

(Draft) Notes of 2018 NEBA AGM held at Wearmouth B.C. 29th May 2018

Present : Liz Muir (Chairman), Nigel Durie (Vice Chair), Adrian Darnell (Secretary-in-waiting), David Gold (CTS), Gill Gold (CS), Brian Pacey, together with members of the Association

1. Apologies had been received from: Steve Ray (Treasurer), Bev Godfrey, Val Gibson, Peter Burnip, Chris Simmons, Ann Squires.
2. Chairman's Introduction: The Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm and thanked Wearmouth BC for agreeing to host the meeting.

Chair's Report:

2018 has been another successful year for the NEBA. We have seen slightly increased participation in our Direct Entry events. In fact one of them was filled to capacity! These events are proving to be increasingly popular, many thanks to the joint efforts of the clubs hosting the events and to the NEBA Directors.

Our county teams represented the NEBA in matches against the East of Scotland. Our B team had a resounding win over the Scottish B team, but sadly our A team lost their match. We are aiming to exact our revenge this year though. The team which represented us in the Tollemache competition finished in the middle of their league. We also had a team which represented us in the Northern Bridge League. We had mixed success in this league, but everyone enjoyed the competition.

At this AGM, we see a few change of those involved in the administration of the NEBA, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each retiree individually.

Firstly, Mary Page has been our County Secretary for 4 years. She approached the job with professionalism, efficiency and such enthusiasm that it energised both the Executive Committee and the NEBA. She was the person to contact if you needed information, and was always willing to help in organising events or meetings. She was of enormous help to me, and we all grew to rely on her. Sadly, due to personal reasons, she felt that she could no longer perform her job as Secretary to her satisfaction and felt that it was time to retire from the post. She has handed the role now to the very capable hands of Adrian who, I am sure will continue Mary's work just as well, if he is elected later in the meeting. But please give him time to get used to his new role.

Gill Gold has been our Congress Secretary for many years. In fact I've lost count of all the years she has done this job! She has steered the Congress to recent success, and last year bucked the trend of declining numbers in bridge events, seeing a substantial increase in entries. Well done Gill, and thank you. This year she has decided to step down from the role, but will be, I hope, on hand to give advice to the new Congress Secretary – namely me!

Brian Pacey has been our Tournament Secretary for the Inter-Club competition for 8 years. This was no small task, arranging the leagues and accommodating all the requests from the various clubs. Of course he also had to collate and publish the scores. He also wrote commentaries of each round, which invariably made interesting reading. He is retiring from the role, and is handing over to Graham Cox.

Elaine Purvis has been Tournament Secretary for many years. She was responsible for collating and publishing the information of our Direct Entry events. Prior to the new format of these events, she was also responsible for collecting entries – again, no small task. It is with a certain degree of sadness that I see her retire, as she has been a fixture in the administration for such a long time.

Our thanks also go to Ann Bell, who is our Tournament Secretary for all the qualifying events, and to all the club organisers of our Direct entry events. And finally, to Neil Aiston, who has tirelessly been our Webmaster for many years.

We welcomed Bev Godfrey on to the Executive Committee this year, and we must congratulate her on her appointment to the Board of the EBU with responsibility for club development. Her enthusiasm for the game of Bridge is boundless.

We are fortunate that the NEBA has a hard working Executive Committee and Tournament Secretaries. We strive to improve the Association and provide members with the facilities to play this game that we love, in pleasant and friendly surroundings. We would like to welcome more new members to our clubs, and to NEBA events, and will continue to work to this end in future years.

On behalf of all our members, I'd like to thank all on our Executive Committee for their continuing dedication to their roles.

3. The Minutes of last year's AGM were accepted as a true record – proposer David Gold, seconded Brian Pacey.

4. The Chair presented the Treasurer's Report, and the Accounts (of NEBA and, separately, of the Congress) are recorded with these Minutes and on the Web.

Treasurer's Report

I was looking forward to reporting good news about the NEBA finances following the actions taken by the Executive over the last few years but unfortunately cannot be present tonight.

For some years the NEBA had been running at a loss and we have had no option but to cut costs and increase the price of the pay to play, paid via the EBU. Our aim was to make a surplus of £600 each year. This has been achieved in the financial year just ended and should continue into the future.

In addition we looked at the Congress which lost money in 2016 with a view to making a profit. The date of the Congress was moved by one week and the format tweaked. As a result we achieved a much larger attendance, were able to double the prize fund and still make a profit of almost £2000, a brilliant success.

The combination of these actions is a surplus for last year of £2626 compared to a loss of £88 the previous year. If the Congress is as successful again later this year the NEBA will be in a position to use some money to further the cause of bridge in the North East.

Lastly I would like to thank Chris Hope who has audited our accounts for about 30 years and I trust we be able to do many more.

5. Election of Officers:

The following officers were elected en bloc at the meeting, proposed by Pauline Durie and seconded by Gill Gold:

Chair	Liz Muir
Vice Chair	Nigel Durie
Treasurer	Steve Ray
Secretary	Adrian Darnell
CT Director	Norman Gray
CT Secretary	David Gold
Congress Secretary	Liz Muir

6. Club Resolutions: none had been received.

7. Following discussion at the 2017 AGM, it was proposed that the quorum be reduced from 30 to 20. This was formally proposed by David Gold and seconded by Pauline Durie. The proposal was accepted *nem con*.

8. Chris Hope was re-elected as Auditor.

9. The Chair presented the trophies to this year's winners.

The meeting closed at 6.55 and bridge began at 7.00.