

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

| Contents | Page |
|---|-------------|
| Agenda | 3 |
| Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting | 4 |
| Report of the Chairman | 8 |
| Report of the Honorary Secretary | 9 |
| Report of the Honorary Treasurer | 11 |
| Report of the Honorary Masterpoints Secretary | 12 |
| Report of the Honorary Competitions Secretary | 13 |
| Report of the Chair of the Selection Committee | 15 |
| Report of the Chair of the Laws & Ethics Committee | 16 |
| Report of the Chair of the Youth Committee | 17 |
| The Constitution with proposed changes | 20 |
| Summary of the main changes to the Constitution | 29 |

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

2016 Annual General Meeting of the Executive Council

AGENDA

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting
4. Matters Arising
5. President's address
6. To receive the report of:
 - a. The Chairman
 - b. The Honorary Secretary
 - c. The Honorary Treasurer
 - d. The Honorary Master Points Secretary
 - e. The Honorary Competitions Secretary/ Chair of the Tournament Committee
 - f. The Chair of the Selection Committee
 - g. The Chair of the Law & Ethics Committee
 - h. The Chair of the Youth Committee
7. To receive and pass the Financial Accounts if thought fit, for the year ended March 31st 2016
8. To agree proposed changes to the Union's Constitution
9. The Chair (John Bergin) to hand over to the incoming Chair (Anne Hassan)
10. To elect nominees to the office of:
 - a. President *
 - b. Honorary Secretary
 - c. Honorary Treasurer
 - d. Honorary Competitions Secretary
 - e. Honorary Master Points Secretary
 - f. Honorary International Match Manager
11. To elect twelve* representatives of affiliated clubs to serve on the NIBU Council. These to include the Immediate Past-Chair as ex officio.
12. To elect seven delegates to the Irish Bridge Union
13. To elect a delegate to Bridge Great Britain.
14. Presentation of trophies
15. Any other business.

*To be contingent on the amended Constitution being passed by the members.

Voting throughout the meeting will be in accordance with Section 4.1(e) of the 2014 Constitution ('One-man-one vote'). Should the 2016 Constitution be passed and members vote in favour of the alternative Option 4.1 ('Delegates'), the meeting will be followed immediately by an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) at which the change will be adopted.

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

Annual General Meeting 2015

(Draft) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at U3A, Foyleside, L'Derry on Sunday June 21st at 2pm.

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Present: | President | Ian Hamilton |
| | Chairperson | John Bergin |
| | Immediate Past Chairperson | Ciara Burns |
| | President-elect | Anne Hassan |
| | Hon. Secretary | Michael McFaul |
| | Hon. Treasurer | Anne Fitzpatrick |
| | Hon. Competitions Secretary | John Murchan |
| | Council Member | Pat Johnston |
| | Council Member | Eric McNicholl |
| | Council Member | Ian Lindsay |

Also: Una McFeely, Robert Coull, Stephen Cairns, Anne Cairns, Josephine Hegarty, John McCusker, Anne Bergin, Jim McGirr, Fr. Jim McGonagle, Marion Ross, Marlene Montgomery, Orla Quigley, Nuala Zahran, Jim Moore, Bernie Sargent, Ina Taylor, Noel Houston, Carol Donaghey, Valerie Von Hof, P.J.McNelis, Seamus Donaghy, Kevin Hinds, Mary O'Kelly, Mary McLaughlin, Mairead Morrison, Andrina Kelleher, Kathleen McCay, Pat Coull, Philip McAvoy, Pat Williams, Cathy McCay, Gene McAtamney, Sinead McNicholl, Liz Scott, Norma Perceval-Price, Alan Sharp, Rex Anderson, Pat McDaid.

Apologies: Elbha Walmsley, Rosario Heatherington, Brian McDowell, Margaret McDowell, Toni Sproule, Shelagh McCaughan, Alan Hill, Heather Hill, Robin Burns, Christine Byrne, Clare Watson, Neill Cauwood, Denis Cahill, Ethna Cahill, Norma Irwin, Rosemary Kilpatrick, Derek Cannell, Nuala Mooney, James McAllister, Kathleen McAllister, Emmet Devlin, June Spiers, Ros Young, Bill Scott, Harold Curran, Colette Hynes, Celine Duffy, Rose Campbell, Fr Porter, Florence Boyd, Colette Carlin, Angus Stewart, Eugene Quinn, Joan Ferguson, Madeleine Breen, Anne Gallagher, Bernie O'Kane, Tony McDermott, Gerard Morrison, Kathleen Morrison, Mary O'Doherty, Dorothy Hegarty, Eddie O'Hare, Sally O'Hare, Colin Jeffries, Sandie Millership, Jeff Millership

The President of City of Derry Bridge Club, Josephine Hegarty welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. Chairman's address

John Bergin said that this was the first time the AGM had been held in L'Derry but that he hoped it marked a new approach of 'outreach' whereby the meeting would be hosted by different clubs across the province each year, thus allowing the wider membership to become more involved and more aware of NIBU business.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on June 4th 2014

Item 10: John Murchan stated that comments attributed to G. MacKenzie were not accurately recorded in his opinion. He read out G. Mackenzie's text. Anne Cairns pointed out that, in her opinion the minute effectively summarised G. Mackenzie's comments.

Item 3: John Murchan clarified that Alan Anderson had offered to run the Millership Cup during 2014-15.

Item 8: John Murchan pointed out that Rex Anderson had been nominated for Council from the floor of the meeting.

There were no other Matters Arising from the minutes and they were accepted, subject to the points above being noted, on a proposal by Anne Bergin, seconded by Liz Scott.

3. President's Address

The Chairman introduced the NIBU President informing all that Ian Hamilton would be most familiar as the brains & driving force behind the Interclub Duplicate Pairs competitions. Ian Hamilton reminded the meeting that he remained in post until June 2016 when the roles of Chairperson and President are merged. He was delighted to see such a good turnout, mostly from members who had never attended an AGM before now. He went on to express his strong support for the incoming Competitions Secretary, Liz Scott and looked forward to working closely with her on the newly-formed Tournament Committee.

4. Amendments to the Constitution

John Bergin said that Council had identified certain ambiguities in the text of the Constitution in which the wording did not clearly reflect what was intended. Although proposed changes to the text had been drafted and circulated, it was clear that a wider review had been called for. On that basis it was proposed to defer the amendments pending a more detailed analysis of the changes needed. This was agreed on a show of hands.

5. Annual Reports

John Bergin referred to the booklet containing the reports from Office-Bearer's and two committees (Selection and Youth). A report from the former Competitions Secretary had been requested for inclusion but had not been forthcoming.

Ciara Burns raised a number of issues regarding the Selection Committee report. The Chairman asked that these be passed to the Selection Committee for a response.

Anne Cairns raised a number of issues relating to players selection and to communication problems.

