

NEBA HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

Working Draft – Version 5

North Eastern Bridge Association
and its predecessor,
Northumberland & Durham Contract Bridge Association

Prepared as a simple working archive for Committee consideration

How this draft is organised

The purpose of this draft is to keep the historical material together in one place while making a clear distinction between the official minute book and supporting reference material.

1. MINUTE BOOK	2. REFERENCE MATERIAL
Original minute-book images followed by a readable working transcription, arranged chronologically.	Photographs, newspaper material, later histories, correspondence and research notes.

The original images are retained as evidence. Transcriptions and explanatory notes are kept separate so that later interpretation does not silently alter the historical record.

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PART 1 — MINUTE BOOK

Original minute-book material is placed first. Each meeting can be added in chronological order as further pages are supplied.

A Council meeting was held in the
Hibernian Club on Mon. March 11th /66, Mr
Gladstone in the Chair. Present: Capt
Kempson, Messrs. Carpenter, Fraser, Marks,
Tweedle, Robson & Craik. An apology for
absence was received from Mr. Wraith.
The minutes of the last meeting were read &
confirmed.

Presidents
Trophy

The sec. reported that owing to the intervention
of the Sunday Sun Club qualifying rounds only
2 Wednesday were available for the Presidents
Trophy if the original closing date of May 1st
was adhered to. Mr Robson prop. that the
closing date be extended to May 5th & Mr
Carpenter sec. Mr Marks sub. forward an
amendment that the original date of May 1st
be adhered to, Capt Kempson sec. On the

The surviving minute book.

amendment being put to the meeting, it was declared carried. A letter was read from Mr. Fail, Morkelt, asking that the two first teams in the Morkelt Golf Club competition should seek for promotion to the North Eastern League. The Sec reported that he had written Mr. Fail pointing out the obvious injustice of such inclusion, but saying he would copy Mr. Fail's letter to the notice of the Council. Capt. Kenson moved that the secretary's letter to Mr. Fail be endorsed. Mr. Carpenter seconded, & the resolution was carried. The ~~Business~~ Finance Sub-Committee reported on their deliberations, but as they were not complete, they had adjourned their meeting for further deliberation, & they were asked to report to the Council at the May meeting. The Sec called the attention of the Council to the amended bye law of the E.B.C. relating to subscriptions. Capt. Kenson proposed that the Sec write saying that it was not proposed to raise the N.E.C.B. a annual subscriptions. On Mr. Carpenter pointing out that the bye-law was still ambiguous, Capt. Kenson withdrew his resolution, & it was agreed.

Inner page: "North'd & Durham Contract Bridge Association — May 1st /35".

MIN-001 — Inaugural Meeting

Date: Wednesday 1 May 1935, 6.30 p.m.

Place: Chronicle Hall

Association: Northumberland & Durham Contract Bridge Association

Attendance: About 100

Original minute-book pages

25

that the matter be left alone until the point was clarified.

Mr Twiddle raised the question of the placing in the League Sections, & suggested that in the case of a tie, the positions should be decided on aggregate scores. Mr Robson opposed this. Mr Twiddle then moved that in the case of a tie between two or more teams, the teams play a deciding match. Mr Fraser seconded, & this was carried.

Re Master points. Mr Robson suggested that in an aggregate competition running throughout the season, the winners should be entitled to more than one match point. Capt Kenyon proposed that 3 points be given to the winner, 2 to the second, & 1 to the third. Mr Nash seconded. Carried.

The sec. reported that he had had a conversation with Mr Ross, of Sunderland, who was anxious to get competitive bridge going in that town. He also reported that on behalf of the Council, he had promised Mr Ross the help of the N & D C B A in promoting bridge in Sunderland.

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The final day & presentation of prizes was fixed
for Saturday May 4th.
The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday
April 8th at 6:15 p.m.
A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the
business.

Wm. Ernest Glendon
8th April, 1946.

A Council meeting was held in the Hibbard Club on Monday April 8th Mr W. E. Gladstone in the chair. Also present, Capt. Kenyon, Messrs. Weddell, Fraser, Cashner, Campbell, Conon, Robson, Marks, Wraith & Cooke.

The secretary read the minutes of the last meeting, which were confirmed.

Going on to the minutes, the sec. reported that he had received a letter from Mr. Fraser, saying that his team would be unable to be present that day. It was agreed to let the Competitions finish before May 1st, & to adhere to that date for the presentation of trophies & prizes.

A letter was read from Mr. B. M. Marks tendering his resignation from the Council. The

resignation was accepted with regret, & the sec was instructed to write Mr. Marsh to that effect & at the same time thank him for his valued services in the past.

A letter was also read from Mr. Ross re the development of bridge in Sunderland.

The Treasurer presented a statement showing 448 members on the register, & a balance at the bank of £205.2.2. He recommended that prize money for the various competitions should be allotted as follows:—

Kempson Cup winners,	4 x £1-10-0	vouchers	Reveries, P. & J. C. & Co.
King	1 x £15/-	do	do
Collins	2 x £1-5-0	do	1 x do
League	4 x £1-10-0	do	4 x 15/- vouchers

3rd 8 packs Cards

Individual winner £3-3-0 do £2-2-0 vouchers

3rd & 4th 2 x £1-1-0 vouchers.

Saturday Pairs:— 1 £5-5-0 do 3+4 2 x £1-10-0
2 £3-3-0 do 5+6 2 x £1-1-0

Heat 12 2 packs Cards each

10 x Thursday Pairs — President's Trophy

1 £3-3-0 voucher	3+4 2 x £1-1-0 vouchers
2 £2-2-0 do	5+6 2 x 10/6 do.

Working transcription

This is a working transcription for ease of reading. Where a name or word cannot yet be read with confidence, it is marked [?]. The original pages above remain the authoritative source.

Opening. The inaugural meeting of the Northumberland & Durham Contract Bridge Association was held in the Chronicle Hall on Wed. May 1st 1935 at 6.30 p.m. About 100 were present.

