

NEBA Executive meeting on Zoom Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 10a.m.

Present:

Marion Curran (Chair)

Graham Cox (Vice Chair)

Bill March (Treasurer)

John Portwood (Chief Tournament Director)

Helen Wildsmith (Chief Tournament Secretary)

Catherine Farrell (Secretary)

Jill Armstrong (Webmaster)

Oliver Cowan

Sue Davies

Brian Pacey

Liz Muir

1. Apologies for absence: Bev. Godfrey (Darlington bridge club), Andy Clarke (Whitley Bay Bridge Club)
2. The amended minutes of the last meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025 were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Bill and Seconded by Helen.
3. Matter arising are mostly dealt with under the Agenda: The Complaint that had arisen after the last Congress had been dealt with and the EBU had now officially declared that no further action would be taken. The issue over the tables had been sorted out and John had practiced simulated events on the new computer with no problem .
4. The first matter on the agenda to be dealt with was the 2026 Congress. Oliver Cowan attended the meeting to discuss his plan for our next Congress. After visiting various locations, he had found that the best value and most suitable venue to be Blackwell Grange, Darlington. This would be a 2-day Congress Swiss Pairs on the Saturday and Swiss Teams on the Sunday, there was more flexibility for participants than we had been able to offer in the past., with several different options for meals. Oliver was thanked for his input and Helen agreed to liaise with him for taking this forward. Those present voted in favour of this going ahead 9 for 2 against

**.(ActionOC/HW)**

5. Chronicle Cup semi finals – Graham reported that all the qualifiers had been contacted and the 2 events had been organised ready for the event. The biggest problem was the huge imbalance between the numbers wanting to play at Darlington and Brunton. Graham was trying to boost the numbers at Darlington to try and rectify the problem.

**(Action GC)**

6. Online Teams – Due to health problems one of the teams had had to drop out and all matches involving the missing matches would have to be cancelled

It was agreed to go ahead with another online teams in March with a second division for lower ranked players (possibly J or 9 high) . Liz Muir suggested that it would be easier to organise teams if the league were held on one particular day. There followed a discussion about weekdays and clashes with NTL and club nights, Sunday was suggested. which makes things easier to organise . Also the league isn't restricted to just EBU players SBU and WBU and other Countries would be eligible to play in it MC agreed to contact team captains to seek their preferences

**(Action MC)**

7. 9 High Corwen – the qualifying round is on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 2,00pm on BBO . Catherine offered to organize it and has since sent emails to all club Secretaries asking them to promote it in their clubs. The entry form is already on the NEBA website

**(Action CMF)**

8. As we have been offered another Green pointed event by the EBU it was agreed to liaise with Jonathan to see if it is viable to upgrade the Durham Category Pairs to be held in September or keep it as Blue pointed.

**(Action JP)**

9. Calendar 2026/27 – Helen was happy to put the Calendar together and would have something to present for the next Council meeting . Mary Page had offered to help with it if needed , and Helen would lead

**(Action HW)**

10. Executive Support – Marion had emailed various past Executive Committee members and had a good response. Brian Pacey had agreed to help Graham if he needed any help with the inter-club league, Mary Page had offered to help Helen with the Calendar, Sue Davies had agreed to help with any disciplinary complaints. Liz Muir and Val Gibson had also offered their help if needed.
11. Future Simultaneous Pairs – Catherine had contacted Jonathan and he had agreed that if we held any future Sims Pairs he would be happy for the files to be sent to him so he can solve any incompatibility.
12. A.O.B. -Bill mentioned the passing of Mike Allan and his obituary is now on the NEBA website.

The next meeting is on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 10.00am on Zoom before the Council Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at Chester-le-Street Cricket Club. The meeting closed at 11.30a.m.