmed that no coaching was being planned for the Lady Milne team in 2018. HHa asked that the trial dates be set each year well in advance and MMCF confirmed that this would now be a responsibility of the outgoing Selection Committee. The set weekends for all trials would normally be unchanged from one year to the next and that close liaison would take place with the Tournament Committee when devising the new fixture list.

10. Bermuda Bowl Levy

HC agreed to find out more information on plans to bring the event to Belfast and he would provide an update at the next meeting. He stated that representatives from the European Bridge League would be visiting Belfast in February 2018.

11. IBU Simultaneous Pairs

HC said that 12 NIBU clubs were now participating – double the previous number.

12. Trophies

HHa circulated a detailed table showing the present holders and location of trophies for all current and past NIBU events. AH expressed her thanks to HHa for the work she had done researching and compiling the document and this was warmly echoed by members present.

13. Autumn Congress

SM tabled her summary report and confirmed that in general, numbers attending were down. Members discussed the possibility of getting local clubs to organise the congress under the general guidance of the Organiser. SM said that the 'TD pack' was in preparation

and would be provided alongside the wheeled suitcase previously purchased. AH thanked SM for her report and work as Congress Organiser.

14. School Competitions

PJ asked for boards to be provided to assist schools in running internal competitions. LS said she would provide boards and playing cards. AH paid tribute to the work PJ had done in promoting NIBU competitions since July.

15. Date of next meeting

January 10th 2018 at Corr's Corner from 6.30pm.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary.

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Corr's Corner on January 10th 2018 from 6.30pm.

Officers present: Anne Hassan (Chair), Michael McFaul (Hon. Secretary), Liz Scott (Hon. Competitions Secretary), Robin Burns (Hon. Masterpoints Secretary).

Councillors present: Harold Curran (Vice-Chair), Pat Johnston, Ken Hammond, Heather Hill, Helen Hall, Rosemary Kilpatrick, Raymond Johnston, Eric McNicholl, Tom McKeever.

Observers present: Alan Hill, Doreen Johnston

1. Apologies

Sandie Millership, Barbara Ewart, Ian Lindsay, Toni Sproule, John Bergin, Anne Fitzpatrick.

2. Membership of Council

AH said that John Bergin was unfortunately unable to attend any meetings this year due to work commitments and personal circumstances. As a consequence he had agreed to withdraw from Council to allow his position to be filled but he had offered to help in any way he could. AH expressed her thanks to JB on behalf of members present and hoped that he would continue to be involved in NIBU administration.

MMcF asked that Council agree to the co-option of Tom McKeever in his place. This was agreed by all present.

AH went on to welcome RJ to his first meeting of Council.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on November 8th 2017.

HHi asked that the minutes record Tom McKeever's co-option had been approved in principle. Subject to this amendment the minutes were agreed on a proposal by KH and seconded by HHi.

Action: MMcF

4. Matters Arising

Item 8: HHa said that she had shadowed Brian McDowell at the recent Camrose match and that, subject to Council approval in June, she would be taking over the duties of International Match Manager / BGB representative.

Item 9: HHa asked if Coaching was still a live issue. After some discussion it was agreed that HC would investigate the cost of online coaching.

Action: HC

Item 13: The matter of handing Congress organisation over to local control was discussed. AH said she was willing to continue working closely with the organiser(s). It was agreed that the Derry Clubs would be invited to organise the 2018 Autumn Congress. EMcN agreed to make initial approaches, then notify AH and MMcF of the response after which MMcF would extend a formal invitation.

Action: EMcN

5. Calendar & Fixture List

Concerns were expressed about changes made to the fixture list which had resulted in variances between the diary and the website calendar. It was agreed that the Tournament Committee would nominate one member to take responsibility for ensuring the final version of the fixture list (i.e. the published version) would correspond with the online version and that dates would not be changed other than in exceptional circumstances. The Tournament Committee were authorised to drop competitions that had seen little or no interest in recent years thus easing pressure on the availability of dates.

HHi asked that the Lady Milne trial dates be held in November. It was agreed that the Selection Committee would inform the Tournament Committee of its proposed dates for all trials in the next season – these to be agreed and players notified in April. Under normal circumstances the trial times would not change from one year to the next e.g. '2nd weekend in October etc.'

Action: MMcF

6. Selection Committee Communication

AH expressed concern that confusion had arisen over the procedure to be followed when a pair withdrew from the Camrose team. It was agreed that Committee Chairs would ensure that another member would deputise in their absence so that any matter requiring urgent attention could be speedily resolved.

7. Grading Compatibility with CBAI

KH asked if NIBU gradings could correspond with those adopted by the CBAI in order to facilitate players participating in Southern events. RB said that it was easy for him to publish lists of NIBU players with the relevant master points corresponding to CBAI grades and that he liaised with Paul Porteous over the allocation of equivalent gradings when the need arose. On this basis it was agreed to make no change to the present NIBU grading structure.