Chairman. Mr. D. Summerfield proposed, and Mr. J. J. Wraith seconded, that Capt. Ewart Kempson take the chair. Carried unanimously.

Aims. Capt. Kempson briefly stated that the aims of the Association were to encourage the game among all classes in Northumberland, Durham & Cleveland; to foster the formation of local Associations; choose representative teams; promote competitions; and above all healthy fellowship.

Chronicle trophies. The Hon. Secretary read a letter from Mr. V. Ewart Berry stating that the Chronicle were willing to hand over to the Association the cups presented for (a) the North v. South Contest and (b) the North of England Pairs Championship, conditionally on the Association keeping the cups in good order and insuring them, and provided that the entire proceeds from (b) be handed over to the Chronicle Sunshine Fund. The entrance fee for the event was to remain at 2/6 per player (5/- per pair).

Kempson trophy. He also read a letter from Capt. Kempson stating that he was willing to hand over the cup presented for the Northumberland & Durham Team Championship, also on condition that it was kept in good order and insured.

Thanks. The meeting passed a vote of thanks to the donors and the Secretary was instructed to write thanking them.

Officers and Council. Mr. V. Ewart Berry was unanimously elected President. The manuscript then records the election of other officers and Council members. Some names and initials remain difficult to read and should be checked against later contemporary records before the transcription is treated as final.

Subscription. A proposal that the annual subscription be five shillings was followed by an amendment that the subscription be two shillings and sixpence. The amendment was carried by a large majority.

League. A discussion took place on the practicability and advisability of running a league. On a show of hands there was a large majority in favour, and the Council was instructed to ask for entries.

Rules and close. The Council was empowered to draft a set of rules and submit them to a general meeting for approval at an early date. A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings. The final page is signed and dated 29.5.35.

Transcription note

The later 1935–1985 history is useful for checking names, but it is a later secondary source. Names should therefore not be silently substituted into this transcription solely because they appear in that history.

MIN-002 — General Meeting

Date: Wednesday 29 May 1935

Place: Chronicle Hall

Attendance: About 50 members

Original minute-book pages

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A general meeting of the North Eastern Contract Bridge Assoc^s was held in the Chronicle Hall on Wed May 29th/35. About 80 members were present. Dr. Steel proposed, Mr F. H. Smith seconded that Mr. Kynpson take the chair.

The Chairman referred briefly to the local success at the Southport Bridge Congress.

Rules A draft copy of the rules, as proposed by Mr W. E. Gledstone & the Hon. Sec was put before the meeting for acceptance.

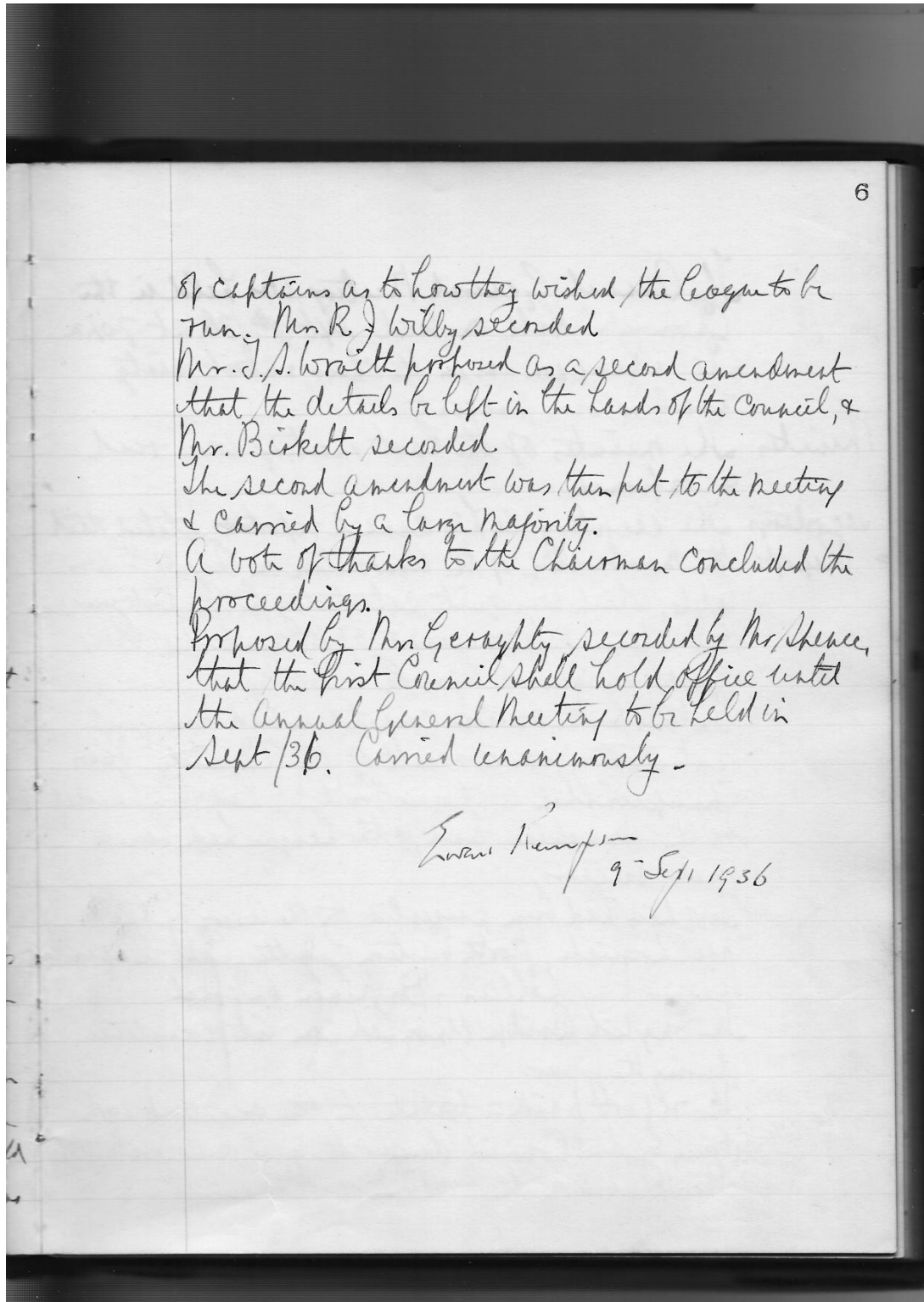
Mr. J. Geraghty proposed, Mr. Birckett seconded that the rules be taken in session.

