

# North Eastern Bridge Association

Minutes of EGM held as the AGM (virtually by ZOOM)

Tuesday February 23 2021 at 1.30 pm

1. Apologies

Were received from Andy & Chris Simmons and Jill Armstrong

2. Chair's Introduction

I didn't expect to be sitting at home running this AGM, 9 months late, after my first year in office and after a whole year without face-to-face bridge. Times change. But thanks are still due to Durham Bridge Club for agreeing to host participants in their regular Tuesday afternoon bridge session to complement this meeting.

It is on a sad note that I start the meeting. I was always going to begin by asking everyone present to join me in a minute's silence in order to remember our dear friends from all the different clubs in the region who have sadly passed away over the last year and hence will no longer be there to return to the table when we eventually get back to face to face bridge. We will miss them all. Sadly I found out yesterday that Ian Rankin passed away on Sunday. He was always a very firm supporter of NEBA and as such took on the role of Chief Tournament Secretary for many years. As a very good bridge player he was able to encourage lesser mortals like myself to get more involved and his friendly presence at the table was an example to us all. Unfortunately he had not been on the bridge scene for the last few years due to a long battle with Parkinson's disease. He will be very much missed by all who knew him.

Please join with me to remember Ian and all our other friends who have passed away since we last were able to meet in person.

You are all aware of how disrupted this year has been and will have been very grateful to those club officials and directors who have put in an awful lot of effort on our behalf to organise the online weekly club sessions and special events that have taken place. 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 I would like to thank and pay tribute to them all for the work they have done.

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 now in a very good position to further our interests having been elected to the EBU Board. (See this month's EBU Chairman's comments).

To Liz who after a very successful congress in 2019 was very disappointed to lose out in 2020. She is planning and hoping for a congress this year in October and in the meanwhile is organising a Green-Point Swiss Teams for 18 April online.

To Sue as vice-chair and chair of the selection committee (a particularly tricky job of organisation).

To David and Graham as tournament secretaries and for proposing and planning the much-appreciated interclub teams tournament and to Graham for putting everything into motion with the able directorship of Geoff Harrison and Hristo Toshev.

To Bill who took on the role of Treasurer after the last AGM and after doing a fine job will hopefully be confirmed in the post later by the meeting – we lost the chance

to do this before because of the pandemic.

To Mary Page who has very kindly offered to take on the calendar preparation; and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Finally to Norman as Chief Tournament Director for all of his efficient organisation of the pre-covid tournaments. Norman is intending to stand down in the near future after 7 years in the job, once a replacement is in post. I have worked for Norman since he took office and have always been grateful to him for his calm, fair and friendly way of approaching both the running of tournaments and making directing decisions when they have been needed. Many's been the time when I have had problems in the directing or scoring and he has been there to keep things running smoothly. Many thanks from all of us for all your hard work in a very demanding post, Norman.

Finally may I pay tribute to all the club officials whether chairmen, secretaries, committee members or directors who have kept bridge going during these terrible times and who will all have their work cut-out once we return to F2F bridge later this year.

**Trophies not awarded 19/20:**

Div A Hurworth

Div B Wearside A

Div C Cramlington A

Div D Brunton C

Div E Wearside B

Div F Castle Morpeth B

**Player of the year 19/20:** Incomplete but Frank Springett was in an unassailable lead I hear.

**Online Interclub 20/21:**

Spades: Brunton Blue 86, Wearside Blue 83

Hearts: Bishop Auckland 95, Brunton Red 94

The final between Brunton Blue and Bishop Auckland was won by a substantial margin by Brunton Blue.

**Tollemache:** Our team qualified for the finals in the online qualifier last November but unfortunately were not as successful at the final hurdle last weekend finishing 8<sup>th</sup> out of the top county teams.

[Secretary's Note: following the meeting, John Portwood was approached to become the new Chief Tournament Director and he has accepted this position. We are all most grateful to Norman for the years he has dedicated to the NEBA as CDT and welcome John to the Executive, with immediate effect.]

3. Received  
The Minutes of the last AGM held on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (Doc A)
4. Received  
The draft Accounts for the Year ended 31st March 2020 (Doc B)
5. Election of officers  
The current Officers were elected without competition and unanimously.
6. Approved  
The Amendment to Constitution re Club Member's Appeals (Doc C) was approved, unanimously
7. Election of Auditor

The Treasurer informed the meeting that Chris Hope, our Auditor of many years, wished to stand down. There was no nomination received at the meeting and the Chair was authorised to establish a new Auditor.

[Secretary's Note: following the meeting, David Morrison was approached to become the new Auditor and he has accepted this position. We are all most grateful to Chris for the years he has dedicated to the NEBA as our Auditor and welcome David to this role, with immediate effect.]

8. Trophy Winners

This item had been include in the Chair's Introduction.

The meeting finished at 2.05, in time for many participants to join the Durham BC online Pairs Competition.

---