Rex Anderson queried why there had been no report from the Laws & Ethics Committee. The Chairman said that he would ask all Office-bearers and Committee Chairs to submit reports for next year.

Ciara Burns asked for the Competitions Secretary report to be presented. John Bergin said that Council agreed all office-bearer reports be submitted in advance for publication and comment from members and that no report had been submitted by the Competitions Secretary. Ciara Burns stated that John Murchan had brought his report to the meeting. Following comment from Bernie Sargent and Una McFeely, it was proposed by Fr. J Mc Gonagle and seconded by Eric McNicholl, that all questions from members should be submitted in advance. This was agreed.

6. Treasurer's Report

Anne Fitzpatrick spoke to her paper outlining the Financial Accounts for the year ending March 31st 2015. Stephen Cairns asked about Camrose related expenditure. It was pointed out that NIBU players pay their own expenses except for travel unlike the other Home Countries who are fully subsidised. Anne Hassan reminded the meeting that expenditure always rose when we had to host matches on home soil and with two home teams to support.

Rex Anderson asked for the full set of accounts to be posted on the website and Anne Fitzpatrick agreed this would be done.

On a proposal by Bernie Sargent, seconded by Kathleen McCay, the accounts were adopted.

7. Election of Office-Bearers

John Bergin introduced Anne Hassan in her new role of Chairperson/President-Elect to serve one year prior to becoming the sole figurehead of the NIBU. The appointment was approved by all on a show of hands.

The incoming Competitions Secretary, Liz Scott was proposed by Anne Cairns and seconded by Rex Anderson. As the other office-bearers were all standing for re-election as Council nominees, they were all returned on a show of hands.

8. Election of Council members

John Bergin confirmed that 8 nominations had been received. He read out the names on the ballot paper. Michael McFaul added that a late nomination had been received the evening before the AGM. The Chairman informed the meeting that clubs were asked to submit nominations no later than 14 June. His view was that to accept a late nomination would be unfair to other clubs as they were not offered a similar deadline extension. He said that there may be clubs which refrained from submitting nominations on the grounds that they were too late. Anne Hassan expressed concern over the procedure being employed stating that, as a Council member, she could be held personally responsible for not following the Constitution.

The Chairman agreed to put to the meeting whether or not nominations of candidates to stand for Council should be accepted after the closing date of 14 June. 42 voted not to accept late nominations, 3 voted for and there was one abstention. No names were added to the ballot papers.

At this point, the Chairman announced the results of the election to Council and that the following had duly been elected:

Eric Mc Nicholl (Maghera), Pat Johnston (Derryvolgie), Ian Lindsay (Kelvin-Malone), Harold Curran (Cooke), Valerie Von Hof (Limavady), Pat Coull (City of Derry), Sinead McNicholl (Dungiven).

9. Delegates to the Irish Bridge Union & Bridge Great Britain.

Ian Lindsay pointed out that this item of business was normally transacted at the first Council meeting following the AGM. It was confirmed that this was consistent with the Constitution and so the matter was passed over.

10 Consideration of a resolution put to the meeting in accordance with the Constitution.

The proposal "That the NIBU does more to develop bridge in the West of the province" was submitted by Stephen Cairns (St. Michaels) and Marius McHugh (Devenish). Stephen Cairns spoke in support of the resolution.

Anne Cairns referred to coaching but stressed that clubs would really prefer lessons to be delivered locally in clubs. She asked if any 'package' of lessons existed that could be used widely to prevent 're-inventing the wheel' each time. Alan Sharp confirmed that Coleraine club used such a package and he would be happy to circulate it.

Anne Hassan and Pat Johnston stated that the NIBU was not resourced to deliver lessons widely and did not provide accreditation for bridge teachers. However it was confirmed that the Selection Committee would be addressing the issue during the forthcoming season.

Liz Scott assured members that the Tournament Committee would take on board the need to encourage players in the West through the selection of a wider range of venues and competitions. She invited Stephen Cairns to sit on the Tournament Committee. During general discussion on related matters, Rex Anderson and Ian Lindsay reminded the meeting that the Sonya Britton trophy aka the 'North/South' match was essentially a social event and was not held under the auspices of the IBU. The CBAI and NIBU hosted the event on an alternating basis.

The proposal "That the NIBU does more to develop bridge in the West of the province" was put to the floor with 46 votes for and 1 against.

11. Presentation of Trophies

Michael McFaul informed the meeting that he had possession of a number of trophies. However as none of the winners were present, no presentation took place.

The Chairman announced the prize-winners for Intermediate B, Intermediate A & Senior Player of the Year to applause from all.

Senior: Ruth Connolly
Inter 'A': Ros Young
Inter 'B': Dean Bradley

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked U3A Foyle and Chairman Robert Coull for the use of their premises. He was pleased to announce he had 28 tables for the Charity Bridge event and supper to follow.

The meeting closed at 4pm.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary

Chairman's Report 2015-16

As I complete my term as Chair of the NIBU, I am very appreciative of the unique experiences afforded me over the last two years, giving me a broader perspective of the strengths of our organisation and the challenges ahead. My views have been greatly informed by the many players I have met and spoken with at clubs and in competition, hearing from them first hand. These are the views of committed and enthusiastic volunteers who run our clubs, with the interests of the game, and us, foremost in their minds. On behalf of everyone I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation and gratitude to the dedicated volunteers who devote so much time and energy to our sport.

NIBU Constitutions, new and old, have come under much scrutiny, with a third draft in four years for presentation at the AGM 2016. Much effort and considerable time has been given by many members to produce version 2016, including the large number who attended a dedicated Constitution meeting on Bank Holiday Easter Monday! Whilst it seems that clarity and constitutions can sometimes make for uncomfortable bedfellows, maybe we should allow ourselves to be better guided by the words of Thomas Jefferson: *"On every question of construction, let us carry ourselves back to the time when the Constitution was adopted, recollect the spirit manifested in the debates, and instead of trying what meaning may be squeezed out of the text, or invented against it, conform to the probable one in which it was passed."*

One of the challenges for our bridge-playing community is to encourage greater participation, in clubs and competition. The NIBU Tournament Committee signalled its intention to address declining entries to bridge events by asking clubs to host and organise national events. The large numbers attending the NI Teams in Coleraine, the re-inaugurated Provincial Mixed Pairs and Northern Pairs in Enniskillen and Derry, bucked recent trends and were indicative of the success of the Tournament Committee approach. Long may this continue.

All our Committees, Youth, Laws & Ethics, Management & Selection, have been busy. The Youth Committee continued with sterling work training and mentoring our Junior and Youth players. The time-consuming safeguarding exercise was completed with essential documentation and guidance now in place. The Selection Committee updated and compiled procedures producing a new reference manual. Management and Laws & Ethics have continued with day-to-day operational tasks and guidance in all matters bridge.

