

North Eastern Bridge Association

Minutes of the NEBA Executive Meeting, March 13th 2019

1. Present:
Liz Muir (Chair), Nigel Durie, David Gold, Steve Ray and Adrian Darnell
Apologies
were received from Graham Cox and Norman Gray
2. Received and Approved:
the Minutes of the January 30th 2019 meeting (Doc A, filed with the papers of the meeting).
3. Matters arising
The Secretary reported that the draft Disciplinary Process has been submitted to the EBU for comment which has remitted consideration to a member of the Laws & Ethics Committee. The Secretary was asked to seek clarification over the EBU's likely response time.
4. Received and Approved
the Minutes of the 30th January 2019 Council Meeting (Doc B, filed with the papers of the meeting).
5. Matters arising
Agreed
The NEBA will adopt the EBU's 'staggered' approach re age limits, with effect from the start of the 2019/20 season of events (see Minute 8 of Doc B).
6. Received and Approved
A report from the Treasurer (Doc C, filed with the papers of the meeting).
Noted
 - (i) the finances remain in a very healthy state;
 - (ii) few clubs had, as yet, sought reimbursement for the Directors' Course.
7. Received
the draft 2019/20 Calendar from the Secretary (Doc D, filed with the papers of the meeting).
A number of suggestions and amendments were made.
Agreed
The Secretary would contact all the Secretaries of those Clubs scheduled to act as hosts of NEBA events to confirm (a) the willingness of the Club to host and (b) the Club's availability on the proposed dates.
Once those details were resolved the Secretary would publicise the Calendar.
8. **Considered** the future of the NEICKO competition (as the Pachebo qualifier competition).
Agreed
That as from the start of the 2019/20 season:
 - (i) the NEICKO competition would be renamed "The Kempson Cup";
 - (ii) it would operate as a blackpointed league;
 - (iii) it would be open to teams of 4/6;
 - (iv) the number of teams would be determined by the entry number;
 - (v) if the number of teams was small it would operate as one league in which every team played every other team; otherwise it would be established as two leagues (one in the 'north', one in the south' and the winners of each league would then play in a final to determine the winning team);
 - (vi) the winning team will then play in the Pachebo competition.**Agreed**
To **defer** consideration of the Kempson Vase becoming a Greenpointed event to the next meeting.
9. **Considered** the arrangements for the AGM.
Agreed
The Secretary would circulate the following to all Club Secretaries and place this prominently on the Web:
"As per the Constitution, nominations are invited from NEBA members for five positions (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Chief Tournament Director). Nominations should be received by the Secretary (at nebasec@btinternet.com) by 5.00pm on Friday June 7th for inclusion on the Agenda. Nominations should be proposed and seconded by NEBA members, and the nominee should indicate their willingness to be nominated for the named position. Nominations may be received at the Meeting."
Secretary's Note: this was circulated on March 14th.

The Secretary also undertook to write to the holders of those trophies which are awarded at the AGM seeking their return.

10. Received

an oral report from the Secretary who attended the Northern Counties Working Party Meeting (NCWPM) on 6th March 2019. The Agenda (Doc E) is filed with the papers of the meeting.

Noted

- (i) EBED has introduced a small clubs grant, up to £500 maximum, to assist clubs who rent their premises to rent a teaching room. Clubs must show a 'growth through teaching rationale' and identify their financial need. Through these Minutes the scheme would be publicised;
- (ii) The NCWP proposed a 'Northern Masters level Competition', with a provisional date of May 12th. Notwithstanding the NEBA's enthusiasm, it was decided that given the notice this could not be supported this year but would look forward to a proposal for the coming year, 2019/20.
- (iii) the 'Keep Bridge Alive' project, managed by Prof Samantha Punch of Stirling University, has been publicised to all Counties and all Clubs and donations to support the employment of two Research Assistants has been sought.

Agreed

The NEBA would not contribute, having noted that the EBU has itself declined to contribute.

(iv) Membership recruitment

Club membership remains an important issue, and David Guild (Board Member & Regional Development Officer of the Yorkshire BA) offered to come to talk the NEBA about the Yorkshire recruitment project.

Agreed

To invite David to come the next meeting the NEBA Council (12th June, see 12d) below).

11. Received

a report from the Chief Tournament Director (a copy is filed with the papers of the meeting).

12. AOB

- a) The need to agree and publicise a Correction Period for NEBA events was identified; this item was **deferred** to the next meeting;
- b) It was **agreed** to maintain the publication of a physical NEBA programme in booklet form;
- c) The Vice Chair and Secretary **agreed** to explore sponsorship of the 2019/20 NEBA Booklet;
- d) The next meeting of Council is to be moved from 8th May to 12th June;
- e) It was **agreed** to seek entrants to the 2019 Presidents Cup (an inter-county teams of eight competition run by Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge to be held at Bradford BC on 29th/30th June); the Vice Chair undertook to make the arrangements;
- f) Arena Travel have offered prizes (in the form of travel vouchers) for bridge events contested by more than 25 tables. It was **agreed** to accept this offer for the 2019 Congress and use the prizes in the beginners' section in addition to any prizes otherwise offered by the NEBA;
- g) It was **agreed** that any trophies in need of maintenance would be repaired as necessary;
- h) A 'supervised players' competition was proposed, to be played as a pairs event over 24 boards. It was **agreed** to pursue this for July 2019 and the Secretary **agreed** to explore the possibility of using the Durham Club.