

# NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

## COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of the meeting held on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at Kelvin Malone.

Present: Brian Mullan (Chair), Heather Hill (Immediate Past Chair), John Murchan (President), Michael McFaul (Secretary), Anne Fitzpatrick (Treasurer), Helen Hall (International Match Manager), Diane Greenwood, Ian Lindsay, Michael Stevenson.

### 1. Apologies

Ian Hamilton (Masterpoints Secretary), Norman Lacey (Competitions Secretary), Harold Curran, Pat McCorkell, Liz Thomas, Lesley Agar

### 2. Minutes of the meeting held On September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

#### ***Item 5: League Proposals***

HHi said that the minute did not accurately reflect the gist of the discussion and that some members felt that the standard rules would not apply to an online league. It was agreed that the published rules could not be changed at this stage but that the rules and procedures for next season's leagues would be made explicit and agreed in detail before commencement, whether F2F or online.

#### ***Item 6: Dealing of Boards***

NL had a dealing machine but the location of at least one other dealing machine was unknown.

***Action: MMcF to locate and ask NL to delegate dealing.***

#### ***Item 8: Trophies***

HHa updated members on progress with locating 'lost' trophies. MMcF confirmed that Kelvin Malone would not be prepared to house a new cabinet on behalf of the NIBU.

#### ***Item 9: Online TDs***

Sandie Millership's list of previous TDs was discussed and it was agreed she would be asked to contact names considered suitable for running events on a rota basis

***Action: MMcF***

The Minutes were agreed on a proposal by HHi and seconded by IL.

### 3. Correspondence

MMcF referred to a communication on the website from Margaret Bleakley in which she suggested approaching UTV to ask if they would devise a series for those interested in learning to play Bridge. It was thought unlikely that such an approach would be successful.

### 4. Home Internationals.

HHa updated members on arrangements for the forthcoming Camrose weekend at La Mon. It was agreed that the tables sent to Dublin would be retrieved if the hotel confirmed that they could be stored there.

**5. Online Cheating**

DG referred to a recent accusation. Given the lengthy process needed to 'prove' cheating it was agreed to re-affirm the Union's position by placing another warning on the website.

**Action: BM to provide suitable text to HHa.**

**6. Amalgamation talks**

BM referred to forthcoming exploratory talks pending with the CBAI and asked for members issues of concern. MMcF confirmed that the talks would be held under the auspices of the IBU and that the NIBU would be defending the principle of enjoying separate presence at the Home Internationals for as long as teams could be fielded. The NIBU would be represented by Brian Mullan, Michael McFaul and Harold Curran.

**7. Visits to Clubs**

BM said he would be happy to visit clubs and MMcF agreed to contact clubs to see which ones were playing F2F. MMcF announced that 19 clubs were paid up for the current season and was pleased to announce the affiliation of St. Colmcille's from Holywood with 91 new members. This news was welcomed by the meeting.

**Action: MMcF**

**8. Election of President**

Following discussion it was agreed to ask clubs to suggest (as opposed to nominate) potential candidates.

**Action: MMcF to attach 'job description'**

**9. Inter-Provincial 'Masters' teams**

JM referred to the recent decision (subsequently rescinded) that a member was ineligible to play at 'Masters' level due to having played as a member of a Lady Milne team. It had been agreed many years ago that any player who had represented the NIBU at International level was subsequently classified as 'Expert' and therefore ineligible to play in the 'Masters' category of team representation. MMcF said that this decision had never been made explicit in the Selection Manual and it was agreed that it was a matter for the Selection Committee to deal with.

**10. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at KM from 11am.

Michael McFaul  
Hon. Secretary.