The NIBU hosted a very successful Lady Milne Trophy for women's teams in April with competing teams from England, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The winners were a jubilant Scotland, who dominated the event, winning all five matches. There was considerable praise for the organisation and hosting of the competition with much credit to our International Match Manager, Brian McDowell and Assistant Match Manager, Anne Hassan ably assisted by an array of NIBU volunteers. Thank you!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on Council, our Committees, and our Officers for their invaluable guidance and commitment. I would like to pay special tribute to our outgoing President, Ian Hamilton, who contributes so much to the NIBU, organising Interclub

Duplicate Pairs, serving on Council and committees, as well as a long-standing player representative in international competition – an example to us all. I extend my best wishes to Anne Hassan. Her already extensive experience and knowledge will make for a great term as Chair of the NIBU.

Finally, I would like to thank all our members for the warm welcome and friendship I have received as Chair. I am very much looking forward to the coming years and challenges ahead, contributing and assisting in any way I can.

John Bergin
Chairman

Report of the Honorary Secretary 2015-16

Affiliation

There are currently 41 bridge clubs affiliated to the Union – the same as the previous year. We lost Cooke but gained the new Derry Ladies Club. The total membership varies slightly throughout the year but it is currently just under 1800. The Belfast clubs of Derryvolgie and Kelvin-Malone are by far the biggest clubs with approximately 550 members between them.

Membership profile

Although bridge has always been seen as an older person's game, in the past there was always a ready-made supply of younger players who had played at university, often moving on from playing chess or having been taught bridge by their parents. Younger players tended to be ambitious and keen to move up to the higher echelons of the game. They entered a wide range of competitions, playing as much as possible even when it involved travelling long distances.

Things are different now. In general the trend in recent years has been for people to only take up bridge when they retire. This has serious implications for the future of the game and especially for our ability to select international teams. The number of senior players is declining year on year and the pool is getting smaller as people are not taking the game up early enough to gain the experience needed to play at top level.

Indeed a new pattern is developing in which the bridge playing community is dividing into two distinct communities. The largest group consist of players who have taken up bridge on retirement. They enjoy playing socially, have maybe joined their local club and are happy to restrict their activity to that. Nothing wrong with that of course – after all the clubs are the life-blood of the organisation and the rock upon which the Union is built.

The second, much smaller group are the keen tournament players, those who play in NIBU events on a regular basis and who enjoy the extra thrill of playing 'serious' competitive bridge. Many of the senior players seldom, if ever play in clubs, seeing that as a stage to have passed through on the way to becoming a 'serious' player. Instead they probably play online – the Internet being the one place where bridge has flourished in recent years. It has been argued that online bridge is a threat to the clubs but we need to welcome new players from whatever source while recognising that new technology offers bridge a host of opportunities to present itself in new and exciting ways. In the old days there was no alternative to watching a Camrose match live in a room with a screen and

overhead projector while someone crossed out the cards played with a felt-tipped pen. Compare that with the ability now to follow all the matches being played simultaneously along with thousands of others without having to leave your living room.

With a few notable exceptions, the number of entries to NIBU events has been slowly declining over many years. The Tournament Committee is urgently looking at ways in which the events calendar can be updated and refreshed in ways that will attract a much wider range of players. Everything must be done to try and tempt them away from just playing at their local club.

A small core of members can always be relied on to help organise congresses and competitions – the best way to show appreciation for their efforts is for us all to support the events by entering and playing in NIBU events.

Council

The NIBU Council met on seven occasions during the year starting June 2015. A pattern has been followed whereby the Council generally meets bi-monthly and is preceded by a meeting of the Management Committee.

Diary

Sales of the NIBU diary have fallen off significantly in recent years. This year (2016-17) we have joined with the CBAI to produce a high quality IBU diary which will include a joint fixture list but also contain our own information pages. The new format will enable all players to plan ahead more easily but it will also help us plan more efficiently as we will only buy in enough copies to meet the actual demand from NIBU clubs and members. Everyone is encouraged to support this joint venture by purchasing the diary which will be available as usual at the Autumn Congress. It will help greatly if clubs can let me know in advance how many diaries they want. The cost is expected to be £4.

Correspondence

The doyenne of Northern Ireland bridge, Margo McClure died just short of her 100th birthday and her bequeath to the Union of £1000 was gratefully acknowledged.

The Secretary's job itself has changed fundamentally in recent years. The onset of electronic communication and email has facilitated the ability to communicate with the wider membership much more easily. Large numbers of people can be kept informed simultaneously by the press of a button. The 'paperless' office is indeed a wonderful development.

However email can be a double-edged sword. The ease by which countless individuals can be included in correspondence risks us being submerged by 'information overload'. In the old days, a member had to either put pen to paper or pick up the phone – something that was generally only done when a matter was serious enough to justify such action. Email, if used responsibly is the perfect medium for easy information exchange but it is not an ideal medium for expressing opinions or generating discussions, especially those that risk being seen by some as contentious.

The place to do that is a forum. Bridge players, being a competitive lot with firm ideas on a whole range of issues (including how the NIBU should be run) would benefit from having access to a discussion board on the website – a risk-free environment where any member could freely express their views on any topic in an informal manner.

Of course simple decision-making can be carried out via email as a sensible way of avoiding having to call a formal meeting e.g. of a committee. However I would suggest the following precautions constitute good practice:

- 1) Don't 'Reply to all' unless it is important for others to see your response.
- 2) Don't 'Blind copy' others as a means of secretly airing your opinion on a contentious issue...
- 3) Never assume an email you have received has not been 'blind copied' to others.
- 4) Never write anything in an email that you would not want seen by others unless you mark it 'Confidential'.

Constitution

This year another amended version of the constitution is being put to members for agreement. If accepted, this 2016 version will clarify how certain procedures should be followed. In some ways it reverts back to the more prescriptive 2012 version. This is because the 2014 version was found to be open to interpretation in certain important areas.

Sadly...

During the year we lost several members who had been connected with the Union over many years – Robert Plunkett, Norma Franklin, Pat Bergin and Jimmy Paul.

Thanks

As always, I would like to thank fellow officers Robin Burns, Liz Scott and Anne Fitzpatrick for their support and co-operation; Chairman John Bergin for his patience and forbearance; Anne Hassan, Brian McDowell and their faithful team of workers who manage to organise congresses and international matches impeccably; our principal tournament directors Alan Hill and Sandie Millership and all those who give up their time to sit on Council or committees. Your efforts are much appreciated and continue to be needed more than ever.

