

**Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29th November 2017
at Chester le Street Cricket Club.**

Present: Exec: Liz Muir (Chairman), Steve Ray (Treasurer), Nigel Durie (Vice Chair), Mary Page, (Secretary), Brian Pacey (TS).

Clubs: Alan Davies (Wearside), Ken Goddard (South Shields), Chris Griffiths and Eddie Moore (Middlesbrough), Ann Squire and Adrian Darnell (Durham), Gordon Cockburn (Chester le Street), Sheena Hudson (Castle Morpeth), Ali Ritz and Jim Turnbull (Morpeth), Bev Godfrey (St Georges), Eunice Ferguson (Brunton), Dave Dansie (Ryton).

1. Apologies: Norman Gray, Anne Bell, Gill Gold, David Gold, Peter Grundy, Peter Avery, Mike Craig, Jocelyn Gordon and Pam Niven, Chris Simmons, Tony Watson and Elaine Purvis.

2. NEBA Accounts

Treasurer advised current finances of the NEBA are healthy and should show a four figure surplus at year end. Booklet costs had been reduced and we had also secured advertising contribution of £200 so booklet would be produced next year.

Congress accounts could not be produced yet as all expenses had not been received but we should show a profit of between £1500 to £2000. Once EBU costs had been received accounts would be published on the website. Treasurer does not foresee any increases in costs for the foreseeable future.

3. CONGRESS

Chairman expressed her thanks to all the members for supporting this year's Congress and also thanked Congress Secretary Gill Gold, David Gold, Mary Page, and Norman Gray for all their efforts which resulted in a very successful and enjoyable Congress.

Gill was away for the meeting but submitted the following Congress report:-

“A very successful event turning a loss from last year into a healthy profit . We bucked the trend by increasing our table numbers on Saturday and Sunday. The hotel continues to be a very good venue both for locals and out of town visitors. The staff are friendly helpful and willing to try new ideas. The organisation in serving the meals ran very smoothly Norman and his team of directors did an excellent job. Fred was a great hit with Newcomers and with a bit of luck we may see some of them in the clubs

I received many positive emails and thanks.

I feel this year the only negative was the food on Saturday as some people felt the portions were small -this only occurred in the first sitting. Also the quality of the meal is far superior on Sunday. All in all I hope we can achieve as much next year.”

4. Matters raised by Clubs:

- ! Ali Ritz asked whether we could hold a Directors Course locally and Secretary confirmed she would investigate with the EBU and report back.

- ! Treasurer asked the meeting to advise how they felt their club was performing and if they had any issues they would like to raise.

A productive discussion took place and the main concern that was raised was how to get the students to come along and play in the clubs on a regular basis. Morpeth and Castle Morpeth both advised clubs are doing well but are experiencing problems with getting their students to attend club nights. Durham advised they are thriving with 15 tables regularly and do not have a problem with their students attending club nights. Their students join the EBU when they commence teaching. Wearside also advised students do join in on club nights but their members mainly enjoy social bridge.

Bev Godfrey advised St Georges had introduced a teams event where their students play against similar experienced players from Huddersfield and this has proved successful. Bev suggested perhaps we should look at doing something similar within our clubs where students play against each other on various club nights. Bev also thought it was a good idea for all teachers to meet up on one or two occasions to discuss various issues – the EBU had recently held such a course for teachers and it appeared successful. Secretary advised she thought someone was needed to liaise between teachers/clubs and the exec to help implement these new ideas.

It was also suggested perhaps we needed a teachers' refreshers course.

All in all a very productive discussions and points raised will be taken up at next Exec meeting in January.

5. Draft Minutes 21.2.17. – Approved.

6. A.O.B.

- ! Changes to inter club rules (Division E) proposed at the Tournament Sub-Committee meeting on the 3.8.17. were put to Council and approved, namely, “ The committee recommends that the Inter-Club be run the same this year as last, with regionalisation of Division E. However, for the season 2018/19, there is to be no regionalisation, and Division E will consist of the 2 relegated teams from Division D along with the 2nd and 3rd placed teams in the two regionalised divisions. The remaining 5 teams in the regionalised divisions will form Division F.”

- ! Neicko competition – Treasurer advised 14 teams had entered this year which was a huge improvement on last year's Kempson Cup entries. Unfortunately the format had to remain as a knockout in keeping with the EBU rules to enable us to issue green points. Comments were made on the name Neicko being confusing with the EBU Neiko competition and Exec agreed this would be addressed for next year.

- ! Brunton Secretary asked if clubs would advertise the Deane Salver in February.

7. Date of Next Meeting – to be in June 2018, Secretary to advise date nearer the time.

As no other matters raised, meeting closed at 11.40 am.