

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of the meeting held at Kelvin & Malone on Thursday April 21st from 11.00am.

Present: Heather Hill (Chair), Michael McFaul (Secretary), Brian Mullan (Vice-Chair), Helen Hall (Int'l Match Manager), Norman Lacey (Competitions Secretary), Liz Thomas, Michael Stevenson, Diane Greenwood, Ian Lindsay,

1. **Apologies**

Norma Irwin, Anne Fitzpatrick, Ian Hamilton, John Ferguson, Lesley Agar, Patricia McCorkell, Christine Crockett, John Murchan. (Subsequent apologies from Harold Curran and Tom McKeever are noted)

2. **Minutes of the meeting held via Zoom on August 27th, 2021.**

On a proposal by Helen Hall and seconded by Brian Mullan, the minutes were agreed by all.

3. **Matters Arising.**

Item 8: Michael McFaul said it was unlikely that the NIBU Manual would be revised in the near future.

4. **Annual General Meeting 2022**

It was confirmed that the AGM would be held at La Mon on Sunday July 3rd at Kelvin & Malone from 2.30pm

5. **Autumn Congress**

Members felt that it was too early to consider a f2f Congress in a hotel and that the traditional format did not fit well for playing online. It was agreed to review in the spring of 2023.

6. **NIBU League**

Diane Greenwood explained how the EBU online League worked with 8 board matches on different weekdays. Following discussion, it was agreed to run a single Swiss League with one Senior and one Intermediate winner. The entry fee would be £20 per team, consist of 8x 20 board matches played once a month on designated Fridays starting in October .

Action: Tournament Committee to organise.

7. **Calendar 2022-23**

Heather Hill outlined plans to run NIBU events on Friday evenings, the first being the NI Pairs to be played over 3 weeks in September. The best 2 sessions would count towards each partnership's final score.

8. **Bridge publication.**

Rex Anderson had requested support for his forthcoming book "A Worm's Eye View" – A history of the NIBU's role in the Camrose Trophy from 1937-2021. It was agreed that the

NIBU logo could be used on the book and that a sum would be granted in support of publication, the amount to be agreed with the Treasurer on her return from abroad.

9. **Online TD's**

It was agreed to pay a fee of £20 per session. Norman Lacey agreed to takeover running Diane Greenwood's Thursday night session.

10. **Exploratory Talks**

Michael McFaul referred to the changing nature of Bridge playing and the continued decline in the pool of senior players with few Intermediates wanting to leave their comfort zone. It had been suggested that talks could be held with the other Bridge Unions in Ireland with a view to organising resources better for all. Ian Lindsay felt strongly that such a step was unnecessary and that the NIBU fared well under the present arrangements.

Following a vote by eligible members of 5 for and 2 against, it was agreed to proceed with talks in principle but that the matter be deferred for 12 months.

11. **European Championships**

Ian Lindsay briefed the meeting on plans to hold the event in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast in 2023. The IBU were the organisers.

12. **Referral to Laws & Ethics Committee**

Ian Lindsay outlined developments in a recent case and said that the matter would be fully in the public arena pending the ending of a period of appeal on April 25th.

13. **Intermediate League**

Heather Hill asked that the outstanding matches from 2019-20 be played f2f on the same basis as the Premier Leagues.

Action: Norman Lacey.

14. **Teltscher Trophy**

Helen Hall mentioned the need for BBO operators to come forward for the event in La Mon at the end of May. It was also agreed there would be no Viewgraph but that a room would be set aside for members and visitors to meet and follow matches on their laptops or tablets.

The meeting ended at 12.45pm.

Michael McFaul

Hon. Secretary