Michael McFaul

Hon. Secretary

Honorary Treasurer's Annual Report

Our gross income has dropped by £10,607 in the year. The Celtic Pairs income in 2015 was £7,570 which is £604 in 2016 due to NIBU not being host. The rest of the decrease is explained by the drop in attendances at congresses and other events and there have also been cancelled competitions due to lack of entries. The re-introduction of a tournament committee to oversee the promotion of events is clearly a work in progress but it will need to work quickly to halt the slide in income. The Helm Cup and Open individual have already been cancelled in the coming year and attendances at the Spring Congress were very disappointing. Ian Hamilton deserves great praise for his continued work with the Interclub and Celtic Pairs.

The decrease in competition income naturally generates a fall in expenses for the same. We had only one representative home match and no Commonwealth entry fee to pay this year which is a large contributory factor, when making comparisons with last year. The discontinuation of the

Development officer post has saved £700 and only £400 was spent on promoting our relationship with our members and clubs compared to over £3,000 last year.

Since Ireland received a late invitation to the D'Orsi Bowl in Chennai and the IBU had not budgeted for the same, Council decided to make a one off payment of £1,500 towards the expenses of our Senior International team, since we were represented by Rex Anderson. Derryvolgie contributed £260 towards this.

Our expenditure for home international matches remains very competitive due to the continued efforts of Anne Hassan and Harold Curran.

A net surplus of £2,428 was achieved for the year.

I would like to thank Alan Hill, Sandie Millership, Colin Jeffries, John Murchan, Michael McFaul, Norma Irwin, Eric McNicholl, Helen Cole, Wilson Hanna, Liz Scott, David Leeman and all the Club treasurers who lodge money for me.

If you have any queries, I can be reached at annefitzpatrick@bakertillymm.co.uk

Anne Fitzpatrick

Hon. Treasurer

Report of the Hon. Master-Points Secretary 2015-16

Another year as Master Point Sec. has reached a successful conclusion. As usual, I would like to thank all the club secretaries, Alan Hill, Sandie Millership, Ian Lindsay and Ian Hamilton for their efforts in getting all the results to me in a timely and efficient manner.

The following 29 bridge clubs returned master points:-

| | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Armagh | Ballymena | Balmoral | Bangor | Bann | Brunswick |
| City of Derry | Coleraine | Cooke | Cookstown | Derryvolgie | Downshire |
| Dromore(Down) | Holywood | K&M | Kilrea | Killyleagh | Merville |
| Portstewart | Lisburn City | Maghera | Newcastle | Portadown | Shandon |
| Spa | St. Josephs | St.Michaels | Warrenpoint | Windsor | |

There are now 1787 members on the NIBU database. The grade break up is:-

72 Expert Players

133 Senior Players

371 Intermediate 'A' Players

1211 Intermediate 'B' Players

While the number of players in the various ranks are as follows:-

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|
| Premier Grand Master | 3 | Grand Master | 12 |
| Premier Life Master | 4 | Life Master | 25 |
| Premier National Master | 13 | National Master | 9 |
| Senior Provincial Master | 17 | Junior Provincial Master | 28 |
| Tournament Master | 21 | Master | 440 |
| County Master | 167 | Local Master | 213 |
| Club Master | 351 | Unranked | 484 |

Grand Masters

Congratulations are due to John Ferguson who has become our 13th Grand Master.

Players of the Year

| Intermediate 'B' | Intermediate 'A' | Senior |
|--|--|--|
| 1st Valerie Young 9.59 | 1st Barbara Ewart 14.15 | 1st Ian Hamilton 40.65 |
| 2nd Seamus Fyfe 7.62 | 2nd Rosemary Cannell 11.11 | 2nd Robin Burns 40.25 |

Billy Kelso Trophy

This year's winner is **Harold Curran**

Congratulations to all the above.

Robin Burns

Hon.Master-Points Secretary

Competition Secretary's Report 2015-16

I must begin by thanking the Tournament Committee, comprising Stephen Cairns, Anne Hassan, Ian Hamilton, David Leeman, Brian McDowell, Michael McFaul and June Spiers for all their hard work. Special thanks to June Spiers who emailed everyone every month informing them of what competitions were on and when, David Leeman who kept an inventory of all our equipment and checked bidding box contents regularly and Ian Hamilton for all his work on the Interclub competitions. The TC met 4 times throughout the year.

To say that entries to the various competitions during 2015/16 is disappointing is an understatement. Due to lack of interest 5 competitions had to be cancelled. The Robb Cup (an Inter B competition), the NI Mixed Pairs (a Red Point event), the Down & District Inter A/B Pairs, the Open Individual, and the Helm Cup.

The Kelvin Cup and the Mackinnon Cup were both organised by Rex Anderson and I thank him for doing a grand job.

The Millership Cup was organised by Jeff Millership and again a grand job.

The Premier 1 League and Senior Leagues were organised by Ian Lindsay and TD'd by Sandie Millership, with Colin Jeffries standing in on one occasion. Thank you Ian, Sandie and Colin.

The Premier 2 League, Inter A and Inter B Leagues were organised and TD'd by Ian Lindsay. Thank you Ian.

The Novice League was organised and TD'd by Pat Johnston. Thank you Pat.

As usual all our Interclub and Celtic Sims competitions were organised by Ian Hamilton and the amount of work Ian puts into this is phenomenal. Ian produces all the booklets, having analysed all the hands and this prevents him participating which is unfortunate. Thank you Ian.

We hosted the Lady Milne at La Mon this year, organised by Brian McDowell and Anne Hassan, another successful event TD'd by Fearghal O'Boyle and Mairead Basquille.

Brian also organised the NI Teams event in Coleraine and this was a great success, again my thanks Brian.

Anne Hassan, what can be said about Anne, she works tirelessly organising our Spring and Autumn Congresses and without her enthusiasm these would be non events. Anne is now to become Chair and is temporarily handing over the reins to Sandie Millership who I'm sure will also do a grand job.

I must also say a big thank you to Harold Curran. Harold has taken the dealing machines to CBAI for repair on many occasions and returned them safely. Our dealing machines deal thousands of boards each year and need servicing regularly.

It has been suggested that perhaps there are too many competitions and that we should archive some of them. The TC will look at this one later this month before finalising the diary, but please let us know what your thoughts are. You can email me at lizscott@nibu.co.uk.

There were a few complaints about the lack of heat in the Boat Club. This we have addressed with the help of H Curran and the Boat Club has agreed to make sure that there is heat in playing rooms in future.

We used new TDs this year, Helen Cole. Helen TD'd intermediate competitions and the participants in the competitions asked if they could have Helen TD all of their competitions. Eric McNicholl TD'd the Provincial Mixed Pairs for me in Enniskillen. I thank both of them for their time and commitment.

Sandie Millership and Alan Hill TD's most of our competitions this year and without them I have no idea where we would look for TDs. They are the backbone of TDs within the NIBU. Thank you both very much.