8. 'Bridge Rules Simplified'

An NIBU member had suggested that clubs be furnished with a free copy of David Stevenson's book. However since the NIBU had supplied all clubs with a copy of the 'full' version gratis it was felt there was no need for this. Clubs could easily buy it themselves @ £5.95 from Mr. Bridge.

9. Youth Committee Business

PJ announced that teams had been selected for both the Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer competitions. Coaching was taking place at BRA and the IBU Youth Committee were organising practice matches. Wayne Somerville and Sandie Millership were appointed NPCs for the Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer respectively.

PJ went on to announce that 4 members of the Junior Camrose team had been invited to represent Ireland at the 'White House Juniors' event in Amsterdam at the end of March. The team would be partially funded by the IBU and through sponsorship. It was agreed that 4 flights to Amsterdam would be paid for from the NIBU Youth fund.

AH thanked PJ and the other committee members for their work and time spent encouraging young people to take up bridge.

RJ then said he was highly impressed to hear of so much good work being done by individual members of Council and confirmed that he would continue to encourage participation in his locality.

10. Members Database

HHa said that 'Mailchimp' was an effective way of notifying large numbers of people simultaneously and that this would be an excellent way to attract more members to forthcoming events.

Action: HHa to provide full details.

11. AGM 2018

As the date set was 'Father's Day' it was agreed to change to Wednesday June 13th from 7.30pm at Corr's Corner.

12. International Match Uniforms

HHi agreed to act as Co-ordinator with regard to provision of International Match Dress. It was agreed that NPCs of Ladies, Open and Youth teams should liaise with HHi when the need arose.

13. Visit of European Bridge League

HC spoke of his involvement with the visit to Belfast in February of representatives of the European Bridge League. A 5 day conference would be held. The visit was to precede a proposed holding of the World Championships at the Waterfront Hall, possibly in 2022. HC had been the recipient of a 'Visit Belfast' award in lieu of this prestigious conference and he was congratulated and thanked by all present. HC said that John Murchan had also been heavily involved in setting up the visit.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20.20.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

(Draft)Minutes of a meeting of the NIBU Council held at Corr's Corner on Thursday March 15th 2018 from 6.30pm

Present: Ian Lindsay (President) Anne Hassan(Chair), Michael McFaul, Liz Scott, Anne Fitzpatrick, Toni Sproule, Harold Curran, Rosemary Kilpatrick, Helen Hall, Heather Hill, Pat Johnston, Sandie Millership, Ken Hammond, Barbara Ewart

Observer: Alan Hill

1. Apologies

Tom McKeever, Raymond Johnston, Eric McNicholl, Robin Burns

2. Minutes of the meeting held on January 10th 2018

The Minutes were agreed on a proposal by KH and seconded by HC.

3. Matters Arising

Item 4(9): HC said that his enquiries showed that online coaching would be very expensive

Item 4(13): AH confirmed that 5 individuals from the Derry area had agreed to form a committee that would plan and organise the 2018 Autumn Congress. Ah said she would shortly be visiting the city and meeting with the planning committee.

Item 10: RK explained in detail how 'Mail chimp' would work but said some minor difficulties had been encountered when using it for Kelvin & Malone. It was agreed that HHa and RK would carry out further research into the feasibility of the Union adopting 'Mail chimp'. A further discussion on 'Data Protection' developed and HC proposed that the Laws & Ethics Committee be tasked with drawing up a policy on data protection.

Action: MMcF notify Rex Anderson.

4. Minutes of the Selection Committee on January 12th, February 23rd and March 14th 2018.

MMcF briefed members on deliberations concerning the Camrose 2nd weekend, Teltscher and Lady Milne team selection.

5. PhD Studentship Proposal – Partnership between EBED, UK Bridge Unions and University of Stirling.

The Chair referred to correspondence from Samantha Punch in which she had asked for contributory funding from the UK National Bridge Organisations who would then become collaborating partners in the project. The Management Proposal to contribute £1000 x 3 years was rejected by members and following a vote of 8-1 in favour, it was agreed to contribute £500 for each of the 3 years.

Action: MMcF to notify Sam Punch

6. Visit of the European Bridge League Executive Committee

HC referred to the meeting which had been held in Belfast in early February. He said the visit had been a major success and had provided excellent publicity for the city. Members were unanimous in their praise of the work and effort put in to the planning of the visit by HC over 2 year period and thanks were also expressed to Ruth Connolly and John Murchan for their significant contributions to the smooth running of the event.

7. League nights at Kelvin & Malone

MMcF referred to correspondence from Derek Cannell in which he asked that locking-up responsibility be clarified. It was confirmed that the TD at the time was responsible for making the building secure OR ensuring that another key holder present would do so.

