

NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

2021 Annual General Meeting of the Executive Council

(Draft) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Union held on Sunday June 27th, 2021, at La Mon Country Club Hotel from 2.30pm.

Present: Heather Hill, Michael McFaul, Anne Fitzpatrick, Ian Hamilton, Joan Baird, Norma Irwin, David Leeman, Derek Cannell, Ian Lindsay, Rosemary Kilpatrick, Lesley Agar, Heather Booth, Geoff Booth, Harold Curran, Tom McKeever, Helen Hall, Emmet Devlin, Brian Mullan, Toni Sproule, Liz Scott, Sandie Millership, David Greenwood, Diane Greenwood, Anne Hassan, Alan Hill

1. Apologies:

Patricia McCorkell, Christine Byrne, Maureen Kelly, Michael Stevenson, Robin Burns, John Murchan, Liz Thomas, Eric McNicholl, Pat Johnston, Florence Boyd, Nuala Mooney, John Ferguson, Hilary Ferguson, Christine Crockett.

2. Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting

On a proposal by Sandie Millership seconded by Toni Sproule, the Minutes were accepted.

3. Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

4. Chairperson's remarks.

Heather Hill thanked the members of the Management Committee for their work and support throughout what had been a difficult year. She also thanked Sandie Millership and Norman Lacey for their continuing work with young people and Diane Greenwood for running online duplicate sessions throughout the year. She went on to thank Helen Hall for managing the website and Brian McDowell for arranging the successful NI Teams event on RealBridge. The Chairperson mentioned the recent sad passing of two major figures in the NIBU – Marjorie Kelso and Gerry Fitzgerald. She ended by expressing pleasure at the numbers of Intermediate players competing online but exhorted them to venture further and compete in NIBU events as well.

5. Officers' reports.

Michael McFaul reminded members that the current affiliation period would run for two years and that no fees would be due in November from clubs that had paid during the 2020-21 season. He went on to highlight changes and improvements to the website.

Anne Fitzpatrick expanded on her report and presentation of accounts by announcing a surplus this year. She responded to a query from Derek Cannell regarding the apparent omission in the accounts of monies paid to clubs via the Union. It was explained that auditor's opinion was that only income due to the Union should be shown in the accounts, a point further clarified by Helen Hall.

Ian Hamilton spoke about his dual role during the past season – as both Masterpoints Secretary but also undertaking many of the duties of the Competitions Secretary. He said that running the fixture list online had been mainly a beneficial exercise resulting in a greater number of entries from across Ireland and the Home Nations. However, on occasions this had meant that no local players had featured in the ‘prize’ list. Anne Hassan suggested that a prize for best local pair/team be considered.

On a proposal by Harold Curran, seconded by Brian Mullan, the Officers’ reports were all accepted.

6. **Financial Accounts**

On a proposal by Alan Hill, seconded by Liz Scott, the accounts were accepted.

7. **Election of Vice-Chairman**

In keeping with tradition, the Chairperson Heather Hill proposed Brian Mullan, seconded by Helen Hall and accepted by all present.

8. **Council Membership**

The Chairperson announced that Immediate-Past Chairman Harold Curran had been co-opted on to Council following the change in Management Committee membership. The (Emergency) Management Committee now to be comprised of Anne Fitzpatrick, Michael McFaul, Ian Hamilton, Heather Hill, John Murchan and Brian Mullan.

9. **Re-Election of Council**

As previously agreed by the Management Committee, the existing Council would serve for a further year. This was proposed by Alan Hill, seconded by Sandie Millership and agreed by those present.

10. **Election of Examining Accountant**

On a proposal by Tom McKeever, seconded by Diane Greenwood, Peter Green was re-elected.

11. **Election of Trustees**

On a proposal by Norma Irwin, seconded by Diane Greenwood, the three existing trustees were re-elected namely Ian Lindsay, John Murchan and Alan Hill

12. **Statement by Kelvin & Malone Club.**

Norma Irwin outlined the reasons why some members of the club had previously expressed concern regarding the presentation in the accounts of income due to different parties involved with online events. However, she was pleased to confirm that matters had now been clarified and thanked the Hon. Treasurer for her explicit presentation of the position in the accounts. Heather Hill outlined the background to the query and concluded by thanking Diane Greenwood again for her work in running duplicate competitions each week throughout the year.

13. **'Live 'Bridge**

Lesley Agar asked if the Union would be offering advice to clubs on when and if 'live' bridge would be possible again. Rosemary Kilpatrick suggested a statement should be placed on the website outlining the Union's thoughts on the matter. Sandie Millership said that technology was becoming available which would facilitate clubs in returning to 'live' play without having to duplicate board numbers. However it would be expensive. Heather Hill reminded all present that the Union did not have power of veto over affiliated clubs and could not instruct them in how they should run their affairs.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 15.30.

Michael McFaul

Hon. Secretary.