On a personal note, I have been very disappointed by the lack of interest in our competitions. Is this because we have lost our competitiveness or is it just a case of no new blood playing bridge? I do know that Norma Irwin & Stephanie Irwin are holding classes at a primary school and that a few of our Grammar Schools also hold classes so perhaps there is a future in bridge! Having said that, once our senior pupils move on to University alas bridge seems to be lost forever to them within our Province.

Throughout the season 2016/2017 I hope to visit each club in the Province with the help of our Chair with the hope of encouraging many more people to enjoy our competitions and also to let us know what they want the NIBU to do for them.

Liz Scott

Hon. Competitions Secretary

NIBU Selection Committee Report 2015-16

During the year teams have been selected for 2 Camrose matches, the Lady Milne series, the Junior Camrose, the Peggy Bayer Trophy, the Inter-provincials and the Seniors Camrose. The 2016 North-South match is yet to come. Trials were held for the Camrose, Lady Milne and Senior Camrose and on these occasions teams were selected depending on the results. The Committee has also agreed and published on the web site, a Reference Manual which outlines the Committee's responsibilities, authority and procedures.

Teams and results of the completed events are:

Camrose

The teams selected for the 2 weekends were.

Rex Anderson, David Greenwood

Ian Lindsay, Robin Burns

Helen Cole, Tyrone Currie

NPC for both weekends was Ian Hamilton

After 2 weekends England won comfortably and Northern Ireland finished last.

Lady Milne

This season the Lady Milne was held in Northern Ireland which meant we had 2 teams

The Northern Ireland team was:

Ciara Burns, Ruth Connolly, Heather Hill, Clare Watson, Rosarie Heatherington, Helen Hall (NPC: John Murchan) NPC John Murchan

The NIBU was:

Florence Boyd, Shelagh McCaughan, Norma Irwin, Sheila Sharkey, Sandie Millership, Ros Young
(NPC: Alan Hill)

NPC Alan Hill

Scotland won, Northern Ireland and NIBU finished 5th and 6th respectively.

Junior Camrose (under 25s) and Peggy Bayer (under 20s)

The Youth committee organised our 2 Junior teams. Both came last in their events.

Interprovincials.

Our senior teams were

I. Lindsay, I. Hamilton, A. Fitzpatrick, H. Curran

T. Sproule, D. Friel, D. Leeman, W. Dukelow

H. Hill, C. Watson, H. Cole, T. Currie

Connaught won the Senior section by a narrow margin, 305.47 to Leinster's 304.39. Ulster finished 4th with 195.5 VPs

The Ulster Intermediate team won their section from Munster.

B. Ewart, J. Baird, K. Hinds, J. McAllister

N. Perceval-Price, B. Perceval-Price, D. Bradley, K. Cassidy

A. Cairns, G. Ramsey, A. Murdock, P. Murdock

Seniors Camrose.

The team was (PC) Ian Lindsay - Michael O'Kane - Hastings Campbell - Ian Hamilton - David Greenwood - Rex Anderson. England won comfortably and Northern Ireland finished 5th.

North/South match 2016.

This will be played in August. The team has not been selected yet.

Greer MacKenzie

Annual Report Laws & Ethics Committee 2015-16

On 24th June 2015 Council appointed the below to serve on the L&E Committee for the following year:-

Ian Hamilton, Alan Sharp (convenor), Philip Dufton, Shelagh McCaughan, Bill Scott, Norma Irwin, Ian Lindsay, Toni Sproule

The Committee met on three occasions.

On 7th September it met and elected Ian Hamilton as Chairman.

At this meeting the Committee also reviewed its Terms of Reference, Disciplinary Procedures and NIBU Code of Ethics. These were approved and subsequently published.

Several communications were dealt with without further sequelae.

The Committee met again on 24th February subsequent to correspondence referred to it on 9th February by Council, which contained allegations and counter-allegations of misconduct by a number of persons of standing in the Union.

The Committee discussed said correspondence. With no clear-cut mandate it was resolved that the Chairman of the Committee request clarification from Council as to the issues it wished the Committee to consider. Two L&E Committee members were appointed to investigate the matters referred to it as and when clarification was received.

This clarification was subsequently forthcoming. A further unspecified complaint from a member was added after clearance by Council to be also scrutinised by the appointed investigators.

The Committee met again on 1st June. The updating of the NIBU Manual was deferred. A complaint regarding the make-up of a Kelvin Cup team was considered not to be within L&E remit.

The investigation into allegations and counter-allegations against several prominent members of the Union was presented by the lead investigator. She stated that it had been extremely difficult to move the investigation forward in a timely manner due to difficulties surrounding meeting one of the NIBU members concerned.

It was agreed that there was no alternative but to ask the investigators to produce a report, using the available evidence, and that this would be presented to the Committee members for consideration. This was subsequently received and approved.

No evidence of wrong-doing was uncovered. Several recommendations were made to Council regarding the handling of any future complaints.

The second complainant failed to furnish any details of their issues when invited to do so. The matter has therefore been dismissed.

Ian Hamilton (Chairman, Laws and Ethics Committee, NIBU)

NIBU Youth Development Committee Report 2015-16

The Youth Development Committee was formed by the NIBU in 2014.

Chairperson - Diane Greenwood

Committee members – Sandie Millership, Norma Irwin, Barbara Lomas & Pat Johnston.

Our Mission Statement

To encourage and develop bridge for primary school students in Northern Ireland.

To encourage and develop bridge for secondary school students in Northern Ireland.

To retain and coach bridge to under 25s in Northern Ireland.

As a result of online trials & coaching sessions teams were selected for –

Peggy Bayer

Ryan Lightowler & Molly O'Donnell, Lucy Kinnear & Emma Mills, Andrew Milligan & Cameron McGaughey

NPC – Sandie Millership.

Junior Camrose

Jordan Atchison & Andrew Clegg, Ridwan Farouki & John-William Carey, Gavin Irvine & Phil Adams.

NPC – Wayne Sommerville

BBO training was undertaken for all.

Northern Ireland School Bridge

There are four secondary schools who have bridge clubs – Belfast Royal Academy (B.R.A.), Carrickfergus Grammar School (C.G.S.), Bangor Grammar School (B.G.S.), Coleraine Academical Institution (C.A.I.) Unfortunately Glenlola Collegiate do not have a bridge club but we are working on it.

C.A.I. didn't enter schools competitions as they only have novices but hopefully they will enter next year.

Rhys Evans coaches in C.A.I.

Barbara Lomas & Diane Greenwood coach in B.R.A.

John Reid & coach in C.G.S.

Andrew Walker coaches in B.G.S.

School Pairs Results

1st Ryan Lightowler & Molly O'Donnell.

2nd Cameron McGaughey & Andrew Milligan.

Novices

= 1st Laura Colville & Rachel Gamble

Lewis Kane & Harry Norton

School Team Results

1st Roma Mulholland & Cameron McGaughey, Ryan Lightowler & Lucy Kinnear. B.R.A.