8. TD Course

Alan Hill referred to his course planned for March 24th and said he was doing a lot of work round the clubs briefing them on matters such as operating 'bridgemates'. He felt that more senior players should attend higher level courses so that they would be well equipped to serve on Appeals Committees should the need to be familiar with the rules arise. He thanked Kelvin & Malone for making their premises available to run courses. AH paid tribute to Alan for his work in the past year and added that clubs had expressed their gratitude for these seminars.

9. Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer

HHa said she had attended the event in Coventry but that organisation of the event had been less than satisfactory. The EBU had subsequently apologised. SM reflected this view but said that although the NIBU teams did not finish well, there were promising signs of improvement, particularly with the Peggy Bayer players. It was noted that the training and opportunities offered to the England teams was way beyond anything that could reasonably be expected elsewhere.

10. Burns-Finn Cup

IL referred to this trophy in memory of Ciara Burns and Mary Finn. It would be presented to the winners of the IBU Ladies Trials. It was agreed to contribute 400 euros to the purchase of the cup.

11. Inter A & B Leagues

BE referred to discontent with the format employed to determine the winners of the leagues i.e. via a play-off scenario rather than a straight overall winner with the greatest total VPs. IL suggested that team captains be consulted before deciding on the format for next season.

Action: Tournament Committee.

12. Recent League Night

SM said the behaviour of Premier 1 and 2 players who had completed their matches at the Boat Club was appalling – despite several requests to keep the noise down they had failed to do so and were disturbing the concentration of other players.

Action: Tournament Committee.

13. Affiliation

MMcF said that 40 clubs had re-affiliated and stated that only the Boat Club and SMCOPA remained outstanding.

14. Young Players

PJ said that Diane Greenwood was arranging matches on BBO for young players on a weekly basis. Two NIBU pairs had been selected to play for Ireland in the European pairs in Croatia and it was agreed to meet the cost of their flights from the NIBU Youth fund. The IBU would part-fund other expenses i.e. entrance fees and accommodation. The IBU had also part funded the two NIBU pairs selected to play for Ireland at the Whitehouse teams in Amsterdam.

PJ suggested that the NIBU clubs might be prepared to give a small contribution towards the Youth fund and AH agreed to draft a suitable text inviting clubs to consider such a request. AH thanked PJ, SM, Diane Greenwood and all the committee for their on-going commitment to Youth Bridge.

15. Date of next meeting

Wednesday May 9th at Corr's Corner from 6.30pm.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary.

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at Corr's Corner on Wednesday May 9th 2018 from 6.30pm

Present: Anne Hassan (Chair), Michael McFaul (Hon. Secretary), Anne Fitzpatrick (Hon. Treasurer), Liz Scott (Hon. Competitions Secretary), Pat Johnston, Tom McKeever, Helen Hall, Harold Curran, Ken Hammond, Rosemary Kilpatrick.

1. Apologies

Robin Burns, Toni Sproule, Sandie Millership, Heather Hill, Eric McNicholl, Raymond Johnston, Barbara Ewart.

2. Quoracy

KH proposed that the Constitution be amended to allow the presence of officers to be counted when determining whether a meeting was quorate. Such a change would not affect voting rights. The proposal was agreed by all present.

Action: MMcF to draft appropriate text.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on March 15th 2018

On a proposal from HH and seconded by RK, the Minutes were agreed.

4. Matters Arising.

Item 3: Following discussion it was agreed to invite Paul Porteous up to discuss the subject of Data Protection and other matters of common interest. It was noted that from May 25th emails to multiple addresses should be blind copied. It was agreed that the amount of personal information on the website should be reduced and that password access only would be desirable.

Action: MMcF

Item 5: Applications had now been invited for the **PhD Studentship Proposal**.

Item 11: LS stated that an issue had been raised regarding the **Inter A & B play-offs**. RK asked that the matter be considered by the Tournament Committee in advance of next season.

Item 12: LS said that **Kelvin & Malone** had complained that players had not tidied up after the last league night. TMcK asked that TD's make a point of asking players to ensure they tidy up before they leave the premises in future.

Item 14: PJ said that **6 young players** would now be going to Croatia and that the cost of 2 extra flights would now be met from the Youth fund.

5. Minutes of the Selection Committee meeting on April 20th 2018

The Minutes were noted.

HC asked that the qualifying criteria for the Egan Trophy be checked and that the names of all team members be submitted to him as soon as possible.

Action: MMcF

6. **Annual General Meeting 2018**

AH confirmed that the AGM would now take place at La Mon on Sunday June 3rd. A finger buffet would be provided for all from 1.30pm with business proceeding from 2.30pm. AH said she had written to all affiliated clubs regarding their entitlement to send delegates with voting rights... It was agreed to change the wording of section 4.1.5 of the Constitution to make it clear that a delegate must be a member of the club that is nominating them.

