

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, held virtually,
Friday May 29th 2020 at 10.00 am

1. Present Nigel Durie (Chair), Graham Cox (Inter Club Secretary), Sue Davies (Vice Chair), David Gold (Chief Tournament Secretary), Norman Gray (Chief Tournament Director) Bill March (Treasurer) Liz Muir (Congress Secretary) and Adrian Darnell (Secretary). There were no apologies.
2. The Minutes of the Executive Meeting, Feb 5th 2020, were received and approved.
3. There were no Matters Arising not otherwise on the Agenda.
4. The 2019/20 interclub competition

Agreed

the current placings, as advertised on the website, comprising a small number of attributed results in the last round only, **shall stand**.

5. I. NEBA Congress November, 2020

Agreed

this event shall be **cancelled**.

Noted

- a) Liz has liaised with the Hotel and they will not charge a cancellation fee;
- b) Liz will write a note announcing the cancellation for the website and write to those Counties which have regularly attended the Congress;

- II. NEBA Congress November, 2021

Noted

The Hilton have, regrettably, taken a provisional booking for the first weekend of November 2021.

Agreed

- a) Liz will seek to confirm the November 5/6/7 dates for 2021;
- b) failing that Liz will seek to book November 12/13/14 2021, subject to EBU approval.

Noted

The EBU calendar for 2021 has no clashing events for the later weekend, although this may clash with a Yorkshire event (their Calendar is not currently available for 2021).

6. NEBA vs Scotland match; and President's Cup.
Sue is liaising with John Gladders and Damian Hassan to pick a team for this match, which will be played online.
Nigel is finalising the team for the President's Cup, which will also be played online.
7. NEBA finances
Bill reported that there is currently no activity on the account, neither costs nor income.
Agreed
 - a) Kempson Vase entries, when paid by BACS, will remain on account as a credit to the payers; when paid by an uncashed cheque the cheque will not be cashed and the payers informed accordingly.
 - b) To approach Chris Hope to audit the 2019/20 accounts.
8. Support for NEBA clubs
Noted
No Clubs have approached the NEBA to report any financial or other challenges.
9. the EBU meeting of County Chairs and Secretaries, May 20th.
Noted
 - a) EBU finances are seriously damaged by the loss of all its competition income and from the loss of UMS from games in affiliated Clubs;
 - b) the loss of income from Clubs is not compensated by UMS from online games;
 - c) some affiliated Clubs are reported as having online activity but are not submitting the results for UMS payment;
 - d) the EBU could become insolvent without significant increases in income.

Agreed

the Secretary would circulate the email of May 8th from Gordon Rainsford to all Clubs, emphasising the financial difficulties the EBU is experiencing.

Secretary's Note

In correspondence with the CEO of the EBU after the meeting the EBU view is understood to be that if any one of the following conditions holds:

- a) the Club website advertises the sessions;
- b) players are contacted using the Club's email/phone database
- c) 'table money' is paid into the Club account;
- d) the results appear on the Club website;

then the activity is *prima facie* a Club event and UMS should be paid.

10. Update on clubs online

Noted

the Secretary, having contacted all NEBA Clubs, reported that while most had not responded it seems that only Castle Morpeth/Morpeth and Durham have an online presence.

11. NEBA and online bridge presence

Noted

The NEBA has no 'County' presence online and there are many good reasons to run some competitions.

Agreed

The Secretary would contact Jonathan Lillycrop at the EBU to investigate the possibility of running a NEBA pairs competition, monthly.

12. NEBA tournaments for 2020/21

Agreed

That there was no option at present but to abandon planning for 20/21. As and when the situation changes this would be revisited as a matter of the utmost urgency (noting, especially, the need for a resolution to the issue of the format of the Pachabo qualifiers).

13. The NEBA AGM

Agreed

That there was no option at present but to maintain the postponement of the May 2020 AGM.

The Secretary would, through circulation of these Minutes, alert all Clubs that the AGM is postponed *sine die*.