

North Eastern Bridge Association

Executive Committee Meeting held on August 15th 2019 at
10.30 am, Durham Bridge Club, Framwellgate Moor.

Minutes

1. Welcome and Apologies and Thanks

The new Vice-Chair, Sue Davies, and the new Treasurer, Bill March, were welcomed to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Norman Gray and Liz Muir.

David was thanked for his hard work in successfully delivering the 2019/20 NEBA Booklet.

2. Received the Minutes of the AGM, June 12th 2019 (Doc A)

3. Matters Arising

Following the AGM, Bill March kindly offered to take on the Treasurer role.

The Executive Committee agreed unanimously, and with thanks, to co-opt Bill to the position of Treasurer for 2019/20. This will be forwarded to the next meeting of Council for ratification.

4. Received the Minutes of the last Executive Meeting, June 15th 2019 (Doc B)

5. Matters arising:

Item 3(ii)b): The King Cup has been arranged for **Thursday 3rd October** at St George's (which is not the date in the Booklet).

The proposal (from Bev Godfrey) that the King Cup be open to all women players regardless of County Affiliation was considered and agreed (while noting that this decision sets no precedent with regard to other NEBA Competitions which are currently NEBA Members only).

Secretary's Note: after the meeting it was agreed to set a £1 additional entry fee to the competition for non-NEBA members.

Agreed

The Secretary would alert all clubs to date and place and new eligibility rules of the King Cup.

Item 3(ii)c) and e): The Inter Club dates are all now arranged and publicised, and thanks were offered to Graham Cox for arranging this.

Item 3(ii)f): A supervised players' County event was considered.

Agreed

A new NEBA Competition, open to members who play in supervised events, would be held in late April 2020 (Saturday or Sunday April 18/19), at a venue yet to be determined. Entrants will be invited from those who self-identify as regular players in supervised events.

The Secretary would alert all clubs of this new event, and also write to those teachers in the County who appear on our website.

6. To consider, *as a matter of great urgency*, the website

Noted that

Neil Aiston has posted as follows "The final update to this website will be AUGUST 31st 2019. The site will remain accessible until November, giving sufficient time for you to download any information you may need."

Neil's contribution to NEBA as its webmaster for many years (and in other dimensions) was recognised and our grateful thanks are recorded by this Minute.

The importance of the Website cannot be underestimated.

Agreed that:

- a) one member should have overall control of the site as the Webmaster;
 - b) the new website should permit a (small) number of other members to upload new material;
 - c) there is a strong desire to keep all the current material and ways to effect an easy migration from the current site to a new site should be explored;
 - d) Nigel agreed to explore the use of Bridgewebs;
 - e) Graham agreed to explore the migration possibilities with Neil;
 - f) Nigel agreed to sound out various members as the new Webmaster.
7. **Received** the Minutes of the Council Meeting of June 12th 2019 (Doc C).
Recruitment was considered. A small number of NEBA Clubs seem to be experiencing low levels of participation.
Agreed
That Nigel, with other members, would aim to visit a limited of number of clubs in the near future to offer support.
8. **To receive and consider** reports on:
(i) NEBA Finances
Bill was thanked for having taken over the role and for submitting a statement of the position over the 4 months of the Financial Year to July 2019. A copy is filed with the Minutes. Income exceeds outgoings, and there were no issues to note.
(ii) the Congress
It was reported that sponsorship had been accepted. The winners of the Newcomers Pairs event will be awarded Arena Travel vouchers.
9. **Received** a report from the Chief Tournament Director (submitted after the papers had been circulated – a copy is filed with these Minutes).
Agreed
That as the bases for the Summer Pairs Cup and the Swiss Pairs Cup were now full, new bases should be bought.
The Executive would monitor the entries to NEBA Competitions, and decide which should go ahead in future years. All competitions are all held on a 'not-for-loss' basis and for most a break-even point is 10 tables.
10. **Considered** the situation at the Newcastle Bridge Club.
The Executive understands that the Newcastle club is running successfully but faces some challenges in filling all the positions on its executive committee.
Agreed
the NEBA Exec has no responsibility of oversight towards the affiliated clubs; but that, if invited, the NEBA Exec would offer advice and support as necessary to any Club.
The Secretary would write to the Club to seek some clarification of the current situation.
11. **Considered** the current accumulation of unallocated trophies.
Agreed
Nigel, Liz and Adrian (who hold some of the old trophies) would deliver them to St George's and that Nigel would then assess the scale of the situation and report back.
12. **Received** an oral report on the Northern Counties Working Party meeting of August 14 2019.
Points to note:
a) David Guild has emailed all NEBA Clubs inviting them to participate in recruitment drives, but none have yet responded;
b) The EBU have funds to cofund a Club's agreed marketing programme;

- c) The EBED also have a fund which will contribute up to 50% of a Club's rental expenditure on teaching rooms;
- d) Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association are hosting a 'Techno Day' in November 2019. The programme and other details will be circulated once they are finalised.
- e) An EBU proposal to increase UMS (pay-to-play) by 1 or 2p was discussed. The proposal was not welcomed, and a counter-proposal from AD to the Working Group was approved. This read as follows:
"Given the healthy state of EBED's reserves, and noting the large annual donations made by the EBU to the EBED, the EBU should reduce their planned donation to the EBED by at least the amount which the UMS increase was planned to generate. This will then leave the UMS rate no greater than as present."

Agreed

The Secretary would circulate all NEBA Clubs with information on the EBU and EBED funds.

13. **Received** an oral report on the Tollemache, to take place over 16/17 November.

Agreed

The team would comprise 5 pairs and a playing captain.

NEBA would cover the expenses of accommodation, the entry fee, and meals (not travel).

Sue, as Chair of the Selectors, plans to invite the team members within the next few days.

14. **Received** an oral report on the Inter Club Competition

Two teams, Newcastle B and Chester-le-Street B, have not entered this year.

Agreed

As the bottom two leagues now comprise 4 teams in each, relegation and promotion will involve one up, one down.

15. AOB

- (i) Expanding the Executive by co-option was considered.

Agreed

To invite the (new, yet-to-be-appointed) Webmaster to the Executive.

- (ii) Next Exec meeting

Agreed

The tentative date, October 23rd, was confirmed. The meeting will take place at the Durham Bridge Club, starting at 10.30.

- (iii) Next Council Meeting

Agreed

The tentative date of November 20th will be moved a week later to November 27th at 11.00.

The Secretary will book this at the Chester-le-Street Cricket Club.

If there is any business there will also be an Exec Meeting that day, starting at 10.00.