Action: MMcF

7. **Diary 2018-19**

LS said that the fixture list had now been completed but that the usual problems had arisen with potential clashes between events North and South. It was agreed that the East Down Teams and East Down Pairs would both be scrapped. AF suggested that only about 120 diaries be requested for the next season.

President Ian Lindsay joined the meeting at 8pm.

8. **Committee Membership**

MMcF said he would shortly be writing to all Council and Committee members regarding their willingness to stand again in 2018-19.

9. **Sonya Britton Trophy**

It was confirmed that the date for this fixture had been changed to August 17th-19th for reasons of affordability.

10 **Bridge Great Britain**

HH raised a number of issues arising from a recent meeting she attended:

- a) Option 2 agreed i.e. to award a '**Seniors' prize or trophy** for an existing NIBU event sponsored by BGB and acknowledging the contribution from Patrick Jourdain's bequest.
- b) It was confirmed that only 1 NIBU team would feature in each of next year's **Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer events**.
- c) The completion of the **NI Ladies document** was in hand.
- d) It was clarified that the BGB website would be happy to feature **obituary notices** from each member area providing they were of Home International players or officials.
- e) HH said she had referred a matter regarding the **Celtic Pairs** to Ian Hamilton.

11 **Accounts**

AF tabled the Profit & Loss Account and Balance sheet that would be presented to members at the AGM on June 3rd.

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday June 13th 2018. Venue and time to be confirmed.

Michael McFaul

Hon. Secretary

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of a meeting held at La Mon on Sunday June 3rd 2018 from 4.30pm.

Present: Harold Curran (Chair), Anne Hassan (Immediate Past Chair), Michael McFaul (Hon. Secretary), Anne Fitzpatrick (Hon. Treasurer), Liz Scott (Hon. Competitions Secretary), Ian Hamilton (Hon. Master Points Secretary), John Ferguson, Ken Hammond, Nuala Mooney, Norman Lacey, Norma Irwin, Christine Crockett, Helen Hall, Eric Lesage

1. Apologies

Ian Lindsay, Heather Hill, Tom McKeever

2. Minutes of the meeting held on May 9th 2018

On a proposal by PJ and seconded by KH, the Minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Item 4(3): GDPR.

Helen Hall said that Rosemary Kilpatrick had done a lot of work for Kelvin & Malone on this topic and she asked that her experience be shared with other clubs.

Item 4(11): Inter A&B League Play-Offs.

Christine Crockett asked about the background to this issue. After explaining the circumstances, Liz Scott said that the matter had been dealt with.

Item 10b: Junior Bridge.

Helen Hall confirmed that the NIBU would only be fielding 1 team in each of the 2019 Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer. This was despite hosting the events.

4. Appointment of IBU Delegates

On a proposal by Pat Johnston and seconded by Liz Scott the following were appointed: Harold Curran, John Murchan, Anne Fitzpatrick, Michael McFaul, Ian Lindsay, Helen Hall, Anne Hassan (Incoming IBU Chair)

5. Appointment of BGB delegate

On a proposal by Ian Hamilton and seconded by John Ferguson, Helen Hall was appointed.

6. Appointment of Honorary Congress Organiser.

On a proposal by John Ferguson and seconded by Norma Irwin, Anne Hassan was appointed.

7. Appointment of Solicitor

Liz Scott proposed that the appointment be deferred until such a situation arose that required external legal advice. This was agreed by a show of hands.

8. Committee Membership

Michael McFaul announced the names of those who had volunteered to serve. The outgoing Selection Committee would be unchanged. Helen Hall would serve on the Tournament Committee, replacing Sandie Millership while Ian Hamilton, as a serving officer, would no longer have a vote. The Laws and Ethics Committee would consist of Rex Anderson, Alan Sharp, Shelagh McCaughan and John Ferguson. The Youth Committee would consist of Pat Johnston, Sandie Millership, Norma Irwin, Rosemary Kilpatrick and Diane Greenwood. On a proposal by Liz Scott and seconded by Helen Hall, the membership of committees was agreed.

9. Meetings of Council.

Michael McFaul explained that meetings in recent years had been pre-arranged on a bi-monthly basis. John Ferguson proposed that meetings be reduced in number by changing to a tri-monthly cycle while continuing to meet on the second Wednesday. This was agreed on a show of hands and dates of meetings for the 2018-19 season would now be:

September 12th 2018

December 12th 2018

March 13th 2019

May 8th 2019 (pre-AGM)

All dates to be confirmed at the September meeting.

10. Sonya Britton Trophy.

Members expressed concern at the cost of accommodation for this event which had now been switched to the Crown Plaza in Dundalk. Following discussion it was agreed that all NIBU players would be granted £25 towards the cost of the evening meal.

The meeting ended at 5.15pm.

Michael McFaul

Hon. Secretary.