

NEBA Executive meeting on Zoom 8th December 2025 at 10a.m.

Present:

Marion Curran (Chair)

Bill March (Treasurer)

Catherine Farrell (Secretary)

John Portwood (Chief Tournament Director)

Helen Wildsmith (Chief Tournament Secretary)

Jill Armstrong (Webmaster)

1. Apologies for absence: Graham Cox (Vice Chair)
2. The Minutes of the last meeting on 17th November were accepted as a true record
3. Matters arising: Bill gave an update on the Congress costs to say that the EBU costs were still outstanding (UMS).
4. Neither Marion nor John had not heard anything from the EBU regarding the complaints made after the 2025 Congress. They had been told that the EBU weren't taking it any further but had had nothing official from the EBU. She was asked to apologise to the complainants but hasn't been informed who the complainants were.
5. John had reported that Durham bridge club were unhappy that they hadn't been asked to load the tables onto the van beforehand. In previous years Adrian had been amenable and Ian and John had loaded them and dropped them off – there had been no payment to the club. It was decided that in future it was the Chief Tournament Director's responsibility to organise the tables for the Congress.
6. John reported that he had been transferring everything over to the new computer and was going to check it out the following week. The Chronicle Cup semi final was the next event and he was going to check everything out beforehand. The first semi final is being held at Darlington and he is taking both computers in case there is a problem with the new one. There are too many icons on the old one less on the new one. He was going to test it at Durham on a Friday and have both running at the same time.(JP)
7. Bill suggested that we don't change our charges this year -6p- everyone agreed.
8. Marion reported that the EBU AGM was held in York F2F about a dozen people attended but more online. There was nothing vital to report.
9. After the recent Simultaneous pairs all the money raised had been sent to Dementia Care and we should get an email back to thank us. There had been a problem combining the results as some clubs use Scorebridge and others EBUscore and their XML files aren't compatible. Jonathan is the EBU tech and he had solved the problem but it had caused a delay in posting the final results. It was decided that NEBA would write to Jonathan and ask him if we hold future events would he be prepared to have the files sent to him so he can solve any incompatibility (CMF)

10. Congress 2026 – Oliver is back on board as the incident at the Congress had been a medical emergency but he is very strict about BB@B. He is getting costings together for venues etc. and should be producing something in January (Helen)
11. Marion had been in touch with Graham to ask if he needed any help with the Chronicle Cup semi final. John was directing at Brunton and Nigel at Darlington
12. Online Teams – there had been 6 entries for this session and 1 team had had to drop out for health reasons. This session was almost finished. Hoping to run another session with a second division for J high.
13. The date for the 9 high Corwen is between 25th Jan and 14th March (HW)
14. We are allowed another green pointed event and we need to decide which of our current events can be upgraded to green pointed.
15. Marion agreed to email previous Exec. asking for extra help as we are short handed and need to outsource some of our work.(already done)
16. There is the Calendar for 2026/27 to be done and it is hoped that we might be able to get some extra help with this.
17. The next Council meeting will be on Wednesday, 11th March 2026 at Chester-le-Street Cricket club. Catherine to contact them to book the room.
18. The next meeting will be held on Zoom on 12th January 2026.
19. The meeting closed at 11.30a.m.