

# North Eastern Bridge Association

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9.15 by ZOOM

Present: Graham Cox, Marion Curran, Adrian Darnell, Sue Davies, Bill March, John Portwood, and Dave Thompson

Apologies: David Gold

1. The Chair welcomed all newly elected members (notwithstanding the inquoracy of the AGM; see 7a) below).

2. It was **agreed** to formally co-opt members John Portwood as Chief Tournament Director, Dave Thompson as Congress Secretary and Graham Cox as Inter Club Secretary. It was proposed that, given his experience, the Committee would also like to co-opt the last Chair, Nigel Durie. This was **agreed** unanimously. The Secretary agreed to write and invite him to join the NEBA Executive. [Secretary's note: this has been done and ND is pleased to join us.]

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the March 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting were **received and approved** (circulated as Doc A). There were no matters arising other than those on the Agenda.

5. Matters Arising

a) Item 2d)

an update on the 2022 NEBA Calendar, prepared by GC, was **received**.

It was agreed that:

- i. all NEBA Competitions in 22/23 would be designed as face-to-face;
  - ii. with the exception of the Chronicle Cup, all competitions would be direct entry;
  - iii. the last entry date for all direct entry competitions would be 2 calendar weeks prior to the event itself;
  - iv. as Clubs have historically struggled to enter their top pairs and teams, the Club Champion events would not be held in 22/23;
  - v. the Ladies' event, The King Cup, is planned for 22/23 but it has historically attracted few entrants. If numbers are low this will be the final year of this event.
- [Secretary's note: the Executive has previously suggested a minimum entry of 6 tables for direct entry events.]

b) Item 3

DT provided an update on the 2022 NEBA Congress, including some detailed costings for a face-to-face event at the Marriot, planned for November 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

- i. based on 20 pairs (10 tables) on the Friday evening, 40 pairs (20 tables) at a two-session Saturday event and 20 teams at the Sunday two-session event, the gross loss would be c £500;
- ii. such a loss is actually better than cancelling the event now, as this will incur a c £600 forfeiture of deposit;
- iii. the assumed participation is equivalent to (roughly) one pair per NEBA Club on the Friday, two pairs per Club on the Saturday and one team per Club on the Sunday;
- iv. these estimates exclude any participation by players from outside the region;
- v. if we were to proceed then a vigorous advertising campaigning within all NEBA Clubs, and using the advertising resources of the EBU, would be necessary;
- vi. NEBA's resources could be assigned to cover any losses, but it would be more prudent to plan a Congress as a not-for-loss event.

It was **agreed** that this is not an easy problem and that the Executive would reconvene in week beginning May 30<sup>th</sup> to consider this question at a single agenda meeting.

6. Minutes of the AGM

The minutes of the April 27<sup>th</sup> AGM (circulated as Doc B) were **received**. There were no matters arising other than those noted on the Agenda.

7. Matters Arising from the AGM

a) Item 7

as the AGM was inquorate it was **agreed** to reconvene the AGM as a face-to-face meeting, as has been traditional;

- i. it was **agreed** to meet at the Durham Bridge Club on a Tuesday at 6.30 prior to the Club's 7.00 evening pairs duplicate session;
- ii. the Secretary will circulate some potential dates;
- iii. the reconvened AGM will be asked to ratify the decisions taken at the inquorate AGM and to approve the new Constitution.

a) Item 8

it was **agreed** to defer consideration of various matters raised by members at the AGM to a later Executive Meeting.

8. Charges for club heats

it was **agreed** that discussion of the principles of charging for Club Heats of NEBA Competitions had been overtaken by the decision to make all 22/23 NEBA Competitions (with the exception of the Chronicle Cup) direct entry. The historic charging arrangements will apply for the 22/23 Chronicle Cup heats.

9. Committee Roles

it was **agreed** that all current members of the Executive should write a paragraph describing their current role. A later Executive Meeting will then consider those role descriptions.

10. President's Cup 2022

SD **reported** that arrangements are almost completed and that, from this meeting, her role as Chair of the Selectors will transfer to MC. John Gladders & Damian Hassan were formally thanked for all their hard work and commitment as Selectors and it was **agreed** that SD would write to them to relay this message of thanks and invite them both to carry on in role.

11. Date of next meeting

it was **agreed** that the Executive would next meet (ordinarily) on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> at 9.15 by Zoom. MC **agreed** to set up the ZOOM meeting and send the invitations.