

N.E.B.A. Council Meeting on Zoom Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 11.30a.m.

Re-arranged from Chester-le-Street Cricket Club

Present:

Sue Davies (Chair)

Marion Curran (Vice-Chair)

Bill March (Treasurer)

Catherine Farrell (Secretary)

Jill Armstrong (Webmaster)

Graham Cox (Inter-club league and Wearside Rep.)

Helen Wildsmith (co-opted Chief Tournament Secretary)

Johnathan Lillycrop (Durham Rep.)

Steve Renold (Whitley Bay and Tynemouth Rep.)

Peter Avery (Brunton Rep.)

Simon Hedley (Stannington Rep.)

Dave Dansie (Ryton Rep.)

Andy Pryor (Hexham Rep.)

Malcolm Dawson (Bishop Auckland Rep.)

Roger Chappell (Darlington Rep.)

Allan McRitchie

Apologies:

Liz Muir (Congress Secretary)

John Portwood (Chief Tournament Director)

Paul Ingoe (Morpeth and Castle Morpeth Rep.)

1. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record
2. Matters Arising – BIABD Thanks were given to all the clubs and members from the NEBA area who have contributed by both holding events and playing in the sim pairs that were run for BIABD. The total donated from the UK as at 7<sup>th</sup> October to Cancer Research UK was £92,213.52 of this amount the NEBA contribution totalled £3,375.51. Wearside who were celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary contributed £1098 closely followed by Whitley Bay and Tynemouth.
3. The EBU changes to their Articles and Bye-laws were discussed. Sue had been to the first of the EBU Zoom meetings about the changes and Marion was going to the Zoom meeting after our meetings. The Club reps were unanimous in agreeing that the Executive Committee should decide on the voting at the next EBU AGM by the

Shareholders. The EBU AGM is a hybrid meeting which cuts down on travelling costs and time for Shareholders who are based a long way from the EBU headquarters.

4. Congress update – Entry numbers have slowed down and more members from NEBA need to participate and the Reps were asked to try and encourage their club members to enter and play in the Congress.
5. Current teaching programmes – There is a need to try and encourage more students to join classes and there are very few evening classes for the working population to attend. Tim Chanter has started online classes which it is hoped working people will get involved with.
6. Club Updates – Brunton is averaging 10 tables on a Monday evening and 3-4 tables on a Wednesday afternoon. This session is hosted and to encourage students to take the next step into mainstream bridge. They have more people on their books but not everyone can come every week.
7. Whitley Bay and Tynemouth have serious problems with accommodation and haven't been able to find alternative premises they are currently operating temporarily from the Rugby Club.
8. Wearside – is coming along nicely with 3 sets of beginners lessons 1 in the evening, 1 supervised session . Modest standard – teaching improvers and advanced lessons. They have the occasional seminar and session where club members join in which are very successful. 2 pairs won nationally in the BIABD sim pairs and another pair from the previous evening look like they will win nationally as well. They also run Pivot teams events, Individual and Handicapped pairs .
9. Stannington – average 8 tables on a Friday night, their Thursday morning session averages 3 to 4 tables which is hosted. Their online BBO Wednesday session has more than 8 tables normally.
10. Hexham – They average 8 tables on a Thursday evening. 25% of their members are ex students and 5 committee members are also ex students. They haven't been able to run a beginners class this year as 1 teacher has ill health.
11. Durham – Monday they have 6 tables, Tuesday afternoon is 10 tables and Tuesday evening is 6 tables. They have started a teaching course. Now that the University is returning they keep in touch with their students and encourage them to join in.
12. Darlington – They have their own premises which is a double-edged sword as they have to keep their members up to cover the costs so it is a lot of hard work. Monday is their best night with 9-10 tables Thursday and Friday are about 6-8 tables. They do a Sunday lunch with Bridge afterwards. They have beginners sessions on a Wednesday and Thursday and they are starting to come through.
13. Bishop Auckland – They are struggling having lost some regular members and some with mobility problems. They are down to 2 tables 4 at the most. They have 26 paid up members . They struggled to put a team together for the inter-club league . They need a teaching programme Durham offered them the use of their office to cut down on expenses.
14. Ryton – They are also struggling with very few tables
15. Morpeth and Castle Morpeth are averaging 10 tables
16. AOB – Sue had been at a County Chairs Meeting where safeguarding had been an item referencing Vulnerable Adults and Children with guidance for Dementia sufferers there is a leaflet on safeguarding which will be made available shortly.

17. The reps were informed about the proposed online league for teams of 4 next year. Also the 9 high Corwen on 22<sup>nd</sup> January in the evening 24 boards . Qualifiers from the 22<sup>nd</sup> January will then play in the final on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025.
18. It was mentioned that in the inter-club league clubs struggle to get a team together for away matches that involve a lot of travelling and it was asked if these could be played online. It would have to be with the agreement of both captains . It was agreed to discuss this at the next Exec. meeting and a modification of the rules to accommodate this. The possibility of online was passed after a show of hands.
19. The next meeting will be F2F on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at Chester-le-Street Cricket Club.
20. It was also mentioned that next year is NEBA's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary so there will be a Celebration in November. Details to be decided at a later date.
21. The meeting concluded at 12.45pm.