

President:
Mr Harold Curran

Vice President:
Mr Jim O'Sullivan

The Irish Bridge Union



MINUTES IRISH BRIDGE UNION

The 68th annual meeting of the Irish Bridge Union Council was held on Monday 8th of August 2022 at 7.00pm in the CityNorth Hotel, Gormanstown, Co.Meath.

Present:

(NIBU) Harold Curran (President), Anne Fitzpatrick (Joint Hon. Secretary/Treasurer), Heather Hill, Michael McFaul, John Murchan, Brian Mullan, Nuala Mooney

(CBAI) Martin Brady (Joint Hon. Secretary/Minutes, attended virtually), Grainne Barton, Freda Fitzgerald, Gordon Lessells, Pat O'Mahony, Aileen Timoney

In attendance: Paul Porteous (representing CEO), Brid Kemple, Teresa Rigney, Terry Walsh

As the Secretary was attending the meeting virtually, the meeting was recorded to assist with the production of minutes. The recording would be deleted as soon as a future meeting approved the minutes.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Helen Hall, Ian Lindsay (NIBU); Peter O'Meara (Vice-President), Pat Duff, Emer Kee, Linda O'Riordan (CBAI).

2. Minutes of the meeting of 28th February 2022

These were adopted on the proposal of John Murchan, seconded by Gordon Lessells.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Honorary Secretary's Report

Martin Brady had circulated a report to delegates in advance of the meeting, The report is attached to these minutes. Council adopted the report on the proposal of Nuala Mooney, seconded by Heather Hill.

5. Finance Report

Anne Fitzpatrick had circulated a report to delegates in advance of the meeting, The report is attached to these minutes. Income was €34939 and expenditure €77490, for a deficit of €43001. A draft budget was in discussion.

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Aileen Timoney noted that Cavan County Council had not yet provided €400 of sponsorship.

Council adopted the report with thanks to the Treasurer on the proposal of Nuala Mooney, seconded by Aileen Timoney.

6. International Committee report

John Murchan had circulated a report to delegates in advance of the meeting, The report is attached to these minutes.

The Open Team finished 6th in Madeira, the Ladies Team 9th. The Senior and Mixed teams were not successful. The Open Team would qualify for the Bermuda Bowl, and the Ladies Team are first reserves for the Venice Cup.

As a consequence of the Open Team's success in Madeira, we had received an invitation to send our national champions to the Champion's Cup in November. The invitation would be extended to the winners of the Egan Trophy, and in subsequent years the winners of the previous year's Egan would be invited.

The report was adopted on the proposal of Michael McFaul, seconded by Gordon Lessells.

7. IYBC report

Martin Brady had received a report from Niamh Gornally and circulated it to delegates in advance of the meeting, The report is attached to these minutes.

The Committee's successes during the year were noted, and the link it had established with Michael Byrne and the EBU coaching programmes was particularly welcomed. The Committee was clearly in need of further administrative support from the IBU, and this would be considered when electing the new committee later in the meeting.

Brid Kemple noted that the Regent League would welcome an entry from juniors in the Area Master division. This would be communicated to the committee. She also noted that Dublin South donated €500 to junior bridge every year.

The report was adopted on the proposal of John Murchan, seconded by Heather Hill.

8. Competitions report

Martin Brady had circulated a report to delegates in advance of the meeting, The report is attached to these minutes. The following points were noted about competitions that had taken place since the last Council meeting:

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- **Moylan Trophy** Lots of complaints had been received about the table money charge (€50). This was acknowledged, though the proportion of money paid back through the prize fund (40%) had remained the same. The competition had made a profit of €895.
- **Senior Congress** Thanks were offered to Aileen for the continued organisation of this event at the Cavan Crystal Hotel. The event, held very shortly after the return of face-to-face bridge, had resulted in a loss of €1,226.
- **Club Pairs** This event had been held online (on BBO, on the recommendation of Chief National TD Fearghal O'Boyle), with a strong entry and a final profit of €2109.
- **Egan Trophy** Only 8 teams were able to attend, and the regular hotel (La Mon) was temporarily unavailable. The event ran at a deficit of €1,007. Despite the deficit, the event was justifiable both in its role in providing a qualifier for the Champions Cup, and as a final preparation for players attending the European Championships in Madeira.
- **2022/23 competitions** Venues and dates were fixed for all events except the Interprovincials, for which the Cavan Crystal was not available. We would try to organise this event in Templeogue instead, and return to the Cavan Crystal in 2023-24. It was agreed to continue holding the Club Pairs online.

