

N.E.B.A. Executive Committee Meeting on Zoom, Wednesday, 9th October 2024 at 10a.m.

This meeting was re-arranged from Chester-le-Street Cricket Club due to emergency works at the club.

Present:

Sue Davies (Chair)

Marion Curran (Vice Chair)

Bill March (Treasurer)

Catherine Farrell (Secretary)

Jill Armstrong (Webmaster)

John Portwood (Chief Tournament Director)

Graham Cox (Inter-club league)

Liz Muir (Congress Secretary)

Helen Wildsmith (co-opted Chief Tournament Secretary)

1. Helen was welcomed and introduced to everyone and thanked for stepping in to help with this role. Due to current obligations she will be taking over fully after Christmas but will help where she can beforehand. Sue thanked Marion, Jill and Catherine for re-arranging this meeting at very short notice.
2. There were no apologies for absence
3. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.
4. Matters arising – BIABD – Jill was thanked for all the work that she had undertaken and for managing and co-ordinating everything. A big thank you to the Clubs and Members from the NEBA area who have contributed by both holding events and playing in the Sim Pairs that were run for BIABD. As at 7th October the total donated from the UK to Cancer Research UK is £92,213.52 of this amount the NEBA contribution totals £3,375.51. Wearside were celebrating their 75th anniversary were the stars of the show with donations totalling £1098.00, closely followed by Whitley Bay & Tynemouth.
5. The major item on the Agenda was the EBU changes to their Articles and Bye-Laws which they will be looking to bring in at their AGM in

November. Sue had attended their first Zoom meeting and as a result of this meeting the Changes had been condensed onto 1 page. These are available on the EBU website. Marion will be attending their next Zoom meeting and a couple of questions were brought up by the Exec. which Marion will put forward at this meeting. At the EBU AGM there needs to be 75% agreement for the changes to go through. There are 8 members of the board with 5 positions available for re-election. At the next Executive Committee meeting which will be held after the congress it will be decided how the shareholders will vote. The Council meeting which follows this one – they will be asked if they are happy for us to vote on their behalf or if they want to consult their members first.

6. NEBA Constitution – at the last meeting it was agreed to set up a sub-committee to look into the changes that need to be made to our Constitution. This was agreed to be Jill, Catherine and a.n.other. Johnathan Lillycrop was asked to join but because of his other work commitments didn't feel that he would have time to help so at this meeting it was decided to ask Nigel Durie if he would join the sub-committee. (Catherine to contact him) Tim Chanter said he would read the final version and check everything for us.
7. Liz Muir then gave an update on the Congress, She was concerned that numbers are down and entries were slow coming in. Clubs were to be asked to promote the Congress in their clubs and try and boost numbers. Sue and Dick who aren't playing on the Saturday agreed to be the stand-by pair for the Saturday, John agreed to organise the "man with the van". David Armstrong has agreed to be the TD for the newcomers pairs on the Saturday. John will be on duty all weekend with Chris Benneworth helping at the Swiss Teams on Sunday. The tables need to be set up at 3p.m. on Friday and helpers will be needed to get the room prepared. It was agreed that more TD's are needed for NEBA events and it was proposed to try and get some of the club TD's to help out and get the practice for larger events.
8. There have been enquires for teaching at 2 Golf Clubs and U3A but there is little evidence that these lead to new members in clubs. John has agreed to sort out the 9 high Corwen, After the Congress in the New Year Liz will be looking into setting up an online teams of 4 and once she has sorted out the details she will pass this over to Helen.

9. A.O.B. Sue mentioned safeguarding – she had been to a meeting and safeguarding had been discussed and there is a very good pamphlet on the subject which we need to be familiar with.
10. The meeting concluded just after 11 a.m. and it was agreed that the next Executive Zoom meeting would be held on 18th November to discuss the Congress and the upcoming EBU AGM.