The rules were adopted as drafted with the exception of Rule 4 (c) for "five" read "seven".

Mr. Hebble proposed that an assistant secretary be appointed. This was not seconded.

League Mr Gledstone put forward a proposition that the League be run on a district basis for the first year. Thereafter, that the top team in each district form "The" League for the following year, the remainder to carry on in districts, with a scheme for promotion & relegation each year. Mr. D. Sumnerhill seconded.

Mr. J. Smith proposed that conditional entries shall be sent in before July 31st, together with the suggestion



Working transcription / notes

A General Meeting of the North Eastern Contract Bridge Association was held in the Chronicle Hall on Wednesday 29 May 1935. About 50 members were present. Capt. Kempson took the chair.

The Chairman referred briefly to the success of the Northworth(?) Bridge Congress. The draft rules were considered and, after discussion and amendments, adopted. The meeting also discussed how the League should be run, including district representation and arrangements for entries and fixtures.

The minutes record a further proposal that the first Council should hold office until the Annual General Meeting to be held in September 1936; this was carried unanimously. The pages are signed by Ewart Kempson and dated 9 September 1936.

Transcription note: several names and some wording remain difficult to read. They should be checked against later contemporary records rather than silently corrected.

MIN-003 — Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday 9 September 1936, 7.00 p.m.

Place: Chronicle Hall

Chair: Capt. Kempson

Original minute-book pages

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The Annual General Meeting was held in the Chronicle Hall on Wed. Sept 9th /36, at 7.0pm. Capt. Kempson was in the Chair, & about sixty members were present.

Minutes The minutes of the last meeting were read & confirmed.

Secretary's Report. The secretary, in his annual report, stated that the membership of the Association on Aug 31st was 444, which was quite satisfactory for the first year, but stressed the necessity of the membership being greatly increased before the end of next year. Entries for the various competitions had been quite satisfactory, & as a result of the "Chronicle" Pair Championship a cheque for £24 had been handed to the Sunshine Fund, & the League had been a great success. Trophies had been presented to the Assoc. by the "The Chronicle" North Eastern Gazette, Capt. Kempson, Messrs. King & Collins, & Drs. Pinner & Israel. The English Bridge Union had come into existence during the year. The report paid a tribute to the excellent work done by the Council during the year, & congratulated the members on their choice of representatives.

Treasurer Report The Hon Treasurer presented his report & statement of accounts showing a credit balance on Aug 31st of £25-2-2. Mr. Gough proposed Mr. Gladstone seconded that the report be adopted. Carried unanimously.

Chairman's Address & Presentation of Program The Chairman, in his Annual Address, explained the objects of the formation of the English Bridge Union. He also urged members to enter for the various competitions of the Association, & to keep before them the closing dates for these competitions. He paid tribute to the work behind the scenes of the President of the Association & mentioned that when it got for the Chronicle, the stationery bill would be very much larger. The address was received with acclamation. He then presented the proposed program for the season 1936-7 herewith attached. Mr. Gladstone moved, Mr. Marks seconded its adoption. Carried unanimously.

Rules Revision Mr. Gough, on behalf of the Rules Revision Sub-Committee, presented & read proposed alterations to the Assoc rules. The rules as submitted & a copy of which is attached herewith, were unanimously adopted on the proposal of Mr. Gough, seconded by Mr. Gladstone, & the sub-committee were

Congratulated on their work
 Election of Officers. The following officers were elected
 President: — V. Ewart Berry Esq. Imp Sec
 Secretary: — J. W. Crake Capt. Rensum Mr. Goughy
 Treasurer: — J. H. Smith Capt. Rensum Mrs. Steel
 Auditor: — J. H. White J. W. Crake J. Shornith
 L. J. Spence J. H. R. Allen J. Goughy

Mr. Sumnerfield proposed, Mr. Watson seconded
 that the Executive Council be re-elected en bloc.
 Mr. Wornith moved an amendment that nomination
 be received by the Chair, & Mr. Gladstone seconded
 the amendment was carried.
 The Secretary reported that Messrs R. P. Lettner &
 L. J. Spence did not desire re-election, & they
 were thanked for their valuable services in the
 past. The following were nominated
 North: — Mrs. Haslam, Messrs Allen, Collins, Wood,
 Joyce, Bingham, & their
 Durham: — Mrs. Steel, Mrs. Clark, Dr. M. Arthur,
 Messrs. Goughy, Wornith, Gladstone, Cartwright &
 Nash.
 Messrs. Carter & Spence acted as scrutineers, & the
 following were elected.

North. Mr Haslam, Messrs Allen Collins, Joyce
Muir & Wood

Durham: - Mrs Sted, Mrs Clark, Dr. Mc Arthur,
Messrs G. empty, G. Ladstone & Wraith.

Any other
Business

The following points were brought up, & recommendations
to the Council were made

1. To co-opt members to the Council in towns not
represented.
2. To hold tournaments in other towns than Newcastle
3. - Appoint Collectors or Canvassers in towns where
membership was considered unsatisfactory
4. To give a ruling as to whether the score in matches
should be known at any stage of the match.

An enthusiastic & satisfactory meeting concluded
with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Lewis Kempson

8th September 1937

MIN-003 — original handwritten page 10.

Working transcription / notes

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Chronicle Hall on Wednesday 9 September 1936 at 7.00 p.m., with Capt. Kempson in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary reported membership of 644 at 31 December and described the first year as satisfactory, with membership increasing strongly towards the end of the year. Competition entries were reported as

satisfactory; a cheque for £24 from the Pairs Championship had been handed to the Sunshine Fund; and the League was described as a great success.

