

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at Corrs Corner on Wednesday November 27th, 2019 from 6.30pm.

Present: Harold Curran (Chair), Michael McFaul (Hon. Secretary), Anne Fitzpatrick (Hon. Treasurer), Liz Scott (Hon. Competitions Secretary), Anne Hassan, Pat Johnston, Helen Hall, John Ferguson, Ken Hammond, Christine Crockett, Heather Hill (from 7.15)

In Attendance: Brian McDowell, Alan Hill (from 8pm)

1. Apologies

Ian Hamilton, Tom McKeever, John Murchan, Norman Lacey, Eric Lesage, Norma Irwin.

2. New Website

BMCD outlined progress via Ionos Website Hosting Company. The new site had now been live for three weeks with feedback being very positive. There had been a problem moving the Masterpoints database across from the old website. Old, archived documents would also remain there. It was confirmed that in future documents would all be retrievable directly from the website rather than via mass circulation. The Website team to meet on January 16th, 2020 when specific responsibilities would be assigned. The team were encouraged to post regularly – photos to be [particularly welcome.

BMCD was congratulated on the appearance and functionality of the new website and the team were also thanked for their work.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on August 21st, 2019.

Item 7: To add *'that MMcF and JF would assemble the final NIBU Manual once the revision work had been completed by Alan Hill'*

Otherwise the Minutes were agreed on a proposal by JF and Seconded by HHa.

4. Summary of the Meeting held on September 25th, 2019

Item 3: The action stated was found not to be necessary following clarification on certain matters.

The Summary was accepted as accurate on a proposal by JF and seconded by HHa

5. Minutes of the Selection Committee Meetings on October 13th, 2019 and November 24th, 2019

KH spoke of the Committee's dismay at the poor showing of the Open teams at the recent Inter-Regionals. He stressed that this was no reflection on the effort of the individuals concerned but rather on the superior quality of the other Provincial players, almost all of whom were seasoned players of international standing. Council members offered strong support to the Selection Committee in their determination to field the strongest Ulster players.

On a proposal by HHi and seconded by HHa the Selection Committee received a directive from Council to hold Representative Trials for the Inter-Regionals in future. Initial selection for the Camrose should be made from those NIBU qualified pairs who play in the Inter-

provincials. Further, any NIBU pairs refusing to play in the Inter-Provincials shall not be selected for the Camrose series. It is hoped that entries to the trials would be attracted from Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan.

The Selection Committee Manual should be amended in order to reflect the revised format for Representative Trials.

AF asked that her dissent be recorded regarding this decision.

6. Financial Report

AF tabled a Cash Flow Statement showing a balance of £9258 in the Current Account. LS asked for a club intending to re-affiliate to be given time to resolve a matter regarding their bank account. MMcF confirmed that clubs have until February 1st to submit fees.

7. Laws & Ethics Committee Membership

CC agreed to retain her membership following an exhortation by JF.

8. Schools Bridge

Norman Lacey's paper was tabled. Following discussion, it was agreed that HC would ask NL for the list of tutors and he would then send it to Shelagh McCaughan in order to resolve the outstanding matter of vetting tutors.

9. Spring Congress

AH agreed to approach La Mon with a proposal to hold the event featuring Pairs on Saturday and Teams on Sunday. LS suggested the hotel be asked to make their a la carte menu available to bridge players.

10. NIBU Blazer Badge

AH's logo was agreed by a vote of 6-2 in favour.

11. Facebook

HHa agreed to investigate obtaining access to the NIBU account which had been dormant ever since the death of Ciara Burns. HC stressed how important it was to have a presence on Facebook in order to publicise events, news and competitions.

12. Youth Bridge

PJ informed members that the NIBU would field four Junior Camrose players and six Peggy Bayer players in the forthcoming Junior Home Internationals.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday February 26th, 2020

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.

Michael McFaul
Hon. Secretary.