

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

(Emergency) MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a 'Zoom' meeting held on Monday November 9th, 2020 at 11.30am.

Present: Heather Hill (Chair), Michael McFaul (Secretary), Anne Fitzpatrick (Treasurer), Ian Hamilton (Masterpoints Secretary), John Murchan (President), Harold Curran (Immediate Past Chair).

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on October 1st, 2020.**

The Minutes were agreed by all present.

2. **Matters Arising.**

a) Item 3.

MMcF confirmed that the Union had agreed to contribute £500 p.a. for 3 years towards the University of Stirling's post-graduate studentship proposal on bridge development. AF confirmed that 2 payments had been made.

b) Item 7.

MMcF confirmed that affiliation notices had gone out with further details to follow.

c) Item 8

MMcF stated that Rex Anderson had expressed surprise that he had not been asked to attend Council in order to expand on his belief that the Union was no longer legitimately constituted.

d) Item 10

MMcF said he was in correspondence with an officer of the EBU regarding their approach to handling complaints centred on possible online cheating. It was noted that an EBU member had been banned recently for a period of 4 years due to 'unfair play online'.

3. **Teltscher & Lady Milne**

The general response was that the recent weekend had been a success in terms of convenience and practicality. Players had been particularly satisfied with the Real Bridge platform, NPC's perhaps less so.

BGB were proposing to hold both events over the same weekend in 2021. HC argued strongly against this, stating that do so would be discriminatory as it would prevent women from entering both competitions. It was agreed that the official NIBY position would be that the events should be held separately and that the Teltscher should revert to 14 board stanzas.

Action: Helen Hall via MMcF

4. **Camrose Trials**

Following discussion, it was agreed to hold trials online over the last 2 weekends in November and that the closing date for entries would be Sunday November 15th. The normal requirements for eligibility would apply and the entry fee would be £20 in total per player. Detailed Conditions of Contest would be circulated in due course.

Action: MMcF to notify players, clubs and website.

5. **Robots**

It was agreed that players without partners would be allowed to employ a robot in NIBU online events. Two robots would also be allowed to play in partnership in order to avoid a sitting-out round. However, an exception would be made for the forthcoming Swiss Pairs – if necessary TD Alan Hill had agreed to play with a robot should the need arise.

6. **Affiliation 2020-21.**

MMcF said that several clubs had submitted fees while others had informed him that they were not able to do so during the current pandemic. For reasons of equanimity it was agreed that all fees paid in lieu of the 2020-21 season would also cover the first year of a return to 'live' bridge. However, it was confirmed that all clubs currently availing of NIBU services and expertise i.e. via online competitions must pay affiliation fees during the current season. It was also confirmed that all individual members playing in NIBU events must be a member of a club affiliated to one of the Home Nations bridge Unions.

Action: MMcF to notify clubs

The meeting ended at 12.30pm.

Michael McFaul

Hon. Secretary