

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

(Emergency) MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held via Zoom on Monday March 1st, 2021.

Present: Heather Hill (Chair), Michael McFaul, Anne Fitzpatrick, Ian Hamilton, John Murchan, Harold Curran

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on February 1st, 2021.**

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

2. **Matters Arising**

Officers Remuneration

AF agreed to make a verbal recommendation in due course.

Prize Money for Knockout Cups.

AF reported payment was pending.

Action: AF

3. **ZOOM options**

It was agreed to subscribe to unlimited access at an annual cost of £120 +vat.

4. **Lady Milne Trophy**

Alan Hill was nominated to captain the Northern Ireland team and Harold Curran was nominated to captain the NIBU team.

5. **Teltscher Trials**

Following the conclusion of trials, the team was confirmed as:

Brian McDowell & Alan Sharp

Rex Anderson & David Greenwood

Ian Lindsay & Ian Hamilton

Reserves: Michael O'Kane & Michael McFaul

John Ferguson would be invited to undertake the role of NPC.

Action: MMcF

6. **Junior Camrose / Peggy Bayer**

All agreed that the reports from Sandie Millership and Norman Lacey were highly encouraging.

7. **Trial Movements**

Alan Hill joined the meeting to update members on the post-Teltscher correspondence regarding the movement employed. He stated that in future trials on RealBridge it will be possible to import a fully balanced movement. This had not been possible in recent trials.

8. **Affiliation**

MMcF reported on his recent engagement with clubs regarding the ending of the 'grace' period on February 28th. He was pleased to report a positive response from several clubs still intending to

affiliate. It was agreed that clubs would be allowed a further 2 weeks to complete the process of submitting payment and membership returns.

9. **Income from Online Bridge**

In response to Helen Hall's request, AF tabled a spreadsheet showing in detail income from BBO competitions. AF agreed to confirm details with Diane Greenwood, but it appeared that the latter was earning approximately £50 per session. It was agreed that MMcF would notify Norma Irwin and that no change regarding the NIBU 'cut' would be made for the time being.

Action: MMcF

10. **Kibbitzing online**

HC lamented the fact that members were unable to kibbitz online competitions due to the risk of cheating. All present agreed it was very much to be regretted but that there was no option at present. The hazard was less on RealBridge than on BBO but impossible to eliminate all risk entirely.

11. **NI Teams**

It was proposed by Brian McDowell & Alan Hill to run this event on RealBridge on Sunday March 28th. In order to attract as many teams as possible, free practice matches for players unfamiliar with RealBridge, would be offered. An entry fee of £20 per team was agreed as being appropriate.

12. **Trials - Entry Fees**

It was agreed that in future all entry fees must be paid alongside entry submission and that such payment would only be acceptable via bank transfer. NO exceptions would be permitted and entries without concurrent payment would not be accepted.

13. **BGB**

HC asked that links with the other Home Unions be strengthened in order to ensure that business interests of all members was taken into account. Helen Hall to circulate BGB agenda in advance to the EMC.

14. **Inter-Regionals**

JM asked for a report on Ulster's performance. It had been hoped that a much-improved result would transpire but this was unfortunately not the case.

15. **Lockdown League**

JM offered congratulations to HC on his running of the event and was warmly supported by all present. HC said that the next League was about to begin.

16. **Date of Next meeting.**

Monday April 26th, 2021 from 11.30am on Zoom. It was agreed to meet informally in the interim, should the need arise.

The meeting ended at 12.55pm.

Michael McFaul

Hon. Sec.

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