



North Eastern Bridge Association

Everything you need to know about Duplicate Bridge in the North East of England

(Draft)Minutes of NEBA AGM held at Newcastle B.C. 24th May 2017

Present : Liz Muir (Chairman), Nigel Durie (Vice Chair) Steve Ray (Treasurer), Mary Page (Secretary), David Gold (CTS) Gill Gold (C.S.) Brian Pacey (TS) Tony Watson (Wearside BC) Jocelyn Gordon (Hexham BC) Roger Hancock (Durham BC) Peter Burnip (Darlington BC) together with members of the Association

1. Apologies had been received from: Norman Gray, Anne Bell, Simon Hedley, Ken Goddard, Bev Godfrey, Terry Howells, Steve Woodward, Ian Rick and George Jackson
2. Chairman's Introduction : The Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm and thanked Newcastle BC for agreeing to host the meeting. The NEBA continues to flourish. We have 21 clubs affiliated to the county association, and almost half of them run classes from which we hope we will attract new members.

The NEBA runs a good variety of competitions, some of which are more successful than others. We like to attract as many as possible to our events and to do so, we introduce new events and forget about the unpopular ones.

Our annual Congress last year was the most enjoyable of weekends. The issues we had experienced in previous years, have all been addressed and the event ran very successfully. However, we did make a loss on the event, as numbers attending were lower than in previous years. This year we have changed the date, so that we do not clash with events in neighbouring Counties and Scotland, in the hope that we can draw more players from further afield. However we do **need the support of our own members too**. If numbers continue to decline, this will be the last year that the Congress will be run in its current format at the Marriott Hotel. So please consider coming along to the Congress, if not for the whole weekend, for one or two events. I am sure you will enjoy it.

The NEBA has been represented in several EBU events – the Pachabo Cup, the Corwen Trophy, the Tollemache, the Northern Bridge League and the President's Cup. Success in the North East League and the Chronicles Cups qualify you to play in the Pachabo and Corwen, but teams are selected to represent the County in the Tollemache, the President's Cup, and the Northern Bridge League. If you would like to be considered for selection for any or all of these events, please let Nigel Durie, our Chairman of Selectors know as soon as

possible. Also, the NEBA plays an annual match against the East of Scotland. Last year the NEBA won both the A and B matches. Again, again if you would like to be considered for this match, please let Nigel know as soon as possible.

Further afield, Shivram Shah continues his highly successful junior bridge career. He has represented England this year in the White House Junior International event, where his team reached the semi-finals. Sadly his junior career will come to an end soon, but we wish him well and hope that he will continue to enjoy further successes in his Bridge career.

At the Scottish Ladies event, it was a good weekend for NEBA ladies! Val Gibson, partnering Pearl Murphy, won the Ladies Pairs, and Margaret McCabe, Marion Curran, Pat Barton and Catherine Longley won the Ladies Teams. In the Cumbria Congress recently, Bev Godfrey and Nicola Cockerill Smith won the Ladies Pairs. Well done girls!

The day to day operation of the NEBA is run by an extremely dedicated and hard working committee of volunteers. Believe me, there is an awful lot of work done behind the scenes, and we all owe the committee a huge vote of thanks. Also, the NEBA has, what the EBU acknowledges, the best county website in England. For this, a big thank you to Neil Aiston.

Finally, if you have any comments (constructive!) or ideas that you would like the committee to consider, please tell us! Don't keep it to yourself – we are always open to new ideas.

3. The Minutes of last year's AGM were accepted as a true record – proposer Tony Watson, seconded Brian Pacey.
4. The treasurer presented his Report and explained the small loss this year was due to numbers being down for the Congress – Accounts are posted on the website. Accounts were accepted by the meeting – proposer Brian Pacey, seconded Roger Hancock.
5. Election of Officers:

The following officers elected en bloc at the meeting:

Chair	Liz Muir
Vice Chair	Nigel Durie
Treasurer	Steve Ray
Secretary	Mary Page
CT Director	Norman Gray
CT Secretary	David Gold
Congress Secretary	Gill Gold

6. Club Resolutions:
 - a) Resolution received from Castle Morpeth BC regarding inter club promotions for Division E was discussed and it was agreed a sub-committee would be formed to look at ways of trying to accommodate two teams being promoted instead of only one from each regional division.

b) Resolution from Stockton BC to change inter club start time to 1 pm was voted against unanimously.

7. Chris Hope re-elected as Auditor.

8. A.O.B.:

As numbers attending the AGM were poor and a quorum could not be held until 6.50 Tony Watson suggested numbers for the quorum be reduced. Chair advised this could only be done at the next AGM.

As no other business the Chair presented the trophies to this year's winners and the meeting closed at 7.00 pm.