

N.E.B.A. Executive Committee Meeting on Zoom Monday, 11th May 2026 at 9.30a.m.

Minutes:

Present: Marion Curran (Chair), Graham Cox (Vice Chair), John Portwood (Chief Tournament Secretary), Bill March (Treasurer), Catherine Farrell (Secretary), Jill Armstrong (Webmaster), Liz Muir (Exec. support), Val Gibson (Exec. Support), Bev. Godfrey (Exec. Support), Nigel Durie (Exec. Support)

1. Apologies for absence: Helen Wildsmith (Chief Tournament Secretary), Sue Davies (Exec. Support), Mary Page (Exec. Support)
2. Minutes: These were accepted as a true record.
3. Matters Arising:

NBL there were now enough players interested to have 2 teams in the NBL the second team would be in the 3rd Division (Action Nigel) .

ICL - Graham had finalised the dates for the ICL 2026/27 and all the clubs had been informed. There was 1 team short in the 3rd Division as Whitley Bay weren't entering a 2nd team for the next season.
4. There hadn't been enough pairs to make a team for the Garden Cities this year. Helen was going to organize entries for the Corwen. As she was unable to attend the meeting there was no update.

9 High Corwen Catherine had arranged this and the only qualifying pair had been entered with the EBU (Confirmed and the invoice sent to Bill).

Pachabo- there was no update due to Helens absence.
5. Jill and Helen had been in contact with clubs who had been getting back to them with updated information on their current membership. Marion was hoping to write another newsletter soon around Wednesday, 27th May.
6. The A.G.M. was sorted out with Whitley Bay happy to host it this was now on the website with the full details. Catherine was going to confirm approximate numbers with Whitley Bay nearer the time.
7. There were no further details about a visit from the new EBED CEO .

Category pairs (Durham) on 24th October

Summer Pairs (Hexham) and the Stratified Swiss Teams (Whitley Bay)
8. All of these would be 36 boards & Blue Pointed
9. Some of the missing trophies had now been found at Darlington including the Kempson Cup .
10. Matters for the AGM –

Discuss increasing participation in NEBA events & whether earlier times would be better for events.

Presentation of the 1st Division ICL Trophy

Otherwise the format will be as in previous years

11. Correspondence: The NEBA dealing machine had been purchased in 2012 and it was decided to pay Flemings (approx.. £320 to update and service) this would be invoiced direct to NEBA. Currently with have 1039 members which should entitle us to another share.

Email Communications

Jill reported on the current status of NEBA's email database. Of the 1,039 members:

- Total email addresses held: 826
- Valid email addresses: 696
- Failed email addresses: 130, comprising:
 - Unsubscribed: 62
 - Marked as junk: 3
 - Bounced: 64
 - Not confirmed: 1

Jill also reported on the recent email sent to members regarding the AGM. Of the 679 emails sent:

- Successfully delivered: 676
- Failed: 1
- Unsubscribed: 2
- Opened: 482
- Unopened: 194

This represents an open rate of approximately 71%, indicating a strong level of engagement from members who received the email.

There was discussion on how best to communicate with members whose email addresses are invalid or unavailable. It was suggested that affiliated clubs be asked to encourage members to update their email addresses and, where possible, to share important NEBA communications with those members at club sessions.

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It was suggested that a sub group be set up to discuss reaching out to members of NEBA.

Andy Clarke to contact Bev Godfrey in respect of the sub-group to look at NEBA competitions.

12. A.O.B. The online league has 4 teams and it was discussed whether to present the Kempson Cup to the overall winning team.

13. The next meeting will be on Zoom on 8th June 2026 at 9.30a.m.

The meeting finished at 10.45a.m.