The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £25-2-2 at 31 August. The Chairman reviewed the Association's aims, referred to its link with the English Bridge Union, and presented a proposed programme for the 1936–37 season. Rules were reviewed and officers and Council were elected.

The final page records recommendations to the Council, including co-opting members where towns were not represented, holding tournaments outside Newcastle, appointing collectors/canvassers where membership was unsatisfactory, and giving a ruling on whether the season in Northern places should be kept at any stage of the match. The meeting concluded with thanks to the Chairman.

Transcription note: this is a working reading of the manuscript. Names and uncertain wording will be checked as the archive develops.

MIN-004 — Council Meeting, 11 March 1946

Place: Liberal Club. Chair: Mr E. Gladstone. Original manuscript pages 23–26. The transcription below is a working reading, not a certified verbatim edition; uncertain names and readings should be checked against the scans.

Original handwritten minutes

MIN-004 — original minute-book scan 1 (PDF page 1).

A Council meeting was held in the
Hibernian Club on Mon. March 11th /66, Mr
L. Ladeston in the Chair. Also present: Capt
Kempson, Messrs. Carpenter, Fraser, Marks,
T. Widdie, Robson & Crake. An apology for
absence was received from Mr. Wraith.
The minutes of the last meeting were read &
confirmed.

President
Lophy

The sec. reported that owing to the intervention
of the Sunday Sun Cup qualifying rounds only
5 Wednesday were available for the Presidents
Lophy if the original closing date of May 1st
was adhered to. Mr Robson prop. that the
closing date be extended to May 5th & Mr
Carpenter sec. Mr Marks sub. forward an
amendment that the original date of May 1st
be adhered to, Capt Kempson sec. On the

amendment being put to the meeting, it was declared carried.

A letter was read from Mr. Fail, Norwalk, asking that the two first teams in the Norwalk Golf Club competition should seek for promotion to the North Eastern League. The Sec. reported that he had written Mr. Fail pointing out the obvious injustice of such inclusion, but saying he would bring Mr. Fail's letter to the notice of the Council. Capt. Kempson moved that the secretary's letter to Mr. Fail be endorsed. Mr. Carpenter seconded, & the resolution was carried.

The ~~Business~~ Finance Sub-Committee reported on their deliberations, but as they were not complete, they had adjourned their meeting for further deliberation & they were asked to report to the Council at the May meeting.

The Sec. called the attention of the Council to the amended bye-law of the E.B.C. relating to subscriptions. Capt. Kempson proposed that they write saying that it was not proposed to raise the N.E.C.B.A. annual subscription. Mr. Carpenter pointing out that the bye-law was still ambiguous, Capt. Kempson withdrew his resolution, & it was agreed.

that the matter be left alone until the point was clarified.

Mr Swiddle raised the question of the placing in the League Sections, & suggested that in the case of a tie, the positions should be decided on aggregate scores. Mr Robson opposed this. Mr Swiddle then moved that in the case of a tie between two or more teams, the teams play a deciding match. Mr Fraser seconded, & this was carried.

Re Master points. Mr Robson suggested that in an aggregate competition running throughout the season, the winners should be entitled to more than one match point. Capt Kenyon proposed that 3 points be given to the winner, 2 to the second, & 1 to the third. Mr Nash seconded & carried.

The Sec. reported that he had had a conversation with Mr Ross of Sunderland, who was anxious to get competitive bridge going in that town. He also reported that on behalf of the Council, he had promised Mr Ross the help of the N.E.C.B.A. in promoting bridge in Sunderland.

The final day & presentation of prizes was fixed
for Saturday May 6th.
The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday
April 8th at 6-15 p.m.
A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the
business.

W. Ernest Charles
8th April, 1946.

Working transcription and meeting record

Opening

A Council meeting was held at the Liberal Club on Monday 11 March 1946, Mr E. Gladstone in the chair. Present included Capt. Kempson and Messrs Carpenter, Fraser, Marks, Tweddle, Robson and Croker. Mr Wraith sent apologies. The previous minutes were read and confirmed.

President's Trophy

The Secretary reported that the Sunday Sun Cup and pairs rounds left only eight Wednesdays available for the President's Trophy if the closing date remained 1 May. Mr Robson proposed extending the date to 8 May, seconded by Mr Carpenter. Mr Marks proposed retaining 1 May, seconded by Capt. Kempson. The amendment to retain the original date was carried.

Morpeth correspondence

A letter from Mr [Lail?] of Morpeth requested that two leading Morpeth Golf Club teams be permitted entry to the North Eastern League. The wording and names in this passage require verification. Capt. Kempson moved that the Secretary's response be endorsed; Mr Carpenter seconded. Carried.

Constitution and EBU subscriptions

The Constitution Sub-Committee had not completed its deliberations and was asked to report at the May Council meeting. The Council discussed amended EBU bye-laws concerning subscriptions. Capt. Kempson withdrew a proposed letter about the Association's annual subscription, pending clarification.

League ties

Mr Tweddle suggested deciding ties by aggregate scores, which Mr Robson opposed. Mr Tweddle then moved that teams tied in a League section should play a deciding match; Mr Fraser seconded. Carried.

Master points

Mr Robson suggested more than one master point for the winners of a season-long aggregate competition. Capt. Kempson proposed three points for first place, two for second and one for third. Mr Marks seconded. Carried.

Sunderland

The Secretary reported speaking to Mr Ross of Sunderland, who wanted to develop competitive bridge in the town. He had offered the Association's help.

Close

Finals day and prize presentation were fixed for Saturday 4 May. The next Council meeting was fixed for Monday 8 April at 6.15 p.m. A vote of thanks concluded the meeting. The manuscript was signed/dated 8 April 1946.

