

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of a meeting held via Zoom on August 27th, 2021, from 2.30pm.

Present: Heather Hill (Chair), Michael McFaul, Helen Hall, Brian Mullan, Diane Greenwood, John Ferguson, Tom McKeever, Patricia McCorkell, Lesley Agar, Liz Thomas, Anne Fitzpatrick.

Apologies: Ian Lindsay, Norma Irwin, John Murchan, Harold Curran, Michael Stevenson, Christine Crockett, Ian Hamilton,

MMcF confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting.**

Agreed on a proposal by HHa and seconded by PMcC

2. **Matters Arising**

DG asked if it had been confirmed that BBO were active in investigating online cheating. MMcF said that the EBU were actively banning members suspected of cheating so it could be assumed that BBO were co-operating in providing evidence of suspicious activity.

3. **Face to Face Bridge.**

All members agreed that the draft document 'Re-opening for Live Bridge in the Covid Era' was appropriate and timely. BM stressed that the list of suggested measures was not exhaustive and that it be made clear that the document was for advice only. Following discussion it was agreed that the document would be modified and sent to clubs and posted on the website.

Action: MMcF

4. **Autumn Congress**

The Chair appealed for increased publicity via other Home Union websites. LA said that many Intermediate players were deterred from entering due to the lengthy playing time involved on any one day. MMcF said that online events should not simply replicate the former 'live' schedule but should consider longer breaks or play spread over a longer period. It was agreed that the Intermediate Pairs would be shortened to 2x18 board sessions in order to attract more entries.

5. **Camrose Trials**

It was confirmed that the trials would be held on RealBridge but HHa confirmed that the Home Internationals would all be played 'live' (excluding the Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer). JF felt that many potential entrants would not be happy at the prospect of playing 'live' and MMcF confirmed that the Trials notice would make things clear. It was agreed that the entry fee would be £90 per player and that the EMC Minutes would be amended.

Action: MMcF to issue Trials Notice.

6. **Selection Committee**

The Chair confirmed that Harold Curran had agreed to recruit members and convene a meeting. She asked those present to canvas for suitable individuals to come forward.

AF left the meeting at 3.20pm

7. **Selection Committee Manual**

Members discussed certain minor changes to the text submitted. The Chair agreed to amend accordingly.

Action: HHi

8. **NIBU Manual**

JF confirmed that he and MMcF would meet and agree a final version of the Manual

9. **Other Business:**

a) JF praised the ongoing work of the EMC in managing Union business. He suggested that Council only need to meet every 6 months. HHa said Council should meet more frequently as it was important for the membership to keep in touch and be briefed regularly. BM felt that Council only meets when business dictated the need.

b) JF asked that a meeting of the Laws & Ethics be convened in order to address the issue of online cheating. MMcF agreed to contact Ian Lindsay (Chair)

Action: MMcF

c) LA inquired about the Leagues and the Chair confirmed that no new League seasons would proceed until the 2019-20 matches were completed. In the meantime Harold Curran's Lockdown League would be available for everyone.

The meeting ended at 3.45pm

Michael McFaul

Hon. Secretary