

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of a meeting held at Kelvin & Malone on Monday March 18th, 2024, from 11.30am

Present: Harold Curran (President), Brian Mullan (Chairman), Heather Hill (Immediate Past Chairperson), Michael McFaul (Secretary), Anne Fitzpatrick (Treasurer, Anne Hassan (Competitions Secretary, Helen Hall (Webmaster & International Match Manager, Nuala Mooney (Chair of Selectors), Ian Lindsay, Toni Sproule, Michael Stevenson, Liz Thomas, Leslie Agar, Diane Greenwood.

1. **Apologies:** Ian Hamilton (Masterpoints Secretary)

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on December 4th, 2023.**

Agreed on a proposal by Anne Fitzpatrick, seconded by Helen Hall.

3. **Matters Arising:**

3:2 Michael McFaul confirmed that Norman Lacey retained the laptop he had been allocated and was using it for training purposes.

5: Agreed that only expenses were payable.

7: Harold Curran spoke of the need to recruit younger players as TD's. He agreed to speak to Ciaran McAllister, Andrew Newbold and Wayne Somerville. Helen Hall agreed to research full details of the EBU training programme(s) for new TDs.

Action: HC & HHa

8. It was confirmed that all trophies would now be stored at La Mon.

4. **Financial Report**

Anne Fitzpatrick reported a bank balance of £9,225 with £42,371 on deposit and £11k in National Savings. Affiliation fees had brought in £7,920 in the current year (c.£11-12k pre-covid). Significant expenditure had been incurred on representative matches e.g. Peggy Bayer & Junior Camrose amounting to £5,834. A deficit will be recorded this year.

5. **Camrose Report**

Michael McFaul outlined another disappointing campaign for the NIBU, finishing last. His NPC report with appropriate recommendations had been lodged with the Selection Committee.

6. **Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer report**

Helen Hall said the event had been a major success despite the NIBU performing poorly in both events.

7. **Talks with the CBAI**

Michael McFaul said that the CBAI were strongly supportive of closer links with the NIBU. He asked that a move be made towards more formal talks and that a clear proposal be put to members at the AGM in June.

On a proposal by Heather Hill and seconded by Nuala Mooney, this was agreed by all bar 2 abstentions (Ian Lindsay and Anne Fitzpatrick)

8. EBU Festival of Bridge

It was agreed by all that the NIBU did not have the resources to participate in this venture.

9. U3A

Diane Greenwood spoke of the need to foster closer links with Bridge players and encourage them to participate in NIBU competitions.

10. Annual General Meeting

Confirmed as June 16th, 2024, at Kelvin & Malone from 2.30pm.

Action: MMcF to arrange refreshments on arrival.

11. Northern Ireland Teams

Toni Sproule referred to poor behaviour by senior players towards Intermediates at the table. It was agreed that all players should be greeted at the table in a civil manner.

12. EBL meeting in Dubrovnik

Harold Curran gave a presentation on his recent attendance at the course held recently. Topics highlighted had been:

- a) Women's Bridge – young girls being tutored together separate from boys in order for them to gain confidence.
- b) The need for Face to Face and Internet Bridge to be accepted as here to stay and to maximise the advantages of both mediums.
- c) The importance of Bridge Unions working closely together.

13. Date of next meeting

June 16th 2024 immediately after the AGM

Michael McFaul

Hon. Secretary