

**NEBA Executive Committee Meeting Wednesday, 18th October 2023 at Chester-
Le-Street Cricket Club 10.30a.m.
Draft Minutes**

Present: Sue Davies (Chair)
Marion Curran (Vice Chair)
Bill March (Treasurer)
Catherine Farrell (Secretary)
Jill Armstrong (Webmaster)
John Portwood (Chief Tournament Director)
Graham Cox (Inter-Club League Secretary)
Nigel Durie (NBL)

Apologies: David Gold

David Thompson, Irina Hendrickx, Frank Bouweraerts(Congress Team)

Minutes of the last meeting

These were accepted as a true record

Matters Arising

The Congress was the main item on the agenda and an update will be given then.

Newsletter – it was noted that Liz Muir had already produced her first newsletter.

Blue Book – There was an alteration to the Blue Book on the 11th October noted by John Portwood

Shareholders – This is on the agenda

Agenda

Arrangements for the Congress – John Portwood gave an update on the Congress. All the boards have already been dealt. 15+ tables are coming from Durham on the proviso that any damage will be paid for by NEBA. Also they are lending us 20 Bridgemates. John also has at home tables, bidding boxes, cloths and Bridgemates. He has laptop, server, printer and 75% of the trophies. 1 is needed for the Newcomers section. Irina has organised a van which is scheduled to arrive between 2-2.30pm at the hotel. The following things need to be checked with Irina, if they will collect from Johns house at 1pm. His things go at the back of the van and Durhams at the front. Ask if tea, coffee and water will be available as in the past. If the hotel has 3 long tables for the TDs and 2 for the meet and greet. Ask if there will be any help from the hotel staff for setting up. And finally is it possible to have 1 sitting instead of 2. (Catherine to contact Irina re. above). John has Directors to help – Nigel Durie on Friday night, David Gold on the Saturday and Chris Benneworth on the Sunday. Irina to contact Liz Muir for her formula for awarding prizes (Catherine to ask Irina to do this). Photographs of the winners will be taken on someone's mobile phone. Bill March confirmed that the hotel had been paid. John and 2 others for the setting up on the Friday afternoon. Frank will be there to help.

Shareholding – NEBA currently hold 2 shares which are held by Nigel Durie. He is going to contact the EBU to change the shareholders name. It was suggested that in

future 1 share be held by the Chair and the other by the Vice-Chair. So when the term of office is over and the Vice-Chair takes over there is only 1 share to change for the new Vice-Chair. It was decided to put this to the Council for them to vote on.

NEBA Events – The Kings Cup which was to be on real bridge has had to be cancelled due to lack of entries. This will be revisited in the future to see if it is viable. It seems that for f2f events most people do not want to travel for much more than 30 minutes. It was decided that at the next meeting we would discuss holding blue pointed events with John Portwood.

The EBU has launched a festival of Bridge for September 2024. Jill Armstrong has agreed to start the ball rolling for NEBA and is hoping for members to help, There will be a Zoom meeting on 10th November for the managers of the festival to attend and a new website will be launched in January 2024. There will be a simultaneous event together with Cancer Research to include both affiliated and unaffiliated clubs.

The discussion re. 2024 Congress will be deferred until after this year's Congress.

Correspondence – an email has been received from a NEBA member regarding shareholders and voting at the EBU board meeting. This matter was discussed and it was decided that shareholders would be decided at the council meeting. Until we know the nominees no decision could be made with regards to voting for a new EBU Chair and Vice-Chair. Also the offer to give a presentation was discussed without a decision at the moment.

Report from the County Chairs Meeting – This was about travelling to events and the upcoming Festival of Bridge mentioned earlier.

The meeting closed at 11.30a.m.