2nd Daniel Dorrian Clarke & Callum Houston, Peter Black & Jack Kevan

European Youth Championships

John William Carey & Ridwan Farouki played in the 13th European Youth Pairs Championships and won a Bronze Medal. Thanks to the NIBU who paid their airfares.

Problem with school bridge no competitive opposition. Only competitive competition is Schools Competition in Galway.

Some junior players have started playing at club level. Maybe we could think of some of our Senior players taking one of them under their wing?

Safeguarding Children & Young Adults Policy

This is now up and running. Thanks to John Bergin & Shelagh McCaughan for all their hand work.

Primary School Bridge

Kelvin & Malone continue to run a very successful primary school after school club. Hopefully this will be expanded in the near future.



2016 Constitution of the Northern Ireland Bridge Union.

(To be presented to members at the AGM)

1 Name

The name of the organisation shall be the Northern Ireland Bridge Union ('the Union')

2 Purpose

The purpose of the Union shall be to develop, encourage and control all forms of Duplicate Bridge in Northern Ireland.

3. Government

Government is vested in the Council of the Union subject to the provisions of this Constitution.

The Council

The Council shall consist of 18 members of Council – the President, the Chairperson, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Master Points Secretary, the Competitions Secretary ('the Officers') and 12 Councillors ('the Councillors') one of whom shall be the Vice-Chair or Immediate Past-Chair as elected under Clause 4.2.4.

3.1 Council Meetings

- 3.1.1 Council meetings shall be convened by the Secretary or the Chairperson and shall take place at least three times a year.
- 3.1.2 Any member of the Union may attend a meeting of the Council as an observer and in a non-voting capacity. A member of the Union may only address a meeting at the invitation of the Chairperson or the Chair of the meeting.
- 3.1.3 Any member of the Union may ask to raise an item of business or address Council at a meeting providing they have given at least 8 days' notice to the Secretary.
- 3.1.4 Any 6 or more Councillors may require the Secretary to summon a meeting of the Council.
- 3.1.5 A meeting shall be deemed to be quorate when 6 or more Councillors entitled to vote are present.

- 3.1.6 The Council shall be chaired by the Chairperson. In the absence of the Chairperson the Vice Chairperson or the Immediate-Past Chairperson shall take the Chair. Should all three be absent Council shall elect a chairperson for that meeting.
- 3.1.7 All matters shall be decided by vote. The Chairperson shall have a vote and in the event of a tied vote, a casting vote. Members of the Management Committee shall have no vote. Each other Councillor shall have one vote. No proxy voting shall be allowed.
- 3.1.8 Each meeting shall consider written reports or exceptionally verbal reports from the Management Committee and from each committee appointed by Council – any verbal report shall be submitted to the Secretary in writing prior to publication of the minutes of that meeting.
- 3.1.9 The agenda and accompanying papers of all Council and Committee meetings shall be posted on the Union website 7 days prior to any meeting. Draft minutes, agreed by the Chairperson, shall be posted on the Union website within 14 days following any meeting.

3.2 Election of Council Members

All candidates for election to Council shall be members of the Union

- 3.2.1 A nomination of a candidate to stand for election either as an Officer or as a Councillor shall be made by at least one affiliated club and submitted to the Secretary in writing at least 21 days before an Annual General Meeting ('AGM') following notice by the Secretary.
- 3.2.2 Should more than 1 candidate be nominated as an Officer or more than 12 candidates be nominated as a Councillor then an election shall take place by secret ballot at an AGM. Should 12 or fewer candidates be nominated as a Councillor then all shall be deemed elected.
- 3.2.3 Up to the number of vacancies, the candidates who receive most votes shall be declared elected. Where 2 or more candidates receive an equal number of votes, there shall be a further secret ballot between those candidates.
- 3.2.4 Should there be no nomination of a candidate for a vacant post of a Councillor or an Officer, the Council shall make an appointment to fill each such vacancy.
- 3.2.5 An affiliated club may nominate no more than four candidates for election to Council

3.3 Powers

The Union shall have the power to:

- 3.3.1 Promote, organise and manage bridge tournaments, congresses and matches in a range of formats.
- 3.3.2 Determine rules and procedures governing all aspects of the Union's objectives and its relationship between the Union, affiliated clubs, members, Management Committee, committees and Council.

- 3.3.3 Accept, reject, terminate or suspend the affiliation of any bridge club.
- 3.3.4 Discipline any member of the Union and debar them from participation in Union events after completion of the procedures set out in the Disciplinary Procedures of the Union.
- 3.3.5 Levy annual fees and subscriptions from affiliated clubs.
- 3.3.6 Affiliate with national or international bridge organisations either directly or through its membership of the Irish Bridge Union.
- 3.3.7 Purchase, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire and hold for any estate or interest any lands, buildings, easements, rights, privileges, concessions, patents, patent rights, licences, and any real or personal property of any kind necessary or convenient for the purposes of or in connection with the objects and business of the Union.
- 3.3.8 Erect, enlarge, alter and maintain any buildings necessary or convenient for the objects and business of the Union and to contribute to or subsidise the erection, construction and maintenance thereof.
- 3.3.9 Appoint trustees from among the members of the Union for any purpose relating to the holding of real property, stocks, shares, investments or other property or for the purpose of exercising any rights of ownership and management over the same.
- 3.3.10 Mortgage and charge all or any of the real and personal property and assets, present or future, of the Union.
- 3.3.11 Accept legacies bequeathed to and donations made to the Union.
- 3.3.12 Manage or dispose of any property or asset belonging to the Union.
- 3.3.13 Arrange for the selection of players and team officials to represent the Union

3.4 The Management Committee

- 3.4.1 The routine business of the Union as set out in Appendix One shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.
- 3.4.2 The Management Committee shall comprise the following Officers of the Union:- The Secretary, the Treasurer, the Master Points Secretary and the Competitions Secretary and shall be chaired by the Treasurer
- 3.4.3 The Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson shall be entitled to attend each meeting of the Management Committee but neither shall have a vote.
- 3.4.4 The Management Committee shall be responsible to and report to the Council.

3.5 The Members

- 3.5.1 Members are those individuals who are members of an affiliated bridge club.
- 3.5.2 All members of affiliated clubs agree to accept and abide by this Constitution and all rules and policies made by the Union.
- 3.5.3 There is no provision for individual membership of the Union. Membership is only via membership of an affiliated club.

3.6 Affiliation

- 3.6.1 Any bridge club in Northern Ireland may apply to the Secretary for affiliation. Council shall decide whether to accept or reject such an application.
- 3.6.2 Each affiliated club shall provide the Secretary with a list of its members and an affiliation fee before November 1st each year.

