

North Eastern Bridge Association

Minutes of the AGM, held virtually by ZOOM

Wednesday 27th April 2022, at 11.00

NOTE: As the AGM meeting was inquorate, it was decided that all matters below which require formal approval by a General Meeting (marked by a “*” and notably the names of the Officers, the Independent Examiner and the new Constitution) will be circulated amongst members. This process will stand as a virtual General Meeting for the sole purpose of seeking approval for the items in question.

1. Apologies

David Armstrong, David Gold; Gill Gold; Neil Oliver.

2. Chair’s Introduction

Last year I didn’t anticipate sitting at home again running the AGM. Times have changed. but we are certainly not back to anywhere near the pre-pandemic situation that we enjoyed a little over 2 years ago. I must confess that I cannot envisage us ever returning to those days of unrestricted F2F bridge and where online play was an occasional game for the vast minority of our players.

You are all aware of how disrupted this year has been as we have seen the beginnings of F2F bridge again and then the arrival of the omicron variant of the virus. You will have been very grateful to those club chairmen, secretaries, committee members and directors who have put in a great deal of effort on our behalf to organise the online weekly club sessions and then to ensure that clubs can re-open as safe environments so that we can enjoy our game again together in the same room. It is difficult to imagine what it would have been like without their input in enabling us to keep in contact and keep playing the game we love. So, once again, I would like to thank and pay tribute to them all for the work they have done. Sadly some clubs have not yet re-opened and perhaps will never be able to do so, but can I repeat that NEBA is ready to offer support if possible.

As always I am indebted to the members of the executive for their services on your behalf:

To Adrian as an excellent secretary who is also doing a great job in keeping us in touch with the EBU in his position as board member.

To Liz Muir who did a great job, as congress secretary, in organising both a Swiss Teams and our 2-day Congress online last year, both of which were very successful. She has now decided to step down after a recent stint of 9 (I think) consecutive years on the Executive Committee. Many thanks from the NEBA membership, Liz.

To Sue as vice-chair and chair of the selection committee (a particularly tricky job of organisation) and who will now have the difficult role of Chairman.

To David and Graham as tournament secretaries and for running a reduced interclub season and a reduced tournament season.

To Bill as Treasurer who has been able to adapt effectively to the role at a difficult time.

Finally to John as the new Chief Tournament Director who has had to rapidly adapt to the demands of a mixture of online and F2F play while also assuming his role of an EBU director.

And finally to Pauline for keeping our website running and up-to-date. Please

remember to send her items of interest.

As I reach the end of my term of office I can honestly say that I did not expect the 3 years to be so unusual and have regretted the fact that I have been unable to come out and visit clubs as I originally intended so that I could hear more of your views and concerns. As I hand over to Sue as the next Chairman I wish her and her committee and council the very best in rebuilding our association as we finally come out of the situation we have faced over the last 2 years. I hope you will all give your energy and enthusiasm to support the team.

Trophies (not) awarded 21/22:

Div A Brunton A

Div B Bishop Auckland

Div C Newcastle

And a special mention for the NEBA team of Liz Muir & Don Reid, Steve & Georgia Ray and Jill & Dave Armstrong who represented Brunton in winning the NICKO.

3. The Minutes of the last AGM held on the February 23 2021 (circulated as Doc A) were **approved**. There were no matters arising.
4. The Treasurer's report and the NEBA Accounts (circulated as the Accounts) were **received and approved**.
5. Alistair Kemp was **appointed*** as the Independent Examiner.
6. The officers were **elected*** as:
Chair: Sue Davies
Vice-Chair: Marion Curran
Treasurer Bill March
Secretary Adrian Darnell
Chief Tournament Secretary David Gold
7. The proposed Amendments to Constitution (circulated as Doc B) were **discussed**. It was noted **that**:
 - (i) the changes, prompted by ambiguity over the definition of a 'member' of the NEBA, were necessary;
 - (ii) the Constitution required further change to accommodate inquorate General Meetings.The changes were **agreed***, by a vote of more than 2/3 of those present.
The Executive was **asked to address the issue of inquoracy***.
8. AOB
Members asked the Executive to **consider** some matters at their next meeting:
 - (i) the general issue of membership, recruitment, engagement in Clubs and participation in NEBA events;
 - (ii) the means by which NEBA communicates to its members (historically and presently this is via emails to Club Secretaries who are asked to forward the communication with their members via their own email lists, announcements at Club events, Notice Boards etc);And asked the Executive to draw to Clubs' attention two matters:
 - (i) the membership lists, as held by the EBU (and which the NEBA uses as its membership register), need attention to ensure they are up-to-date (in particular to ensure that deceased and otherwise lapsed members are removed);
 - (iii) to invite Clubs to consider, as autonomous bodies, which of their Officers carry out which tasks (notably who is responsible for communicating with members);

A warm vote of thanks to Nigel, as the outgoing Chair, was unanimously approved.