

NEBA AGM 31ST MAY 2024 AT 6.30P.M.
HELD AT STANNINGTON BRIDGE CLUB – MINUTES

Present: Sue and Dick Davies (Chair) Marion Curran and Chris Derrick (Vice Chair) Catherine Farrell and George Jackson (Secretary) John Portwood and Paul Ingoe (Chief Tournament Director) Jill and Dave Armstrong (Webmaster) Liz Muir and Don Reid (Congress Secretary) Gill and David Gold (Retiring Chief Tournament Secretary) Jill Hancock and Adrian Darnell (EBU Chair) Charlie Singh and Colin Mitchell Frank Bouweraerts and Irina Hendrickx Steve and Georgia Ray Chris Stenning and Beverley Godfrey Stephen Raey and David Gunn Pam and Alan Greenhill Jo Lormor and Carole Newton Norman Whitfield and Mike Lynch Valerie Henshaw and Freda Simpkin Dan Benison and Cecily Manghan John and Mary Kingcome John Gladders Apologies for absence: Graham Cox (inter-club league) Bill March (treasurer) Mary Page Susan Green Brian Pacey Brenda Osborne Ann and Eric Bell

Chairmans Introduction

Sue opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and to Stannington Bridge Club for hosting the evening. She went on to thank all members of NEBA for their hard work. Last year was the relaunch after Covid which is still continuing. The Executive Committee and the clubs are working hard to rebuild and from Council meeting reports attendance has significantly increased this year.

The NEBA events have struggled but the numbers of tables for the Hexham Summer pairs is now at a maximum and hopefully this is a turning point.

From the Council meetings ideas are put forward and Colin Mitchell (Stannington Bridge Club) has suggested changes to the Calendar. Graham Cox has done a lot of work with these ideas and incorporated them into the 2025 Calendar which is up for discussion at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Last years Congress was more successful then the previous one. Frank Bouweraerts and Irina Hendrickx were thanked for all their hard work in organising a very enjoyable and successful event. This year the Congress Secretary is Liz Muir.

David Gold the Chief Tournament Secretary is standing down after many years of service to NEBA. He was thanked for all his hard work and is willing to help his replacement settle into the role. Marion Curran (Vice Chair) was also thanked for standing in as temporary Secretary after Adrian left and until Catherine was appointed. She then went onto explain the role of the Council. The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Chief Tournament Secretary are elected at the AGM. The rest of the Executive Committee are co-opted this includes Chief Tournament Director, Inter-Club league Secretary, Webmaster and Congress Secretary. Every affiliated Bridge Club in the region has a Council representative who attends Council meetings on their behalf. Sometimes more than one member of a club will attend a Council meeting which is fine but only the designated representative can vote for that Club. It is up to the individual club who they choose to represent them. The Council has the power to co-opt any person from NEBA to assist in the furtherance of NEBA and they can have voting rights as the Council determines. The Council can appoint shareholders of the EBU. The Executive Committee looks after the day to day management of NEBA. The affairs of NEBA are vested in the Council which currently meets twice a year in March and October. The number attending Council meetings has increased since COVID which is an encouraging sign. The results of NEBA competitions and the Congress can be found on the website. Everyone was thanked for playing their part and NEBA is in a much better position than it was 12 months ago. Minutes of the AGM held at Durham Bridge Club on 16th May 2023 This meeting was inquorate and an EGM had to be raised in order for the Quoracy to be reduced. At the EGM the Quoracy was reduced from 20 to 10.

Matters arising: Dave Armstrong from the floor raised the question as to how the quoracy could be changed when the EGM was also inquorate. Adrian Darnell, former NEBA Secretary and now EBU Chairman pointed out that in the constitution it states that if the EGM is also inquorate then the number present will constitute a quorum.

Treasurers Report Unfortunately the Treasurer, Bill March had been unable to attend due to health problems. His draft report was circulated and he reported that the finances remain in a reasonable position with a healthy bank balance which could cushion us from any substantial unexpected shocks. The combination of reduced turnout for NEBA events and increased venue charges has necessitated an increase in table money in order not to run at a loss. The Congress was a special case as a commitment had to be made in advance and there was potential for a serious loss if entries were low. However numbers were enough to break even and it was the increased charges from the hotel without increased entry fees that caused a loss. The Accounts to the end of March 2024 were posted on the website showing net assets of £21,935 and the examiner Alistair Kemp had agreed to examine the accounts again and he was re-elected by the members present. Election of Officers Marion Curran (Vice Chair), Bill March (Treasurer) and Catherine Farrell (Secretary) currently co-opted were all elected by the members unopposed. The Chair runs for 3 years and Sue has one more year to run so no election was necessary. Post of Chief Tournament Secretary This is vacant and up to now no-one has shown any interest in the post. So it will have to be re-advertised.

Proposals

There were 2 proposals submitted 1. From Liz Muir re. starting an online league as some other Counties already do and this was passed by the majority.

2. From Dave Armstrong re. changes in the shareholding and constitution. This created a lengthy discussion and in the end nothing was resolved so it was decided to defer the proposal and it would be discussed and decided on at the next Council meeting.

Trophies The club who wins their Division in the inter-club league is awarded a Trophy. The winner of the 1st Division was Brunton Bridge Club A team, the 2nd Division was Wearside Bridge Club A team and the 3rd Division was Durham Bridge Club B team.

A.O.B.

Under A.O.B. Dave Armstrong raised various questions to do with the Constitution.

Catherine Farrell had already been looking into making amendments to the Constitution and it was agreed after a lengthy discussion that a sub committee would be set up to amend the current Constitution. The meeting concluded at 7.15p.m. and was followed by Bridge and refreshments.