

North Eastern Bridge Association

Minutes of the AGM held at Cramlington B.C.,
Stannington Village Hall
Friday June 14th 2019 – 6.30pm

1. Apologies
Were received from Clive & Margaret Owen; Steve Ray; Peter Burnip; Chris Simmons; Bev Godfrey; Barbara Sleightholme.
2. Chair's Introduction: The Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm and thanked Cramlington BC for agreeing to host the meeting.
Chair's Report:
This will be the last AGM which I chair. I would like to acknowledge all the hard work done by everyone involved in the running of our County association.
Steve Ray, our Treasurer for 4 years is resigning from the post at this AGM. He has been an active member of the Executive during this time. We have all benefitted from his financial expertise, from his enthusiasm and inspiration. I am sure that the Executive Committee will miss his input at the meetings. We all owe him a huge vote of thanks.
Neil Alston has been our Webmaster for more years than I care to mention. The website is a mine of information and NEBA news. He does rely on us to keep him informed of items of interest though! He also prepares the posters for all our competitions, the leaflets for the Congress and the lay-out of the handbook. A huge thank you Neil, for all your hard work.
David Gold is our Chief Tournament Secretary. He has worked behind the scenes for the NEBA for many years. His work has been invaluable, in overseeing the various competitions, and helping prepare the handbook, and Congress Leaflets. Thank you David.
Norman Gray, our Chief Tournament Director has been in post for about 6 years I think it is. His approach to the job has been extremely efficient and very capable. He has done the job tirelessly, even through his own health issues last year. Indeed not many of us even knew he had been ill, such is his dedication.
Graham Cox, a new member on the Executive Committee, is also the Tournament Secretary for the Inter-Club. His input to the Exec has been invaluable.
Nigel Durie, our Vice Chairman has also worked as Chairman of the Selection Committee. He also organises teams for the Northern league. He's been a great support to me the last 3 years.
And finally, to Ann Bell. Ann has been the Tournament Secretary for many of our competitions for many years, and has finally decided to retire from the post. The NEBA owe you all a big, big thank you.
The Executive does need new blood in it. If you would like to put something back into the game that we all love, please see any one on the Executive Committee. In particular, we are still looking for someone to take on the role of Treasurer. Clearly this is a vital role, but doesn't take up a great deal of time. So any accountant, or book-keeper out there who would like to contribute a little time to the NEBA, please get in touch. And also, someone who could take on at least some of Ann's role as

Tournament Secretary. The job could be split into 2, provided we have 2 willing volunteers!

Finally, I'd also like to thank all the club secretaries and club officials out there. Without you, our clubs would not exist. Sometimes your efforts may seem to be taken for granted, but rest assured, they are much appreciated.

It has been an honour to be Chairman for a second time. I have met many charming people, who I would like to think of as friends. I wish Nigel, your next Chairman, good luck and hope that your time in the Chair is even better than mine was!

3. Minutes of AGM held on the 29th May 2018 (Doc A)
Were received as a true record.

4. Treasurer's report and Accounts
Were received, orally.

Over the last few years the finances of the NEBA have been greatly strengthened by a combination of actions -

- Increasing income by £1000pa by raising the P2P rate to 5p per session.
- Improvement in attendance at the NEBA Congress resulting in a substantial profit.
- Action to control and cut the overheads of the NEBA.

As a result we now have in excess of £15,000 in the bank and have been able to help our clubs by paying for the current courses for club directors. Hopefully the NEBA will be able to help fund a membership campaign in the near future. The success of future congresses will be important in determining the level of support available.

The finances of the NEBA have also been swollen by the absence of teams representing us in the major county competitions such as the Corwen, Pachabo and Garden Cities and our failure to qualify for the final of the Tollemache Cup. I hope this will change in the future.

Secretary's Note: A copy of the Accounts has since been posted on the website (and one small typographic error corrected).

5. Election of officers
The following were elected, without competition, at the Meeting:

Chair	Nigel Durie
Vice Chair	Sue Davies
Secretary	Adrian Darnell
Chief Tournament Director	Norman Gray
Chief Tournament Secretary	David Gold
Congress Secretary	Liz Muir

Secretary's Note: Bill March has since volunteered for the vacant position of Treasurer and will be co-opted to the Executive Committee.

6. Amendment to Constitution re Discipline (Doc B)
Approved, after some discussion, unanimously.
7. Chris Hope was re-elected as Auditor.
8. The Chair presented the trophies to this year's winners

9. A.O.B.
Thanks were offered to our outgoing Chair, Liz Muir, who has served the NEBA with commitment and energy. Her tenure has been most successful and the Association has grown in strength. While we say goodbye to her as Chair we maintain our warm welcome to her as Congress Secretary.
 10. The meeting closed at 6.55 and bridge began at 7.00.
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