

President:
Mr Harold Curran

Vice President:
Mr Jim O'Sullivan

The Irish Bridge Union



MINUTES IRISH BRIDGE UNION

A meeting of the Irish Bridge Union Council was held on Monday 14th of November 2022 at 7.00pm in the CityNorth Hotel, Gormanstown, Co.Meath.

Present:

(NIBU) Harold Curran (President), Anne Fitzpatrick (Joint Hon. Secretary/Treasurer), Heather Hill, Ian Lindsay, Michael McFaul, Nuala Mooney

(CBAI) Martin Brady (Joint Hon. Secretary/Minutes), Grainne Barton, Pat Duff, Gordon Lessells, Pat O'Mahony

In attendance: Dermot O'Brien (CEO)

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Brian Mullen, John Murchan (NIBU); Peter O'Meara (Vice-President), Emer Kee, Linda O'Riordan, Aileen Timoney (CBAI).

2. Minutes of the meetings of 8th August 2022

These were adopted on the proposal of Heather Hill, seconded by Grainne Barton.

3. Matters arising

There were two matters arising. (i) Martin Brady had conveyed the request for an extra €10,000 of funding annually to the CBAI finance committee. The CBAI treasurer had responded positively for 2022-23, but advised that further increases were dependent on the IBU pursuing its own fundraising strategy. (ii) Martin Brady reported the resolution of the issue noted under 'correspondence' discussed confidentially in Committee.

4. Finance

Martin Brady circulated the notes of the Finance meeting of 21st October 2022 (attached to this document as Appendix A). Council discussed the details of the raffle plan, and agreed to proceed with a draw in the 2023-24 season. The top prize would be €10,000, and the rest of the prize structure would depend on the overall entry. The fundraising group would proceed with detailed planning, as well as developing a marketing and distribution strategy. Council noted that this should involve teachers as well as clubs, and that clubs could be encouraged to give tickets as prizes *in lieu* of prizemoney on certain nights. The conditions of contest should also include a clause that IBU officers were ineligible to win prizes.

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5. Competitions

a. Interprovincials

These would go ahead at Templeogue on the coming weekend (19th-20th), and would return to the Cavan Crystal Hotel in 2023. There was some discussion about the integrity of the rules on eligibility, as various provinces were 'borrowing' players to make up some of their teams. Captains would be reminded that all players should be, at the very least, *bona fide* members of clubs in their province.

Martin Brady reported an issue around the selection of the Leinster Open team, which was all male. Some female players had expressed their dissatisfaction, particularly in light of assurances they claimed to have received in 2019 about gender balance. Council reasserted that provinces were responsible for selection of their own teams, and the IBU had no right or intention to intervene.

Given the issues around eligibility, it was decided that the rules should be reconsidered for 2023-24. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

b. Masterpoint proposal for events with reduced takeup

Last year, competitions with a fixed number of entrants (the Moylan and the Egan) had lower entries than expected. Council agreed, on the proposal of Martin Brady, seconded by Gordon Lessells, that if future such events had an entry of 50% or lower of their intended quota, then 50% of the normal masterpoints would be awarded; if an entry of over 50% but lower than or equal to 75% of their intended quota, then 75% of the normal masterpoints would be awarded; otherwise masterpoints would be awarded in full.

c. National knockout teams

Various players had contacted officers, either formally or informally, suggesting that the prevalence of online bridge and experience in EBU and SBU online knockout competitions had indicated a market for an Irish online league, knockout cup, or both. Council agreed, on the proposal of Grainne Barton, seconded by Pat O'Mahoney, to establish a sub-committee to construct a formal proposal, consisting of Martin Brady, Michael MacFaul, Harold Curran, Dermot O'Brien, and Heather Hill.

6. Correspondence

Gilda Pender had been invited to represent the IBU to the EBL on women's issues. She would be requested to bring a report to a subsequent meeting and thereafter annually.

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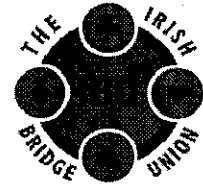
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7. Any other business

There was no other business

8. Next Meeting

Would be held in the Citynorth Hotel at 7pm on Monday 20th March 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harold Curran', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

20th March 2023

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APPENDIX A

Fundraising group meeting, 21st October 2022

Present: Harold Curran (President), Martin Brady (secretary), Seamus Costello, Anne Fitzpatrick, Ian Lindsay, Dermot O'Brien
Apologies: Peter O'Meara

The meeting considered feedback from the IBU Council meeting of February 2022, and reached the following decisions:

- The top prize would be €10,000, and the price of a ticket should be €5 in CBAI territory and £5 in NIBU territory. Proceeds would ideally be distributed as follows:
 - 35% IBU funds
 - 40% prize fund
 - 25% to clubs, as an incentive to sell ticketsThis would mean that we would have to sell roughly 4000 tickets to break even. This was felt to be achievable.
- We should produce a brochure and publicity materials, and use this as an opportunity to advertise the work of the IBU.
- Issues around licensing in Northern Ireland were noted – if necessary we would sell tickets in bundles of 5, or find other ways to remain compliant with the law. It was noted that mckinneycompetitions.com ran similar events in Northern Ireland without issue, and we should investigate how they managed this.
- It would be key to establish a distribution plan and set up local co-ordinators.
- No decision was taken on a draw date, but we would review at a later meeting. A March draw could take place at an open IBU event, but may be too late to maintain momentum. A December draw would stoke enthusiasm but deadlines would be tight.

The following action items were assigned:

Martin – to draft promotional material; to liaise with Gardai for legal clearance in ROI
Anne & Harold – to liaise with NIBU re obtaining legal clearance; to develop a distribution plan for NIBU.

Dermot – to develop a distribution plan for CBAI (in liaison with Seamus)

Peter – to ascertain costs of printing tickets

Next meeting to be scheduled after IBU meeting of 14th November 2022

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