

# North Eastern Bridge Association

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, November 20<sup>th</sup> 2019, held at Durham Bridge Club, Framwellgate Moor.

1. Present: Sue Davies (Vice Chair in the chair), Graham Cox (Inter Club Secretary), David Gold (Chief Tournament Secretary), Liz Muir (Congress Secretary) and Adrian Darnell (Secretary). Apologies were received from Nigel Durie (Chair), Norman Gray (Chief Tournament Director) and Bill March (Treasurer)
2. The Minutes of the Executive Meeting, October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019 (Doc A) were received and approved.
3. There were no matters arising
4. An oral report from The Congress Secretary, Liz Muir, was received and several matters were considered.

(i) Costs and Pricing

**Agreed**

Notwithstanding an increase in the price of the Sunday lunch, the prices for the 2020 Congress will be held at the 2019 levels.

(ii) late cancellations

A major challenge this year had been the volume of late cancellations. The Hotel require confirmation of numbers one calendar week prior to the start of the congress, and require full payment for the agreed number of mid-day meals on the Saturday and Sunday. The NEBA receive no refund for cancellations, and pay for any additional meals.

**Agreed**

Given the price of the meals, any late cancellations which involve the Saturday or Sunday (a late cancellation is defined as one received by the Congress Secretary in the 7 days prior to the start of the Congress) will incur a cancellation charge of £18 per day. (Thus, if the full Congress costs £90 and a participant cancels late then they would receive a refund of £90 less  $2 \times £18 = £54$ ). This policy will be made clear on the website and in all publicity.

(iii) late entries

The room capacity is 40 tables. However, for the Swiss Teams 39 tables would exceed the capacity as it requires a triple.

**Agreed**

The capacity for Swiss Teams will be set at 38 teams.

(iv) Dates

The 2020 Congress will run from November 6<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup>. It is hoped that this date will not clash with any other large events in the County and, in particular, that this will be convenient for all Newcomers who wish to participate.

(v) Juniors

**Agreed**

There will be a reduced rate for Juniors, set at £55 for the whole Congress (£5 for Friday and £25 for each of Saturday and Sunday).

(vi) Entry Form

**Agreed**

The Form requires the applicant's contact details, but in future will not their EBU Number.

(vii) VP Scales

**Agreed**

To place a VP Scale on every table (where relevant to the format of the match).

(viii) Bridgemate settings

**Agreed**

To look further into the Bridgemates settings in order to minimise the chance of North entering the wrong Board number.

(ix) Prizes

To look further into the logistics to ensure that all prizes are awarded at the relevant time.

The Congress Secretary was thanked for having run such a successful Congress (and congratulated for having been so successful personally).

5. A report from The Chief Tournament Director, Norman Gray, was received and considered.

**Noted**

The issue of triples was identified and it was suggested that, were there triples in a future Congress, it would be best to have a Director dedicated to the triple.

**Agreed**

The hire of the PA system was a great improvement.

**Noted**

Chris Benneworth had planned to hire an NEBA dealing machine for an Overseas Congress but it is likely he will not avail himself of the offer as the EBU have almost certainly addressed the issue.

6. AOB

There was no AOB.