Brid Kemple asked if the Burke and O'Connor would continue to be organised as Open competitions. Martin Brady confirmed this: teams would enter directly, rather than qualifying, but teams would still be required to be eligible to represent a particular county.

On the proposal of Pat O'Mahony, seconded by Brian Mullan, it was agreed that the winners of the Club Pairs Open Section should receive an invitation to the following season's Moylan Trophy.

9. President's Address

The President thanked all officers and Council members for their hard work during another COVID-disrupted year, and hoped for a significant increase in face to face bridge and the return of club players during the coming season. He extended particular thanks to Peter O'Meara for deputising on several occasions during his period of illness. He congratulated the Ladies Team and the Open Team on their tremendous results in Madeira and thanked Mark Moran in particular for all he had done for Irish bridge.

10. Election of Officers and Committees, 2022-23

President: Harold Curran (proposed Martin Brady, seconded Brian Mullan)

Vice-President: Peter O'Meara (proposed Gordon Lessells, seconded Pat O'Mahony)

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President:
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Vice President:
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Joint Honorary Secretaries: Martin Brady and Anne Fitzpatrick (proposed Heather Hill, seconded Brian Mullan)

Treasurer: Anne Fitzpatrick (proposed Grainne Barton, seconded Nuala Mooney)

Auditor: Brian Dolan (proposed John Murchan, seconded Gordon Lessells)

Standing Committee: This would consist of the following four members *ex officio*. Harold Curran (President), Peter O'Meara (Vice-President), Anne Fitzpatrick and Martin Brady (Joint Honorary Secretaries). (Proposed Brian Mullan, seconded Michael McFaul.)

Finance Committee: Harold Curran, Ian Lindsay, Anne Fitzpatrick, Seamus Costello, Martin Brady, Peter O'Meara. (Proposed Heather Hill, seconded John Murchan.)

International Committee: John Murchan, Sam Hall, Diarmuid Reddan, Elva Gannon, Heidi Lillis. (Proposed Brian Mullan, seconded Freda Fitzgerald.)

IYBC: Niamh Gormally, Sandie Millership, Wayne Somerville, Karel de Raeymaeker, John Phelan, Pat Johnston, Margaret Murphy, Norman Lacey, with Luca Crone as player representative. (Proposed Grainne Barton, seconded John Murchan.) The IYBC had a vacancy available for the later co-option of a suitable Secretary or Treasurer as required.

11. Correspondence

Correspondence was held over.

12. Any other business

John Murchan reported that the complaint raised about trials dates at the previous meeting had now been resolved.

Brid Kemple noted the difficulty in relating the activities of the IBU to everyday players. Solutions mooted included: players to add their club affiliation when entering international trials, an article in the newsletter, teams going out to clubs and meeting the players whose activities supported their international travel. Grainne Barton reported that an article was in train for the next Newsletter, and her team would be willing to meet players on the ground. Brian Mullan noted that players who represented Ireland abroad were still out of pocket for the experience, and this should be made clear also.

Brid Kemple requested that the IBU send a report to the September, March and May meetings of CBAI Governing Council, updating them on all relevant activities. This would be done.

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On the proposal of Michael McFaul, seconded by Nuala Mooney, it was agreed that all future minutes should be published on the NIBU, CBAI and IBU websites. Draft minutes (i.e. not yet adopted by a subsequent meeting) would be clearly marked as such.

Harold Curran, speaking in a private capacity, expressed a feeling that trials should at some point be held in an NIBU venue. John Murchan replied that this was on a cycle and one of the trials in the next round would take place in Northern Ireland.

Paul Porteous reported that although efforts had been made to bring a championship to Belfast in 2023, the event had gone to Strasbourg, in large part because Strasbourg was on the European mainland.

Gordon Lessells requested that the following be noted for congratulations:

- Paul Porteous, who had topped the vote for re-election to the EBL committee
- Grainne Barton's Open team for their 6th place finish in the Open category in Madeira. The President particularly thanked Mark Moran for all he had done for Irish bridge.
- Paul Porteous's Ladies team, an all-Ireland team (with NIBU and CBAI representation), for its historic best performance in Madeira.

13. Next Meeting

Would be held in the Citynorth Hotel at 7pm on Monday 14th November.

In concluding the meeting, the President thanked Teresa Rigney, Brid Kemple and Terry Walsh for attending and for the interest they had shown: he hoped they felt welcome. Brid Kemple noted that others may be interested in attending, and it would be best to advertise the annual meeting more openly going forward.

The main meeting concluded at 8.10pm. Council then went into committee to discuss certain confidential matters.

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