

Draft Minutes:

Present: Marion Curran, (Chair), Graham Cox (Vice Chair), Bill March (Treasurer), John Portwood (Chief Tournament Director), Helen Wildsmith (Chief Tournament Secretary), Jill Armstrong (Webmaster), Catherine Farrell (Secretary), Ken Reed (Assistant Treasurer), Sue Davies (Exec. Support), Val Gibson (Exec. Support), Nigel Durie (NBL and Exec. Support), Liz Muir (Exec. Support), Bev. Godfrey (Exec. Support), Andy Clarke (Exec. Support).

1. Apologies for absence: There were no apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last meeting: These were accepted as a true record.
3. Matters arising : It had been stated in the the minutes that there were sufficient numbers to enter 2 teams in the NBL. This had turned out not to be the case and only 1 team had been entered in the B Division and they were currently lying 3rd with the last match being on the 17th October it was decided to send the names of the participators to the selectors for them to select the best team from the available pairs. The list would be submitted to John Gladders. A report on the last match would be passed to Nigel to help highlight issues for future events. (Action: Nigel Durie). The EBED Rep. and come to the area and there had been three sessions of a teaching programme with 11 people attending from various clubs Morpeth, Castle Morpeth and Stannington. Bev and Andy hadn't been able to produce a questionnaire as yet and were hoping to get together in the coming weeks (Action Bev., Andy) John had compiled a list of the trophies with a number of redundant ones. Ken volunteered to help assist with sorting the trophies and compiling a list for the Council meeting (Action: John, Ken and Marion)
4. Treasurers Role: Ken Reed had kindly stepped forward to assist Bill with the Treasurers role due to his ongoing health problems. He was going to arrange a f2f meeting with Bill to look at the Excel software and any other issues that he was unfamiliar with. (Action Bill and Ken)
5. Category Pairs at Durham: The venue was still available but there was uncertainty as to whether another application to the EBU was needed for the licence as it was a Blue Pointed event. (Action: John Portwood, Liz Muir, Helen Wildsmith).
6. Congress November 2026: Helen was catching up with Oliver Cowan at the end of the month. Currently there was a lot of interest from Lancashire and Yorkshire. The venue accommodation was fully booked but there is plenty of other accommodation available in the area.(Action Helen Wildsmith)
7. Council Meeting October 2026: The Council meeting will take place at Chester-le-Street Cricket Club on 14th October 10.30a.m. to 11.30a.m. Council Meeting, 11.30a.m. to 12.30a.m. (Action Catherine Farrell)
8. Café Bridge: It was discussed about organizing a Café Bridge event in the NE area with Morpeth and Hexham mentioned as possible areas to hold it. Jill and Dave Armstrong had been to Wetherby to see how it was organized and how it worked it had been 24 boards spread over 6 places including lunch. 8 members had been in favour of it and a sub committee would be set up to organize it . Val was concerned that it wouldn't be suitable for people with mobility issues and Helen volunteered to check with other areas how they tackle this problem especially the SBU and Surrey. Mary Cousins from the EBU had offered to help with the organizing. The sub-committee was Helen, Jill and Ken and

they would report back before the Council Meeting on 14th October. (Action: Helen, Jill and Ken).

9. Simultaneous Pairs: There was going to be another Sim Pairs event on 21st, 22nd and 24th September and everything was ready to go Jonathan was going to do the results . This was a Charity event with the proceeds going to Dementia UK. It was decided that if this was going to be an annual event then there should be something for the winners to be presented at the AGM. A Sub Committee would be set up to decide which trophies could be used in the future. (Action Ken, John and Jill).
10. Selectors: The current Selectors are happy to continue with the role and a team for the Tollemache would be selected the team should be A Division people. (Action Bill, John Gladders)
11. The Next Meeting would be at the Council Meeting on 14th October 2026.
12. A.O.B. Val mentioned that she had been given the original documents from the inception of NEBA and they made fascinating reading and there was some discussion of how best to keep these historical documents and a suitable museum was mentioned. It was also suggested that a Newsletter could be sent to members instead of a Chairman's letter this would be discussed at the Council meeting.