

## **NEBA Executive meeting on Zoom Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 10a.m.**

Present:

Marion Curran (Chair)

Graham Cox (Vice Chair)

Bill March (Treasurer)

John Portwood (Chief Tournament Director)

Helen Wildsmith (Chief Tournament Director)

Catherine Farrell (Secretary)

Jill Armstrong (Webmaster)

Bev. Godfrey (Exec. Support)

Andy Clarke (Exec. Support)

Val Gibson (Exec. Support)

1. Apologies for absence Liz Muir (Exec. Support), Sue Davies (Exec. Support), Mary Page (Exec. Support), Brian Pacey (Exec. Support)
2. The minutes of the last meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Jill Armstrong and Seconded by John Portwood.
3. Matters arising are mostly dealt with under the Agenda. Re. the Complaint to the EBU Marion had sent out an apology.
4. It was decided that future Zoom Meeting would start at 9.30a.m. as the later time clashed with other peoples commitments.
5. Helen updated the committee on the Congress. The Northern 5 inaugural events would start with the Lancashire Congress then NEBA Congress followed by Manchester and Yorkshire and Westmorland, Kendal Bridge Club would run their own. Publicity would start at Easter followed by the Scarborough Congress. Jonathan would be directing and John Portwood wouldn't need to deal any boards everything would be organised by Oliver Cowan. The overall prizes would be EBU level . Helen had put table slips at the Chronicle semi final. It would also be advertised at the Harrogate Congress. **Action Helen Wildsmith**
6. Chronicle Cup – As there was a large imbalance in numbers between the North and South of the region . Direct entry was discussed as there are fewer active players in the South than the North. It was unanimously agreed that this should be discussed at the next Council meeting. Helen agreed to send out a paper before the Council meeting for the reps. To put to their members (Since the meeting Norman Gray, the former Chief Tournament Director, had submitted a paper with some suggestions for improving future events. This is also being circulated to Club Reps. For discussion at the next Council meeting.) **Action Helen Wildsmith**
7. At the Chronicle Cup Semifinal at Brunton there had been a breakdown with the scoring at the half way point and travellers had to be used for the second half. After looking into it John reported that the fault appeared to be when they were printing the

half time results using the same USB port and in future it would be better use a separate USB port for the Bridgemates. There had been no problems in the final which had been hosted by Wearside and everyone had enjoyed the day.

For the Corwen we were allowed 3 entries and to go down to 8<sup>th</sup> place. The 31<sup>st</sup> March is the closing date for the Corwen Trophy and Helen was going to write to the top 3 and move on from there down the list. **Action Helen Wildsmith.**

8. Online Teams – For teams who have to drop out for any reason it was recommended that we use the guidelines set out in the EBU White Book when allocating whether master points can be earned. **Action Marion Curran**
9. 9 High Corwen – Catherine reported that the entry form was on the website but entries were slow and she would start pushing it at the end of the month. Andy Clarke of Whitley Bay hadn't received any notification about it and it hadn't been promoted at his club so another copy of the details would be sent to him (**Action Catherine**)
10. It was decided to ask the Council how they wanted to fit in the extra Green Pointed Event which we had been allowed by the EBU. (**Action Marion at Council**)
11. Calendar 2026/27 – Helen reported that she had prepared a draft Calendar but just needed to tweak it slightly and to check if we can move the inter-club league to end September, October and December leaving November free.
12. Graham was going to look into the new Bridgemate 3 system and also scoring tablets and we could discuss whether to update our system at the next meeting. **Action Graham Cox**
13. Items for the Council Meeting – Some have been mentioned earlier but one item is asking Reps to encourage their members to make more use of the NEBA website.
14. A.O.B.
  - (i) That there would be a 2pm start for events in the summer.
  - (ii) There is a lack of support for the Niman Israel and it was suggested that we run a handicap teams event alongside . This was to be put to the Council .
  - (iii) The time for the Council Meeting would be 10.30a.m. to 11.30a.m. followed by the Executive Committee Meeting 11.30a.m. to 12.30p.m.
  - (iv) The prize money for the Chronicle Cup hadn't been presented at the time and after factoring in the room hire, refreshments, TD and EBU charges there should be an excess for prize money.
15. The meeting closed at 11.30a.m.