

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting held at Sainsbury's Holywood Exchange on Monday December 2nd, 2024, from 11.30am.

Present: Diane Greenwood (Chair, Michael McFaul (Secretary), Anne Fitzpatrick (Treasurer), Ian Hamilton (Masterpoints Secretary), Harold Curran (President), Brian Mullan (Immediate Past Chair), Helen Hall (International Match and Website Manager), Anne Hassan (Competitions Secretary), Lesley Agar, Toni Sproule, Heather Hill, John O'Neill

1. Apologies

John Baker, Nuala Mooney.

2. Minutes of the meeting held On September 9th, 2024.

Approved on a proposal by IH and seconded by TS

3. Matters Arising.

Item 4: MMcF said Affiliation payments were now overdue and a reminder would be sent to those clubs still outstanding.

Action: MMcF

4. Masterpoints Scheme

IH outlined minor changes to the scheme, which was adopted on a proposal by HHi, seconded by BM.

5. Selection Committee Policy re substitutes

HH circulated a proposed text regarding the use of substitutes in future trials. All present agreed that a sentence would be added ensuring that all trial participants would be informed in advance of any proposed substitutes being allowed to play.

Action: MMcF to amend the Selection Committee Manual.

6. Face-to-Face events.

AH asked members to suggest alternative venues, the Boat Club and Windsor Tennis Club were mooted as possible locations.

7. Camrose – second weekend.

HHa reminded members that the NIBU was hosting this event in March at La Mon.

8. International Match Manager

HHa informed the meeting that she was standing down in this role at the end of the 2024-25 season. HC proposed Brian Mullan as incoming Match Manager, seconded by LA. BM agreed to shadow HHa at the Camrose second weekend.

9. Communication

JO'N expressed concern at the lack of internal discussion via email on the Constitution's stance with regard to the increase in affiliation fees. He also felt that a more welcoming introduction should be given to new Council members.

10. Schools Bridge

DG was pleased to inform members that Wellington College was starting a Bridge class and would be grateful for any suitable materials that were available.

11. Scoring

DG informed members of a new scoring app called BrIAn which she had used in Majorca and cost £27.50 a month for the basic version.

12. Confidential business

DG briefed members on a confidential matter regarding a registered player. She agreed to seek legal advice as to the Union's position on the matter.

13. Inter-Provincial & Camrose Trials.

HC proposed that a statement be added to the Selection Committee Manual and Trials Notice that 'no player would be selected for the Camrose team who did not agree to play in the Inter-Provincials'. This was agreed by all. LA spoke of the inadequate arrangements around accommodation at the recent event in Cavan and it was agreed that in future the venue hotel would be block-booked for all Ulster teams.

14. Finance

AF was pleased to announce an increase in funding due to the doubling of the affiliation fee. This was despite a decline in membership.

15. Date of next meeting

March 10th, 2025, from 11.30am at Belfast Boat Club

Action: HHa to book (if available)

The meeting terminated at 1.30pm.

Michael McFaul

Hon. Secretary.