

North Eastern Bridge Association

Executive Meeting, November 14th 2018

Minutes

1. Present:

Liz Muir (Chair), Steve Ray, Nigel Durie, Norman Gray, David Gold and Adrian Darnell.
There were no apologies.

2. Received and Approved:

Minutes of last ordinary Executive Meeting, held on June 6th 2018 (Doc A, filed with the papers of this meeting).

There were no matters arising.

3. Received and Approved

Minutes of the last extra-ordinary Meeting, September 12th 2018 (Doc B, filed with the papers of this meeting).

There were no other matters arising other than item 4 below.

4. Matters arising

Discussed

The format of a potential membership drive.

Agreed

- i. a successful membership drive would be welcomed;
- ii. an unsuccessful membership drive would, in all likelihood, be neutral at best and counter-productive at worst;
- iii. given the geography of the region, a successful drive would require one lead co-ordinator, supported by a number of local teams (at the minimum one in the north, one centred around Newcastle, and another located in the south).

Resolved

To defer this item pending the arrival in the North East of a new member who has expressed interest in developing and supporting youth bridge. Discussions will be furthered in the New Year.

5. NEICKO

Discussed

The format of the 2018/19 NEICKO Competition, having noted that only 6 teams have entered.

Agreed

- i. the competition must proceed, as the winners represent NEBA in the Pachebo Cup.
- ii. the teams will be seeded and the top two seeds will proceed directly to the semi-finals;
- iii. the matches (quarters, semis and final) will all be played over 48 boards;
- iv. the quarters to be completed by the end of January 2019, the semis by the end of March 2019 and the final by 12th May 2019.

6. Business Items

- a) **received** a written report (Doc C, filed with the papers of the meeting) and oral reports on the Congress, November 2nd – 4th 2018.

Agreed

- i. the Congress had been a great success, much appreciated and enjoyed by all participants;
 - ii. the Marriott Hotel had provided a good service;
 - iii. all those responsible are to be congratulated, especially the Congress Secretary, Liz Muir;
 - iv. the organisers of the Congress would write up notes describing their roles, in order to facilitate smooth running and allow others to help and step in as necessary;
 - v. to investigate the possibility of a radio microphone, especially for the Director.
- b) **received** a report from the Treasurer for the 7 months to October 2018 (Doc D filed with the papers of the meeting).

Noted

- i. the finances, generally, are in a very healthy state;
 - ii. current income is £1,515 in excess of expenditure (excluding the Congress) and
 - iii. the Congress had made a small net profit of £1,000.
- c) **received** a report from the Chief Tournament Secretary; it was reported that, following Round 1 of the Inter Club Competition, one Club had enquired about the eligibility of one of their opponents.

The current wording of the Rules, clause 4, states that

“Every player must be a member of NEBA before participating. Violation of this condition will lead to disqualification of the offending team for that match. No player can play for more than one club in a season or for more than one team in the same round.”

Discussed

the clause does not state that a player must also be a member of their Club.

Agreed

that the rules would be amended for the next season to read:

“Every player must be a member both of the Club they are to represent and NEBA before participating. No player can play for more than one club in a season or for more than one team in the same round. Violation of any of these conditions may lead to the offending team(s) forfeiting that match.”

- d) **received** an oral report on a recent disciplinary process;
- e) **received** a written proposal for changes to the Disciplinary processes (Docs E & F filed with the papers of the meeting).

Agreed

to ask the Secretary to edit the proposal to bring back to a future meeting.

- f) a written response to the EBU’s consultation on the refusal or revocation of membership (Doc G filed with the papers of the meeting)

Agreed

- i. to welcome the authority to refuse or revoke;

- ii. the EBU's proposal to refuse or revoke membership on the ground of 'good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the organisation into disrepute' is inappropriate as it is not bridge-related;
- iii. the grounds for refusal or revocation of membership should be related to bridge and that Document G be forwarded to the EBU on behalf of NEBA.

7. AOB

- a) The NEBA Council, tentatively arranged for November 21st, would be postponed.

Agreed

- i. the next Council Meeting would be held at 11.00 am, Chester-le-Street Cricket Club, on January 30th 2019, immediately following the next scheduled Executive Committee Meeting;
- ii. the Secretary would cancel the provisional November 21st meeting and book the January 30th 2019, meeting.

- b) King Cup

It was proposed that the King Cup would be discontinued.

Agreed

The King Cup competition would no longer run, with immediate effect.

- c) Tollemache Cup

The EBU Tournament Panel has proposed two options for the allocation of teams to groups in the Tollemache Cup Qualifying round for future Competitions:

“Option 1 – continue exactly as at present

Option 2 – allocate the primary and secondary seeds to groups exactly as at present, but allocate the remaining teams to groups in such a way as to balance the strength of the non-seeds in each group on the basis of the NGS strength of each selected team.”

Agreed

the Secretary would reply to the EBU with the NEBA Executive's unanimous view that Option 2 was the preferred option.

- d) The Chief Tournament Director (CTD)

In the CTD's likely absence in the near future due to personal reasons, Chris Benneworth has very kindly agreed to stand in as CTD as and when needed. NEBA is very grateful to Chris for his offer of assistance.

- e) It was noted, with great regret, that Bev Godfrey has resigned from the Executive Committee.
- f) It was reported that the Chair had invited Graham Cox to join the Committee.
[Secretary's note: since the meeting Graham has accepted the invitation.]

Next Meetings.

The next two meetings have been arranged for January 30th 2019 (to be held at Chester le Street Cricket Club, starting at 10.00 am) and March 13th 2019 (venue and precise time to be arranged).