- 3.6.3 Affiliated clubs shall have full powers to manage their own affairs and to benefit fully from the proceeds of internally organised competitions, congresses etc.
- 3.6.4 Affiliated clubs shall be licensed to issue Master Points

3.7 Fees

- 3.7.1 The minimum annual affiliation fee for a club is in respect of 8 members.
- 3.7.2 The annual affiliation fee payable by a club is determined by the total number of members of the club using the formula - $A \times B$ where A is the individual membership fee and B is the number of registered members of the club.
- 3.7.3 The Council may levy a reduced annual affiliation fee in respect of any club in which at least 80% of the members are students
- 3.7.4 Any change to the annual affiliation fee shall be agreed at the AGM of the Union.
- 3.7.5 The annual affiliation fee is payable upon application for affiliation and subsequently on 1st November each year. A club shall be deemed to be in arrears if the annual affiliation fee is outstanding on 1st February the following year and may be disaffiliated as a consequence.

3.8 Finance

- 3.8.1 The Management Committee shall be responsible for the Union's Finances and shall prepare an annual budget after each AGM, for Council approval.
- 3.8.2 The financial year of the Union shall be from 1st April to 31st March
- 3.8.3 The Treasurer shall keep proper books of account
- 3.8.4 The Treasurer's accounts shall be prepared at the end of each financial year
- 3.8.5 An independent accountant, who shall not be an Officer, ('the Examining Accountant'), shall be appointed at the AGM.
- 3.8.6 The Examining Accountant shall examine the books and accounts of the Union and submit a report prior to the AGM of the Union stating the extent and basis of the examination and the opinion formed as a result.
- 3.8.7 The Examining Accountant is entitled to receive notice of all general meetings of the Union, to attend and to address a general meeting of the Union.
- 3.8.8 Should it be proposed that the Examining Accountant be changed from the previous Examining Accountant, the existing Examining Accountant is entitled to all rights set out in clause 3.8.7
- 3.8.9 Any 2 members of the Management Committee shall sign Union cheques.

4. Meetings of the Union

4.1 General Meetings

These provisions shall apply to each meeting of the Union

- 4.1.1 Each meeting of the Union shall be an AGM or an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).
- 4.1.2 The Secretary shall e-mail the secretary of each affiliated club at least 14 days prior to a meeting of the Union, setting the time, date and venue of the meeting and sending the agenda and all accompanying papers in respect of the business to be transacted thereat, including in the case of an AGM the report of each Officer, the annual accounts and balance sheet.

- 4.1.3 The agenda and all accompanying papers shall be posted on the Union website concurrently
- 4.1.4 Each member of the Union shall be entitled to attend and address a meeting.
- 4.1.5 Each member attending a meeting shall be entitled to one vote on any motion or resolution presented at a meeting.
- 4.1.6 A meeting shall be deemed to be quorate when 25 or more members are present.
- 4.1.7 The draft minutes of a meeting of the Union shall be circulated within 28 days after a meeting of the Union.

4.2 Annual General Meeting

- 4.2.1 An AGM of the Union shall be held in June each year
- 4.2.2 The advance notice of an AGM shall be e-mailed to the secretary of each affiliated club and posted on the Union website at least 8 weeks before the date of the AGM shall include the date by which nominations of candidates for Council must be received by the Secretary.
- 4.2.3 If an AGM is found to be inquorate, business shall cease to be transacted and the AGM shall be adjourned to a time and place as determined by Council, notified to the secretary of each affiliated club and posted on the Union website. Should the adjourned AGM also be inquorate the members present shall form a quorum
- 4.2.4 The business of an AGM shall include the:
 - approval of previous minutes, annual accounts and balance sheet
 - consideration of reports from the President, Chairperson, Officers and the Chairpersons of each committee
 - election for a term of 3 years, in every fourth year of the President who shall not be eligible for immediate re-election
 - election for a term of 2 years in alternate years commencing in June 2016 of the Chairperson who shall not be eligible for re-election but who shall serve for one year as Immediate Past-Chairperson.
 - election for a term of 1 year in alternate years commencing in June 2017 of the Vice Chairperson in anticipation of the election of the Vice Chairperson as Chairperson at the next AGM
 - election for the term of 1 year of the Secretary, Treasurer, Master Points Secretary and Competitions Secretary who shall be eligible for re-election
 - election for the term of 1 year of the Examining Accountant
 - election for the term of 1 year of Councillors and (if required) of trustees
 - change to annual affiliation fees, if any
 - consideration of any resolution submitted in compliance with clause 4.2.5
- 4.2.5 A resolution to be moved at an AGM shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least 21 days before the meeting and signed by the proposer, 8 seconders and the secretaries of 2 affiliated clubs.

4.3 Extraordinary General Meeting

- 4.3.1 An EGM shall be convened by Council or required by Notice to the Secretary from the secretaries of 4 or more affiliated clubs:
- 4.3.2 Notice of an EGM shall be made by the Secretary stating the purpose of the meeting in the form of a resolution to be voted on at the EGM ('the Notice')
- 4.3.3 No business shall be transacted at an EGM other than that specified in the Notice.

- 4.3.4 An EGM may be called to effect changes in the Constitution in accordance with clause 6 of this Constitution.
- 4.3.5 Within 10 days of receipt of the Notice of an EGM, the Secretary shall arrange a meeting of the Council at which Council shall set the time, date and venue of the EGM which shall be held within 6 weeks of the date the Secretary received the Notice. The Secretary shall then post full details on the Union website and send full details to the secretary of each affiliated club.
- 4.3.6 If an EGM is found to be inquorate business shall cease to be transacted
- 4.3.7 Other than the Council, no other party or parties may call a further EGM to consider the business set out in the Notice until the expiry of one year from the date of the Notice.

5 Delegation by Council

- 5.1 Council shall appoint members to represent the Union as delegates in meetings of the Irish Bridge Union, Bridge Great Britain and other appropriate bodies.
- 5.2 Council shall appoint members to a Selection Committee, to a Laws & Ethics Committee and to a Tournament Committee.
- 5.3 No officer shall be eligible for appointment to either the Selection Committee or to the Laws & Ethics Committee. The Secretary, or an Officer appointed by the Secretary, shall attend meetings of the Selection Committee and the Laws & Ethics Committee but shall have no vote.
- 5.4 Council may appoint members to other committees with a functional role or may delegate authority to do so to the Management Committee.
- 5.5 The quorum and membership of all Committees shall be determined by Council from time to time.
- 5.6 Council shall delegate to its Laws & Ethics Committee:-[a] the right to hear and make a final ruling on all appeals against any decision made by a Union competition Appeals Committee; and [b] all matters to be dealt with under the Disciplinary Procedures of the Union.
- 5.7 Council has the right to have the final say on any appeals arising from decisions of any committee save as set out in clause 5.6 provided that such appeal is lodged with the Secretary within 21 days of the publication of the decision of the Committee on the Union website

6. Constitution

- 6.1 Council may call an EGM to consider changes in this constitution.
- 6.2 A member of the Union may propose changes to the Constitution at an AGM providing the wording of the proposed changes are submitted in writing to the Secretary at least 21 days prior to an AGM and supported by the secretaries of at least 4 affiliated clubs.
- 6.3 Each proposed change to the Constitution shall only be implemented after a vote in agreement of at least two-thirds of members at a general meeting.
- 6.4 A copy of this Constitution shall be posted on the Union website.

