

N.E.B.A. - A.G.M. at Wearside Bridge Club Tuesday, 27th May 2025 at 6.00p.m.

Minutes:

Present:

Sue Davies	Chair
Marion Curran	Vice Chair
Catherine Farrell	Secretary
Bill March	Treasurer
Helen Wildsmith	Chief Tournament Secretary (co-opted)
Graham Cox	Inter Club league (co-opted)
Jill Armstrong	Webmaster (co-opted)

And the following members

Dick Davies, Dave Armstrong, Helen Wildsmith & Tim Chanter, Tony Watson, Beverley Godfrey, Mike Brennan ,K. Meirs, M. Pilkington, Chris Patrick.

1. Apologies for absence:

Brian Pacey, Susan Green, Mary Page, Liz Muir, John Portwood, Ann & Eric Bell, Elizabeth Slowther ,Gordon Cockburn, Nigel Durie, Steve & Georgia Ray, Christine Farnsworth, Colin Mitchell, Adrian Darnell

2. Chairman's Introduction:

Sue began her introduction by thanking everyone for being present and especially Wearside Bridge Club for hosting the AGM. She went onto thank the Executive Committee, all the Club representatives and all NEBA members. She went on to say that the way forward since Covid has been tentative and slow. Some clubs have managed well but a few have sadly folded. She thanked Liz Muir for coming onto the Exec. as Congress Secretary for this last year. The trend for the Congress is going in the right direction. She stated that there is much to do for the future but learning bridge takes time and the transition from learning into clubs is difficult for new players and we need to be friendly and welcoming. She finished saying that her time as Chair is over and she will see everyone at the tables and wished NEBA all the very best.

3. Minutes of the AGM held at Stannington Bridge Club on Friday , 31 st May 2024

These were accepted as a true record.

4. Matters arising:

(i) Since then Helen Wildsmith has been co-opted to the post of Chef Tournament Secretary and started in January '25.

(ii) The online league commenced in April '25 with 8 teams. There has been some very positive feedback and everyone is enjoying it . A new league will start in September and it is hoped to attract more teams & have two divisions.

(iii)The issue re: Shareholders was dealt with by the Council and remained the same, 1 share with the Chair & 1 with the Vice Chair meeting.

(iv) The Constitution as requested is currently being updated. (See para 7)

The reduced turnout for NEBA events has continued with some having to be cancelled but the 2024 Congress did make a small profit which bodes well for the future.

There were problems in the final of the Chronicle Cup with everyone feeling that there were too many boards and the event went on until quite late this has been addressed at Council Meetings and will be resolved for the future. This year is NEBA's 90th and there will be a number of events to celebrate this the first being a handicapped teams to be held at Stannington Bridge Club on 26th July. There will be simultaneous event to be played in clubs.

Action Tournament sub Committee

5. Treasurers Report:

Bill March stated that the finances had stayed stable and Alistair Kemp had agreed to continue to audit the accounts.

6. Election of Officers:

The following Officers were elected uncontested:

Marion Curran	Chair
Graham Cox	Vice-Chair
Catherine Farrell	Secretary
Bill March	Treasurer
Helen Wildsmith	Chief Tournament Secretary

At this point Marion Curran took over the Chair. Her first task was to thank Sue Davies for all the work she has done over the last six years as Vice Chair and then Chair. It was a difficult period with Covid etc but it is now time to move on from that and try to grow our membership.

7. Adoption of changes to the Constitution - The change to the Disciplinary Schedule which reflects that of the EBU Model County Constitution was accepted by the meeting.

Marion thanked Catherine, Jill and Andy Pryor for the work they had done on this.

8. Proposals:

There were 2 proposals from Dave Armstrong , the first for the executive to consider splitting NEBA into a North and South.

Dave was given time to speak to the meeting and explain the reasoning behind his proposals. A lively discussion followed with many valid points made by some of those present especially Bev Godfrey from Darlington.

It was pointed out that the suggestion for splitting NEBA has been raised in the past and rejected. Additionally, it was pointed out that the profile of the membership has changed in recent years and many members just want to go along and enjoy an evening's Bridge at their local club, the competitiveness seems to have gone from the game.

Action Exec, Clubs to discuss their views on this before next Council meeting.

The second proposal re joining the SBU was rejected.

These matters will be deferred until October at the Council meeting.

Election of Examiner of the Accounts:

It was agreed that Alistair Kemp will continue to examine the NEBA Accounts.

A.O.B.

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There was some discussion on the fact that some of the Trophies appear to be missing. The Kempson Cup hasn't been located the last time it was presented was in 2019 . Not all the inter-club league cups are available so this will require some investigation to track them down.

Action All members asked to look in their cupboards!!

C.M.F.

June 2025