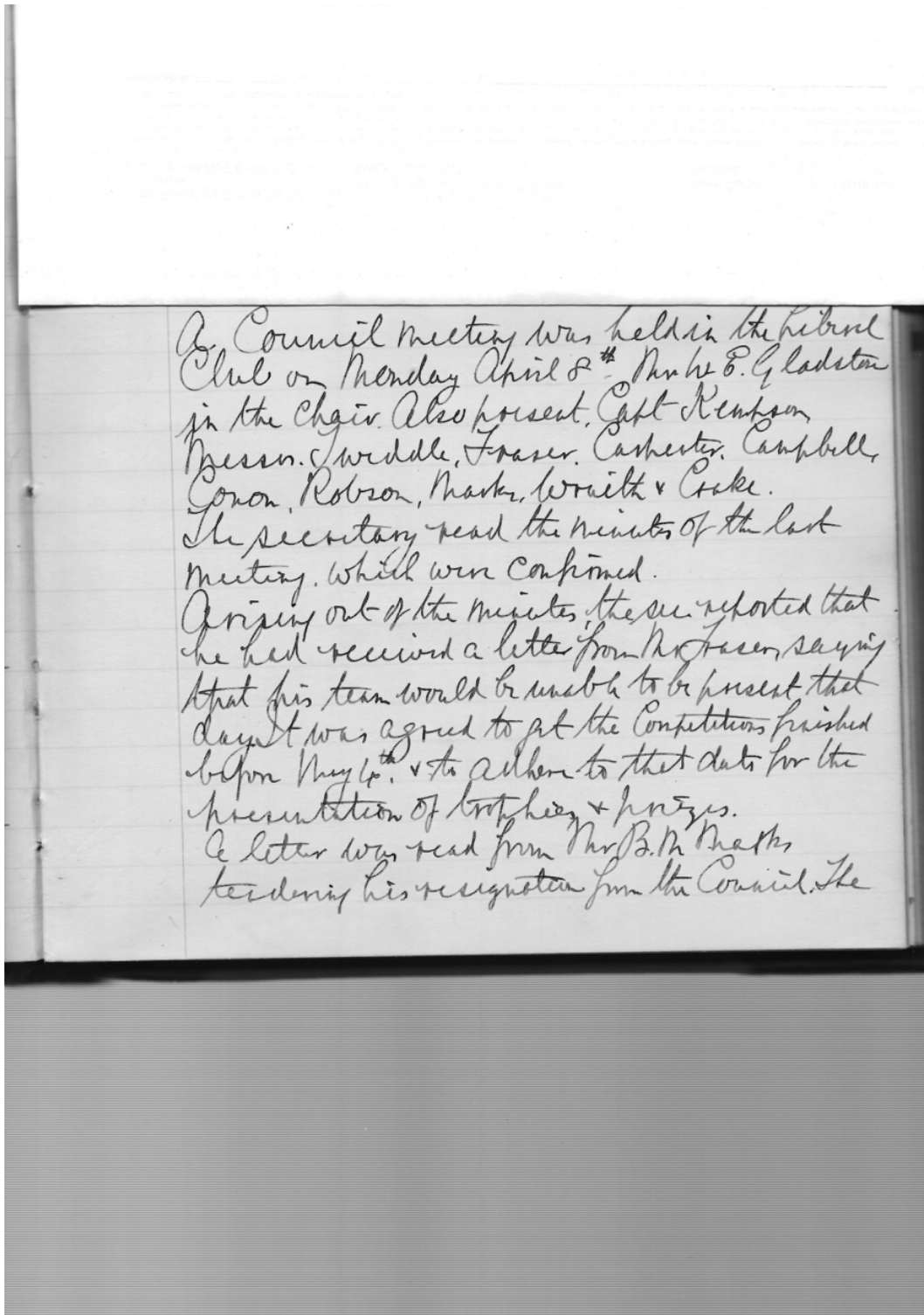
Archival note: The transcription above regularises spelling and punctuation and summarises a few difficult passages. Consult the original images for exact wording. In particular, check the Morpeth correspondence and signatory.

MIN-005 — Council Meeting, 8 April 1946

Place: Central Club. Original manuscript pages 26–29. Working transcription, with unclear names and prize amounts to be verified against the originals.

Original handwritten minutes

MIN-005 — original minute-book scan 1 (PDF page 1).



resignation was accepted with regret, & the sec. was instructed to write Mr. Nash to that effect, & at the same time thank him for his valued services in the past.

A letter was also read from Mr. Ross re the development of bridge in Sunderland.

The Treasurer presented a statement showing 448 members on the register, & a balance at the bank of £205.2.2. He recommended that prize money for the various competitions should be allotted as follows:—

Kempson Cup winners,	4 x £1-10.0	vouchers	Remembrance of Packs Cards
King	4 x £1.5/-	do	do
Collins	2 x £1-5.0	do	1 x do
League	4 x £1-10.0	do	4 x £1.5/- vouchers

3rd 8 packs Cards

Individual winner £3-3-0 do " £2-2-0 vouchers

3rd 4th 2 x £1-1-0 vouchers.

Saturday Pairs:— 1 £5-5-0 do 3+4 2 x £1-10-0
2 £3-3-0 do 5+6 2 x £1-1-0

Heat 12 2 packs Cards each

10 x Sunday Pairs — President's Trophy

1 £3-3-0 voucher	3+4 2 x £1-1-0 vouchers
2 £2-2-0 do	5+6 2 x 10/6 do.

Capt Kenyon proposed that the Treasurer's statement & recommendations be accepted en bloc. Mr Coxon seconded, & the motion was carried upon. Mr Widdell proposed that a donation of ten guineas be voted to the Sunshine Fund. Capt. Kenyon sec. Mr Carpenter proposed that the amount be fifteen guineas, Mr Wraith seconding. Mr Robson proposed that the amount be twenty guineas. Mr Campbell seconded. On a vote being taken, Mr Widdell's original proposal was declared carried.

Mr Robson proposed that an extraordinary general meeting be called at an early date to elect a new Council to deal with the Constitution, & stated that in his opinion the present Council had no mandate from the members. Mr Coxon objected.

The Chairman intervened, & pointed out that the Constitution sub-committee had been asked to report to the present Council. He vetoed further discussion on the matter until their report had been received & considered at the next Council meeting, which was then fixed for May 6th.

