

North Eastern Bridge Association

Minutes of the AGM held at The Durham Bridge Club

Tuesday 16th May 2023, at 18.00

1. Apologies were received from Graham Cox, Colin Mitchell, Liz Muir and Nigel Durie
2. The Chair welcomed the members (sadly, less than the quorum of 20, saying:
“I am pleased that we are here at this F2F AGM. My report is largely a raft of thank yous.
To Adrian Darnell, our Secretary, who has worked hard keeping together club members, NEBA and the EBU. He is retiring from being NEBA Secretary. He became the NEBA Secretary in 2017 when the previous incumbent (Mary Page) left the office. He was elected as Secretary at the AGM of 2018 and has (in his words) served 3 excellent Chairs: first Liz Muir, then Nigel Durie and currently Sue Davies. Over the last 5½ years he will have serviced 5 AGMs, including by Zoom, an EGM and well over two dozen Committee meetings. He has become very busy of late, having been elected as an EBU Board Member in 2020, and as the EBU Vice-Chair in 2022. He needs to find more time to fulfil those responsibilities and, as Newcastle United look likely to be European competition next year, he needs time to follow them to a few away games in places like Italy and Spain and France.
To Marion Curran, as Vice-Chair and Chair of the Selection Committee. Marion has also become involved with Bridge teaching in NEBA.
To Bill March, as Treasurer, who is steady and reliable.
To John Portwood, as Chief Tournament Director, organising both F2F and online play.
To Graham Cox and David Gold, as Tournament Secretaries. The inter-club season and the Tournament season are running again.
To Dave Thompson, as Congress Secretary, who made a bold public step to make a successful F2F congress. All who were present enjoyed the event.
To Nigel Durie, who has continued to run the NBL and given the committee continuity coming out of the Covid years.
To Jill Armstrong, as webmaster. Jill has worked hard to establish links with all NEBA members and transfer information, both historical and current, to the Website.
To all our club officials and members. They have also been working hard to build up F2F play as well as running online games. This year there have been two Council meetings.
Sadly, we have lost some clubs and some have amalgamated. The clubs are playing a mixture of F2F, BBO and Realbridge. I think our membership has shown enthusiasm, rebuilding our activities. Thank you.
Club and NEBA competitions are back. However, the Gazette Cup did not run due to lack of entries. We will try to bring it back at some point next year.”

Results:

Congress:

Mixed pairs	Linda Smith and Michael Tomlinson
Men's pairs	Mark Stanners and Chris Stenning
Ladies' pairs	Jo Lormor and Margaret Andrew
9 High (previously Newcomers pairs event)	Geoff Storer and Dee Milburn
Swiss pairs	Martin Kane and Damian Hassan
Swiss teams	Martin Kane, Damian Hassan, Bill March and Val Gibson
Dean Quaiche	Linda Smith and Michael Tomlinson

Annual Competitions

Swiss pairs	John Dobson and Audrey Bainbridge
Niman Israel	Marion Curran, Chris Derrick, Jill Armstrong and Liz Muir
Chronicle Cup	Tony Watson and Reg Hornsey
St George's Shield	Graham Cox and Alleyn Erskine
Kempson Vases	Liz Muir, Don Reid, Georgia Ray and Steve Ray
Kempson Plate	Marion Curran, Chris Derrick, Jill Armstrong and Dave Armstrong

Inter - Club Winners

Division A	Darlington
Division B	Morpeth
Division C	Chester- le- Street

We have also entered competitions outside NEBA:-

Tollemache, NBL, President's Cup.

Garden Cities:- from Inter Club teams of eight.

Corwen Trophy:- from Chronicle Cup.

Pachabo:- from Kempson Vases.

There will probably be a friendly match with South East Scotland in July.

We began this year feeling tentative but a year later we are more hopeful for the future. We have been trying to restore normal bridge activities. We need to encourage each other and make the bridge events better next year

3. The Minutes of the last AGM and following EGM were **received**. (Docs A & B). The Secretary apologised for extracting a historic, and not up-to-date, section from the Constitution. The current Constitution sets the General Meeting quoracy as 20 (**NOT** 30).

4. Matters Arising

After discussion, this (inquorate) AGM **decided** to recommend reducing the General Meeting quoracy to 10. As this AGM was itself inquorate this will be recommended to an EGM.

5. The Treasurer's report (the Accounts, Doc D), were **received and approved**.

There was some discussion about the pricing of competitions, in which one view was expressed that all competitions should be priced to break even at least, while an alternative view, that NEBA competitions are a service to members and could be (part) funded by reserves, was also offered. It was **agreed** to defer the detail of pricing to the Executive Committee.

6. Appointment of an Independent Examiner

It was **agreed** this would be attended to by the Treasurer, pending confirmation that the current Examiner was prepared to carry on.

7. The officers were **elected** as follows

Chair	Sue Davies
Vice Chair	Marion Curran
Treasurer	Bill March
Chief Tournament Secretary	David Gold
Acting Secretary	Marion Curran (by default, according to the Constitution, as Vice-Chair)

8. It was **agreed** to reconvene as an EGM to ratify the indicative decisions of this inquorate AGM at 6.30 pm on May 30th at the Durham Bridge Club.