

**Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018  
at Chester le Street Cricket Club.**

Present:

**Officers:** Liz Muir (Chairman), Steve Ray (Treasurer), Norman Gray (Chief Tournament Director), Gill Gold (Congress Secretary), David Gold (Chief Tournament Secretary), Bev Godfrey (Executive Member), Brian Pacey (Inter Club Tournament Secretary) and Adrian Darnell (Secretary-in-waiting).

**Clubs:** Alan Davies (Wearside), Chris Griffiths and Eddie Moore (Middlesbrough), Ali Ritz (Morpeth), Eunice Ferguson (Brunton), Peter Grundy (Whitby), Peter Burnip (Darlington), Jocelyn Gordon and Pamela Niven (Hexham), Mike Craig (Castle Morpeth).

**Guest:** Bev Purvis, EBU.

1. Apologies: Nigel Durie (Vice Chair), Ken Goddard (South Shields), Chris Simmons (Darlington), Tony Watson (Wearside) and Ann Squires (Durham).
2. Welcomes: the Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Bev Purvis, the Club Liaison Officer of the EBU.  
The Chair also thanked Mary Page, who has stepped down as Secretary, and introduced Adrian Darnell (of Durham Bridge Club) who has adopted the role as Secretary-in-waiting, and has been nominated as Secretary.
3. NEBA Accounts  
The Treasurer presented the accounts for the 2017/18 year. The accounts are presently with the Auditor.  
As indicated at the November meeting, the finances of the NEBA are healthy and show a surplus of £2,626 (in most recent years losses had been recorded).  
Income was higher than the budget, largely due to a very successful Congress, and expenses had been tightly controlled.  
The Congress had benefitted greatly from a careful decision as to its timing and from a significant marketing effort (it was noted that 1/3 of attendees at the Congress came from outside NEBA's geographical area).  
The accounts were received, with thanks to the Treasurer.
4. Data Protection  
All clubs were reminded of their responsibilities with respect to the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which is implemented as of 25 May 2018.  
Clubs noted their appreciation of the literature and pro formas which the EBU have made available on their website. However, the forms made no mention of permissions to publish photographs and this matter will be put on the next NEBA Executive Committee Agenda.
5. Matters arising from Clubs
  - (i) A modification to Inter Club Rule 16 (which deals with postponed matches) and which arose following some rearrangements due to bad weather in 2018 was proposed. It was agreed to remit the matter to the Tournament Sub-Committee which would consider it and, were any changes proposed by that Sub-Committee, would aim to implement any new Rules for the 18/19 season.
  - (ii) It was proposed, to general agreement, that the NEBA website should list all members of winning teams in NEBA competitions, and not just the Captains.
  - (iii) The issue of how to address 'frequent psychers' was raised. All Clubs agreed that
    - a) psyching is part of the game but 'fielding' a psyche is the infraction;
    - b) all Clubs should keep a written record of psyches;

- c) a raised awareness of psyching is necessary in order that a full record may be kept;
  - d) all Club Committees should regularly review their records and, as appropriate, raise the matter with any 'frequent' psychers;
  - e) Law 40 deals with psyches and the White Book, in Section 1.4, deals with the categorization of psyches (red, amber and green) and the Director's authority to adjust scores;
  - f) in extreme cases of regular psychers, clubs are encouraged to contact NEBA and/or the EBU for advice.
- g)
6. Minutes of last meeting  
The Minutes were accepted as a true record, proposed by Bev Godfrey and seconded by David Gold; the Chair signed the Minutes.
7. Date of Next Meeting  
Subject to confirmation it was agreed to hold the next meeting on November 21 2018, **starting at 11.00 pm.**
8. Bev Purvis addressed the meeting. She described her role as the Club Liaison Officer of the EBU, which includes visiting the Clubs of The EBU, and set out various facilities offered by the EBU. A number of specific points led to discussion:
- (i) The EBU offers help to any club seeking to establish charitable status. Some Clubs within NEBA have successfully applied to the Charities Commission, using a template constitution on the EBU website (it is critically important to set out the Club's charitable objectives). The financial advantages include:
    - a) gift aid;
    - b) seeking grant aid;
    - c) potential reductions in premises' rental.
  - (ii) The EBU would wish to be alerted of any club which finds itself vulnerable due to diminishing numbers, and is able to offer help.
  - (iii) The EBU has various strategies, with associated documentation, to encourage newcomers to the game transform 'from classroom to club room' and to facilitate the take-up of duplicate bridge. Under the 'Club' tab on the website there are poster templates, promotional materials, and a Welcome Pack. The latter is downloadable and the EBU plan to distribute some packs to clubs free of charge. There are also materials to deliver 'fast-track' teaching and mini sims competitions.
  - (iv) The Welcome Pack can be used to encourage non-EBU-affiliated clubs to join the EBU.
  - (v) The EBU offer specific help with GDPR, and Clubs' appreciation is noted in 4 above.
  - (vi) The EBU are running Congresses for those up to NGS Jacks: 'Jack High'; it was noted in discussion that the NEBA Congress has a successful 'newcomer' section (on the Sunday).
  - (vii) The EBU have an ambition to reinvigorate County Groups.
  - (viii) Bev was thanked for her very helpful presentation, and especially for her presentation at the Whitby Club on the previous day which was described as 'inspirational'.

The meeting ended at noon.