29

Capt Kempson brought up the subject of the Cannon Cup for international matches. & said it was possible that one match might be played in Newcastle if the Council were willing. Mr Swindle proposed that the Council extend hospitality to the England & Ireland teams. Mr Coon seconded & it was carried unanimously.

It was agreed, in view of the extra work created by the President's Trophy, to vote a further sum of £5 to tournament expenses, making £35 in all.

Capt Kempson mentioned the tables & chairs on hire to the Newcastle Bridge Club & proposed that the yearly fee be reduced from five guineas to three guineas. Mr Cashmore sec & the proposal was carried.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

W. Ernest Gladstone

6th May 1946

Working transcription and meeting record

Opening

A Council meeting was held in the Central Club on Monday 8 April 1946. Mr E. Gladstone was in the chair. Present included Capt. Kempson and Messrs Tweddle, Fraser, Campbell, Owen, Robson, Marks, Wraith and Croker. The previous minutes were read and confirmed.

Competition dates

The Secretary reported correspondence concerning a team unable to attend on the relevant day. It was agreed to complete competitions before 4 May, the date for presentation of trophies and prizes.

Resignation and Sunderland

A letter of resignation from Mr B. R. Marks was accepted with regret, and the Secretary was asked to thank him for his services. A letter from Mr Ross about developing bridge in Sunderland was also read.

Treasurer's report

The Treasurer reported 448 members on the register and a bank balance of £205 2s. 2d. Prize allocations were proposed for the Kempson, King and Collins Cups, League, Individual, Saturday Pairs and Wednesday Pairs. The detailed handwritten prize table needs separate verification.

Approval of report

Capt. Kempson proposed accepting the Treasurer's statement and recommendations en bloc. Mr Owen seconded. Carried unanimously.

Sunshine Fund

Mr Tweddle proposed donating ten guineas to the Sunshine Fund; Capt. Kempson seconded. Amendments proposing fifteen and twenty guineas were considered. On a vote, the original ten-guinea proposal was carried.

Constitution

Mr Robson proposed an extraordinary general meeting to elect a new Council to address the constitution, arguing that the present Council lacked a mandate. Mr Owen objected. The Chairman explained that the Constitution Sub-Committee was due to report; the matter was deferred to the next Council meeting, fixed for 6 May.

Camrose Cup

Capt. Kempson raised the possibility of hosting a Camrose Cup international match in Newcastle. Mr Tweddle proposed offering hospitality to the England and Eire teams; Mr Owen seconded. Carried unanimously.

Expenses and furniture

The Council approved a further £5 towards tournament expenses, bringing the total to £35. Capt. Kempson proposed reducing Newcastle Bridge Club's annual hire fee for tables and chairs from five guineas to three; Mr Campbell seconded. Carried.

Close

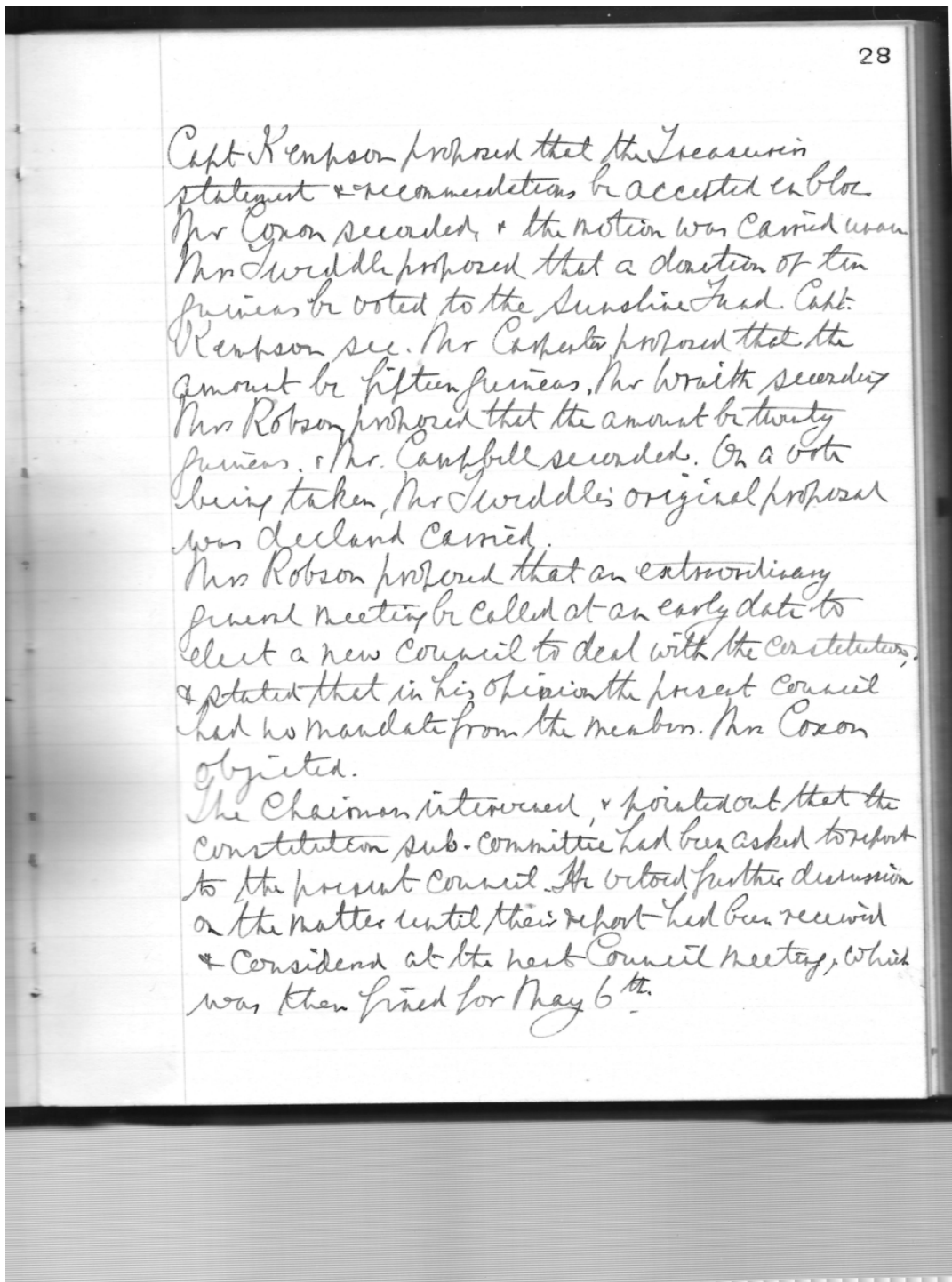
A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the meeting. The manuscript was signed/dated 6 May 1946.

Archival note: Names, correspondence details and the original prize allocation table remain to be checked. The scanned manuscript is the authoritative record.

PART 2 — REFERENCE MATERIAL

This section contains material that helps explain, illustrate or verify the minutes but is not itself part of the official minute book.

ARCH-001 — H. G. Wood archive note



H. G. Wood's note on the collected newspaper cuttings.

The note explains that the file contained newspaper cuttings concerning the formation of the Northumberland & Durham Contract Bridge Association in 1935, and that the title was altered subsequently to the North

Eastern Bridge Association. It also records that some press clippings originally in the file appeared to have been extracted and not replaced.

HISTORY-001 — The North Eastern Bridge Association 1935-1985

Five-page typed historical account. It is retained here as a secondary source. It contains valuable names, competition history and recollections, but should not override contemporary minutes where the two differ.

29

Capt Kempson brought on the subject of the Cannon Cup for international matches, & said it was possible that one match might be played in Newcastle if the Council were willing. Mr Swindle proposed that the Council extend hospitality to the England & Ireland teams. Mr Coxon seconded, & it was carried unan.

It was agreed, in view of the extra work created by the President's Trophy, to vote a further sum of £5 to augment expenses, making £35 in all.

Capt Kempson mentioned the tables & chairs on hire to the Newcastle Bridge Club, & proposed that the yearly fee be reduced from five guineas to three guineas. Mr Cashmore sec. & the proposal was carried.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

W. Ernest Gladstone

6th May 1946

In 1930 a challenge match between Eli Culbertson and Col. Buller gave an enormous boost to contract bridge in the U.K. and the setting up of the British Bridge League further encouraged the formation of county associations and the Northumberland and Durham C.B.A. was one of the first. The Association was inaugurated at a meeting in the Chronicle Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne on the 1st of May 1935. About one hundred people were present and it was proposed that Captain Ewart Kempson take the chair. Mr. V. Ewart Berry, a director of Newcastle Chronicle Ltd., was unanimously elected President and the following were elected to the Council:-

for Northumberland -	Mrs. Haslam, Mr. J. Collins, Mr. L. Wood, Mr. R. P. Latimer, Mr. F. R. Allen, and Dr. J. Hurley.
for Durham	- Mrs. Clark, Mr. T. E. Wraith, Mr. J. Geraghty, Mr. L. T. Spence, Mr. W. E. Gladstone and Dr. MacArthur.

It was then proposed that the annual subscription be five shillings (25p) but an amendment that the subscription be two shillings and sixpence (12½p) was proposed and carried.

Under the original constitution five Districts were set up, Central, Whitley Bay, Sunderland, Middlesborough and Darlington and a league was established consisting of three teams from Central, Newcastle, West Northumberland and Central; two from Whitley Bay - Whitley Bay and Tynemouth; two from Middlesborough - Middlesborough and Stockton and one each from Darlington and Sunderland. These inter area matches for teams of eight became one of the most popular competitions for many years.

In 1936 the association became affiliated to the newly formed English Bridge Union and this fostered further competition with other county associations.

There was little organised bridge during the war years but by 1945 things were getting back to normal and a report in the minutes of a Council meeting of the 1st of June of that year showed that 43 teams had entered for the Kempson Cup competition. At about this time the name of the association was changed to its present form of the North Eastern Bridge Association.

Mr. T. S. Wraith, a long time friend and partner of Ewart Kempson became President and was succeeded by Harry Esther, who with his wife Mamie, was prominent in bridge circles for many years.

Captain Ewart Kempson died in 1966 and although the North East has produced many fine bridge players, none has attained the national recognition he deservedly had in the thirties. Although his system has largely been superseded there are many players in the NorthEast and Scotland who owe much to his newspaper articles and books.

An extract from an introduction to the sixth North versus South match by the well known bridge writer and player Hubert Phillips brings us full circle and seems a fitting tribute -

" I know of no type of contest which makes quite the same demands on stamina and morale as are made by competitive Bridge. A moment's heedlessness, a moments irresolution, and the battle can be irretrievably lost. For that reason a match as keenly fought as this is an exhilarating , and an unforgettable experience. When Ewart and I are too old for this game we shall remember the kick that we got out of it; in the spirit of the Carmān Blenkinsopiense, we shall be egging on the next generation to battles not less desperate:

It's 'Sop,'Sop,'Sop, sock 'em, Blenkinsop;
Swing the left leg across, smite true;
The ghosts of the past are with you, Blenkinsop,
Fighting alongside you....

Blenkinsop, that home of the grand manner in sportsmanship, has nothing, as they say, on the North East."

In later years the constitution of the Association was amended to have individual clubs rather than districts directly affiliated and there are now 23 clubs covering Northumberland, Durham and North Yorkshire, from Salthurn in the South to Morpeth in the North with a membership of 1150. ^{? Whitley}

The trophies given for competition, by individuals and other bodies are some indication of the growth of the Association :-
The Kempton Cup - presented by Ewart Kempson for a knock out team competition.

The Chronicle Cups - presented by the Newcastle Evening Chronicle for pairs competition.

The North Eastern Gazette Cups - presented by the Middlesborough Gazette for pairs competition.

The Wightman Cup - presented by Mr. Billy Wightman, a well known Newcastle accountant, originally for a mens team competition but latterly for a 'Masters' pairs competition.

The Niman Israel Cup - presented by Dr. J. Niman and Dr. J. Israel for team competition.

The Sunday Sun Trophy - presented by the Newcastle Sunday Sun for an individual competition.

The King Cup - presented by Mr. King for a ladies pairs competition.

The Sinclair Trophy - presented by Mrs. A. B. Sinclair O.B.E., M.A. for competition by school teams.

The Carpenter Rose Bowl - presented by Mrs. Muriel Carpenter for pairs competition every other year on the resignation of the President.

The Deane Salver - presented by Arnold Deane for a mixed pairs competition.

The Over 60's Cup - presented by Philip Landon for a senior citizens pairs competition.

The Summer Pairs Cup - also presented by Philip Landon.

The Summer Teams Cup - provided by the Association.

The Collins Cup - presented by Mr. I. Collins for rubber bridge competition.

The Esther Cups - presented by Harry and Mamie Esther for pairs competition at the annual N.E.B.A. Congress.

The Rex Cup - presented by Mr. Jack Faith a friend of Ewart Kempson, Manager of the Rex Hotel, Whitley Bay, for teams competition at the Congress.

Three other trophies for Mixed, Ladies and Mens pairs at the Jubilee Congress 1985 provided by the Association

when Harry resigned it was decided that the office of President be restricted to two years and Mrs. Muriel Carpenter, who became the North east's first National Master under the F.B.U. master point scheme, was elected.

? List of Presidents + Secretaries ?

Moving on a few years a quote from a Council meeting of January 1955 seems today to be rather quaint -

'owing to the inclement weather the Middlesbrough representatives were unable to make the journey' - to Newcastle.

and a farther quote suggests that problems were dealt with in the same way then as now -

'and it was agreed to formulate a rule for next season'

The pattern of competitive bridge at County and National level became fairly well established by the seventies. The North versus South matches were discontinued in 1954 and the major events - which are much the same now - were:-

The Scottish match - originally two separate matches against the East and West of Scotland, later a single three cornered match and finally, with the introduction of a Scottish Central district, a four cornered annual match.

The Pachabo Cup - the English County Championship for teams of four. The N.E.E.B.A. being represented by the winners of the North Eastern Cup, a league for teams of four.

The Tollemache Cup - the English County Championship for teams of eight.

Other matches are also arranged against teams from Yorkshire, Cumbria and the North West together with teams for young players and schools.

Another feature of the Bridge year is the Annual Congress. The early congresses were held at various hotels in the area but in 1954 the Zetland Hotel in Saltburn by the Sea hosted the Congress and continued to do so until its closure in 1979. The accommodation charge in 1954, for two nights with full board, was £3.5s.0d. No permanent home for the Congress has since been found but the 1985 congress at the Newcastle Moat House was a successful and enjoyable affair.

JOHN A. SUGDEN
4 DAVENPORT DRIVE
NEWCASTLE ON TYNE
NE3 5AE

18.12.85

Dear Hilary

Sorry to have been
so long, you should have
given me a deadline!!

It has been impossible
to verify some dates -

ER' date of death I got
from Len Wood but I'm
not sure it's right.

The Evening Chronicle can't
verify it or even the date
the Chron. Hall burnt down.

Any editing &
amendment will be

very welcome - in fact
if you like to confine
it to the w.p.b. I don't
complain. I'm not
at all happy with it
but can't think of any
other angle - or find out
any other facts

Sincerely

Jack

Please return photo:
going to Scotland for X'mas
& New Year, back 2/3 Jan 86. J.

LETTER-001 — page 2.

This correspondence is important to provenance because Sugden describes the difficulty of verifying some dates and details in the historical account. It should therefore remain with the history as evidence of its limitations.

15, Arman Road,
Bellingham,
Cleveland, TS23 3EX,
~~to~~ 7 April 94.

Dear John,

Herewith Jack Snyder's article which he wrote in 1984, & which certainly contains quite a bit of information about the North-South match. I thought at the time that I could add to it, & publish it to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the NEBA, but I never got round to it. There is also a photograph of the winning North team in 1935.

Would you return both the article & the photograph direct to Jack

Sugden when you have finished with
them.

Yours sincerely,
Philip Landon.

LETTER-002 — page 2.

The letter refers to Jack Sugden's article and to a photograph of the winning North team in 1935. This provides a useful documentary link between the later historical work and the surviving team photograph.

PHOTO-001 — The North of England Bridge Team



THE NORTH OF ENGLAND BRIDGE TEAM

Captain Ewart Kempson, Messrs. A. Lill, T. S. Wraith, F. H. Smith, with the North v. South Challenge Cup (won in 1934 and 1935), the Drake Bowl and the Northumberland and Durham Championship Cup.

Since its formation two years ago, this team has never been beaten. "Needless to say," writes Capt. Kempson, "we all employ common-sense principles in bidding."

Archival copy supplied with printed caption.

Printed caption: "THE NORTH OF ENGLAND BRIDGE TEAM — Captain Ewart Kempson, Messrs. A. Lill, T. S. Wraith, F. H. Smith, with the North v. South Challenge Cup (won in 1934 and 1935), the Drake Bowl and the Northumberland and Durham Championship Cup. Since its formation two years ago, this team has never been beaten."

Archive note: the photograph names three trophies but does not, by itself, establish which physical trophy in the photograph corresponds to each name.

PHOTO-002 — North of England Bridge Tournament



Newspaper photograph of a cup presentation at Chronicle Hall.

The surviving caption identifies Ewart Kempson, described as the Evening Chronicle bridge expert, presenting a cup to J. R. Peacock, one of the winners of a North of England Bridge Tournament promoted by the Evening Chronicle and the North Mail and held at Chronicle Hall, Newcastle.

Working rule for future additions

MINUTE BOOK = original minutes, in chronological order, with scans and readable transcriptions.

REFERENCE MATERIAL = everything that helps explain, illustrate or verify those minutes.

New material can therefore be added without reorganising the whole archive: identify it as Minute Book or Reference Material, assign the next reference number, and insert it in the appropriate section.