

# NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

## COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at Corrs Corner on Wednesday February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 6.30pm

Present: Harold Curran (Chair), John Murchan (President), Michael McFaul (Secretary), Anne Fitzpatrick (Treasurer), Liz Scott (Competitions Secretary, Helen Hall, Ken Hammond, Eric Lesage, Christine Crockett, Norman Lacey, Anne Hassan, Pat Johnston, Tom McKeever.

1. **Apologies**

Heather Hill, Norma Irwin, Ian Hamilton, John Ferguson.

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

The Minutes were agreed on a proposal from HH and seconded by JM

3. **Matters Arising:**

**Item 11:** The issue of accessing the NIBU Facebook page was not yet resolved. HC undertook to try and access the password.

**Action: HC**

**Item 12:** PJ said that 23 NIBU members were now cleared with Access NI. HC thanked PJ for her work in developing bridge in primary schools. PJ went on to relate the unfortunate circumstances in which the Junior Camrose had been held.

4. **Financial report**

AF tabled a Cash Flow Statement. She regretted some delay in distributing prize money due to time pressure. She went on to confirm that Ian Lindsay & Ian Hamilton would be asked to investigate the potential for investing some of the Union's reserve funds.

5. **Selection Committee Minutes January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The Minutes were noted.

6. **Competition Publicity**

Reference was made to the cancellation of recent events due to lack of entries. The following members were nominated to raise support via phone calls:

Senior / Inter A Pairs – Pat Johnston

Louis Herbert Pairs – Helen Hall

Mid Ulster Pairs – Tom Young

Northern Pairs – Anne Bergin

AH proposed that all Council members adopt an event to publicise next season.

7. **Camrose 2<sup>nd</sup> Weekend**

MMcF referred to the withdrawal of Sam Hall for medical reasons. He had suggested asking Greer Mackenzie to replace him as he and Hastings Campbell were an established partnership. KH went on to confirm that the Selection Committee had endorsed the recommendation as being appropriate in the circumstances. JM said he had been contacted by a member who had objected to the decision as not following agreed procedure as

outlined in Clause 2.7 of the Selection Committee Manual i.e. that the 1<sup>st</sup> reserve pair be nominated in the first instance.

A lengthy discussion ensued. Reference was made to recent occasions when a similar situation had arisen, and affected partners were forced to withdraw in favour of the reserve pair

It was agreed to vote on the matter. Those considered eligible to vote were JM, PJ, AH, HH, TMcK, CC and NL. The result was 4-2 in favour of the Reserve Pair with 1 abstention.

With other members returning, the result was announced at which point KH, LS, EL and NL all announced they were resigning and left the meeting.

HC agreed to contact affected individuals.

**Action: HC**

8. **Spring Swiss Teams**

The suggestion that such an event be held in place of the Spring Congress was not supported at this stage.

9. **Appointment of Solicitor**

HH agreed to investigate whether the Kelvin & Malone solicitor would be an appropriate nominee.

**Action: HH**

10. **Co-Option**

HC proposed that Ian Lindsay be co-opted on to Council and this was agreed by all present.

11. **Kelvin & Malone**

MMcF referred to correspondence from Rosemary Kilpatrick in which she requested all bookings of the club to be made on the correct form and notifying the appropriate club officers. She had also pointed out that the club would not be available on Friday mornings due to classes being held both upstairs and downstairs.

12. **Junior Bridge**

PJ referred to a request for a grant of £500 from John Reid at Carrickfergus Grammar School to support teams travelling to the all-Ireland School championships in Galway. This was agreed by all present. PJ went on to say that Sam Punch would be visiting schools in Northern Ireland during her time here as part of the Scottish Camrose delegation.

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm. No date was agreed for the next meeting.

Michael McFaul

Hon. Treasurer.