

NEBA Council Meeting Wednesday, 18th October 2023
at Chester-Le-Street Cricket Club 11.30am
Draft Minutes

Present:

Sue Davies (Chair)

Marion Curran (Vice Chair)

Catherine Farrell (Secretary and Stannington Rep.)

Bill March (Treasurer)

Jill Armstrong(Webmaster)

Graham Cox (inter-club league Secretary and Wearside Rep.)

John Portwood(Chief Tournament Director and Durham Rep.)

Nigel Durie(NBL and Darlington Rep.)

Allan McKendrick (Hexham Rep.)

Peter Avery (Brunton Rep.)

Paul Ingoe(Castle Morpeth and Morpeth Rep.)

Apologies:

Chester-Le-Street

Bishop Auckland

Whitley Bay and Tynemouth

Whitby

Middlesborough

Minutes of the last meeting - were accepted as correct

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Updates from the Clubs

Numbers are starting to pick up after COVID.

Brunton reported that they had started a relaxed Wednesday afternoon session as a feeder from their classes. It is 15 boards lasting 2 and a half hours. Helpful comments not schooling for less experienced players. They operate a host system so no need for a partner. At the moment they are getting 4-5 tables.

Hexham reported that they are recovering with an average of 9-10 tables. They have some very good teachers who run a 3 year teaching programme.

Wearside also run a teaching programme and are averaging about 40 tables a week with 1 online session. Brunton also has a very good teaching programme and if anyone misses any sessions they can have a zoom meeting with Marion to catch up which helps eliminate drop outs.

Darlington also has about 40 tables a week. Monday is back to pre-COVID levels, Wednesday is improving and Thursday is 7-9 tables.

Durham is a subscription club with a fixed amount paid every month but the members can play as often as they want. They are currently having 9-10 tables in an afternoon and 6 in the evening. Stannington has an average of 8-10 tables but has been unable to launch a teaching programme due to the lack of availability of the village hall. They are currently trying a relaxed morning session on a Thursday but numbers so far have been poor. They also run an online session on a Wednesday.

Morpeth and Castle Morpeth have reduced numbers f2f to pre-COVID but run online sessions which are helping make up the shortfall.

Congress – The Club Reps were urged to see if they could ask their members to help boost the Congress numbers.

NEBA Events – We will have a questionnaire for club members to tell us what they want for these events.

Obituaries – It was decided not to post these on the front page of the website but have a link and the published obituaries would be for people who had a wider bridge link that just their own club.

Festival of Bridge – This was discussed and we would need a list of unaffiliated clubs. This would have to be checked so we stayed with the data protection act.

Congress 2024 – We would have a meeting to discuss how we would be going forward with this. It was suggested that we have separate entry forms for each event.

Shareholding – Council agreed with the suggestion of who would hold the 2 shares. The positions of Chair and Vice Chair among others of the EBU are coming up next month. Council agreed that once all the nominations are in the exec committee will have a zoom meeting around 7/8th November to decide who to vote for and will instruct the shareholders how to vote on 29th November.

The meeting concluded at 12.30