7. Suspension or expulsion of clubs and individual members from the Union

- 7.1 Council may give an affiliated club notice of suspension or expulsion from the Union and shall provide particulars of any complaint made against such a club.
- 7.2 The club shall have 21 days to respond to such a notice and may reserve the right to address a meeting of the Council verbally or in writing.
- 7.3 The decision to suspend or expel any club shall require a 60% majority vote amongst Council members attending.
- 7.4 Council may suspend a member of the Union from participation in Union events should it be deemed desirable to do so after having complied with the Disciplinary Procedures of the Union.

8. Voluntary Resignation and removal of Officers and members of Council

- 8.1 A Council member who wishes to resign must do so by writing to the Secretary.
- 8.2 Council may appoint replacement Officers or Council members on a temporary capacity pending the AGM.
- 8.3 Council may fill vacancies on Council arising from any cause.
- 8.4 A Council member or a Committee member may be removed from office if, in the opinion of two-thirds of the Council, the member has failed to carry out duties in a satisfactory manner.

9. Winding up

If the Union is dissolved, any property and funds remaining after settling debts and liabilities will be distributed to the affiliated clubs pro rata the membership of each affiliated club.

10. Interpretation

Any question on interpretation of this constitution shall be referred to and decided by a panel of 3 persons appointed by the members of the last appointed Laws and Ethics Committee.

Appendix One

1 The Treasurer shall record and be responsible for the safekeeping of all the Union's assets and shall inter alia:

- 1.1 keep books and accounts showing the financial affairs of the Union
- 1.2 receive funds from and to examine the accounts of, amongst others, Tournament Directors, the Congress Organiser, the International Match Manager and any other person receiving monies on behalf of the Union
- 1.3 receive all monies payable to the Union
- 1.4 make all payments on behalf of the Union

- 1.5 submit to each Annual General Meeting duly certified accounts and balance sheet for the preceding year
 - 1.6 consult the Council if there are extraordinary items submitted for payment
 - 1.7 prepare a budget for consideration by the Council
- 2 The Management Committee shall meet at least four times per year and shall
- 2.1 receive an estimate of income and expenditure for the year
 - 2.2 monitor all items of expenditure of the Union
 - 2.3 incur, within the available resources, such expenditure as it considers appropriate in pursuit of the objects of the Union
 - 2.4 make recommendations to the Council on financial matters
 - 2.5 deal with other financial matters of the Union
- 3 The Management Committee shall:
- 3.1 receive lists of members and subscriptions from affiliated clubs
 - 3.2 pass subscriptions to the Treasurer
 - 3.3 keep a record of all members of the Union
 - 3.4 deal with all master point matters
- 4 The Management Committee shall
- 4.1 actively pursue obtaining sponsorship for the Union and events organised by the Union
 - 4.2 investigate the acquisition of premises by the Union
 - 4.3 provide when appropriate such business plan as the Committee considers appropriate for the continuance of the Union
 - 4.4 publish on the Union website the agenda and minutes of each meeting
 - 4.5 attend Council meetings and report to Council at each Council meeting

Alternative clause 4.1 providing for appointment of delegates by clubs with only delegates entitled to vote at a general meeting

4. Meetings of the Union

4.1 General Meetings

- These provisions shall apply to each general meeting of the Union
- 4.1.1 Each meeting of the Union shall be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) or an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).
- 4.1.2 The Secretary shall e-mail the secretary of each affiliated club at least 14 days prior to a meeting of the Union, setting the time, date and venue of the meeting and sending the agenda and all accompanying papers in respect of the business to be transacted, including in the case of an AGM the report of each Officer, the annual accounts and balance sheet.

- 4.1.3 The agenda and all accompanying papers shall be posted on the Union website concurrently.
- 4.1.4 Each member of the Union shall be entitled to attend and address a meeting.
- 4.1.5 Each affiliated club may appoint a delegate or delegates ('the delegates') to attend a general meeting. Only such delegates are entitled to vote at a general meeting.
- 4.1.6 Club secretaries shall notify the Secretary in writing of the names of each delegate of their respective club at least 7 days prior to a general meeting.
- 4.1.7 At a general meeting each delegate properly notified to the Secretary shall be entitled to one vote on each motion or resolution presented at a meeting.
- 4.1.8 The number of members of an affiliated club shall determine the number of delegates which the affiliated club shall be entitled to appoint as follows:-
- | Club membership | Number of delegates |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 - 40 | 2 |
| 41 – 70 | 3 |
| 71 – 100 | 4 |
| 101 – 130 | 5 |
| 131 – 160 | 6 |
| 161 and more | 8 |
- 4.1.9 A meeting shall be deemed to be quorate when 25 members or more are present.
- 4.1.10 If a meeting is found to be inquorate business shall cease to be transacted.
- 4.1.11 The draft minutes of a meeting of the Union shall be circulated within 28 days after a meeting of the Union.
- 4.1.12 This 'Alternative Clause 4.1', if accepted, to be operative following completion of the 2016 AGM.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

1. The Council to be enlarged from 13 to 18 members. (Section 3)
2. The Management Committee (The 'Officers') to consist of the Treasurer as Chair, Secretary, Competitions Secretary and Master Points Secretary. The President and Chairperson to be ex officio members with no vote. (Section 3.4)
3. The officers to attend but have no vote on Council. (Section 3.1.7)
4. All nominations for Officer or Councillor Posts to be supported by one club and submitted at least 21 days before the AGM. (Section 3.2.1)
5. No club may nominate more than four members to Council (Section 3.2.5)
6. The post of President to be re-introduced.
7. The Chairperson 's term to serve four years – one year as Vice-Chair, two years as Chair and one year as Immediate Past-Chair. (Section 4.2.4)
8. No officer to serve on either the Laws & Ethics Committee or the Selection Committee except the Secretary ex officio and with no vote. (Section 5.3)
9. Disputes over interpretation of the Constitution to be settled by a panel of three members appointed by the Laws & Ethics Committee. (Section 10)
10. Council to have the final say on all appeals except as outlined in Clause 5.6 (Section 5.7)
11. The option of reverting to nominated club delegates only being entitled to vote at an AGM is offered to members as an alternative to the present 'One-man-one –vote' procedure.
*(Section 4.1, two versions)

* This to be decided by a simple majority of those present.

The Constitution in its entirety to be passed by a 2/3 majority of those present.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary.