

N.E.B.A. Executive Meeting on Zoom on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 9.30a.m.

Minutes:

Present:

Sue Davies (Chair)

Marion Curran (Vice Chair)

Catherine Farrell (Secretary)

Bill March (Treasurer)

Jill Armstrong (Webmaster)

Graham Cox (Inter-club league)

Liz Muir (Congress Secretary)

John Portwood (Chief Tournament Director)

Apologies:

Helen Wildsmith (co-opted Chief Tournament Secretary)

1. The Minutes of the last meeting after representation by MC, were amended and agreed.
2. Matters Arising – Bill stated that the 2024 Congress had shown a small profit . Other matters relating to the Congress were raised by Liz who stated that there had been complaints about the standard of the food and some of the Newcomers said that they wouldn't have the meal in the future. It was decided that though the 2025 Congress is booked with the Marriott we would start looking at alternate venues for the 2026 Congress early this year in case there is no improvement at the Congress 2025. As we currently don't have a new Congress Secretary in the meantime Sue Marion and Catherine would check out some of the alternate venues suggested. The 3 hotels suggested were Britannia, Holiday Inn at Seaton Burn and Gosforth Park. Sue and Marion had attended the EBU AGM hybrid meeting which lasted over 3 hours. Voting online was just a press of a button but for the F2F pieces of paper had to be collected and it took forever. This was the

first hybrid meeting and hopefully this would be improved for the future.

3. The 9 High Corwen – Qualifier . We were allowed to put forward 3 qualifiers for the final. John reported that there had been no problems with the event and the half table had been filled with 2 Robots. It was unanimously agreed that NEBA would cover the cost of the entry fee for the qualifiers in the final £10 per person. Catherine has since contacted the qualifiers and they are all keen to play in the final and their preferred platform is BBO.
4. The date for the Deane Salver has had to be changed because it clashed with the National Pairs and this mixed pairs event will now run on 30<sup>th</sup> March at Brunton
5. Marion had put together a report on the new NEBA Teams League 2025 as proposed by Liz Muir at the last AGM. This was accepted and will be sent out to all Club Secretaries and NEBA members. There will be an entry form on the NEBA website and Helen will collect the names of members wanting to compete in this. Also she will collect the results from the Captains . Graham will support her in this as he has experience in running the inter-club league. It is planned to start this league in March 2025. Entries to be submitted by 28<sup>th</sup> February, if there are enough entries more than 8 teams then there could be 2 Divisions. They will play 16 boards once a fortnight.
6. Congress Secretary – Currently we have no-one to take on this role , Sue had contacted Frank and Irina to see if they would be willing to take on the role again but unfortunately due to work commitments they are unable to do so but said they would help if possible. A few names were suggested and they will be approached to see if they will do it. As Liz has already done the groundwork there isn't as much to do as there would be normally.
7. As Helen was unable to attend because of illness it was decided to meet up with her informally to discuss her duties when she is better. Graham suggested that clubs took responsibility for the Congress on an annual basis.
8. The next Executive Committee and Council meeting is on 12<sup>th</sup> March at Chester-le-Street Cricket Club this is now booked and confirmed and Club Representatives have been invited to attend and to send any items for the Agenda to Catherine by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

9. An invitation to apply for a one day Green Pointed event for 2026 had been sent out by the EBU. Catherine has since enquired with the EBU as to whether we qualify to hold any more than we currently have on our Calendar. We don't but we could run Blue pointed events if we wished.
10. A.O.B. With regards to redoing our Constitution – Andy Pryor has agreed to join the sub-committee consisting of Jill and Catherine to help with this . We have to arrange a F2F meeting with him to get the ball rolling. Jill brought up the confusion surrounding the EBU promoting teachers who are neither NEBA or EBU members and don't play in affiliated clubs it was suggested that we contact the EBU to ask what the criteria is for recommending teachers of Bridge.
11. The Meeting closed at 11.30a.m.