

North Eastern Bridge Association

Council Meeting of June 12th June 2019 at 11.00 am, Chester
le Street Cricket Club.

Minutes

1. Present

Officers: Liz Muir (Chairman), Nigel Durie (Vice Chair), Norman Gray (Chief Tournament Director), David Gold (Chief Tournament Secretary), Graham Cox (Inter Club Secretary) and Adrian Darnell (Secretary).

Clubs: Graham Cockburn (Chester-le-Street), Eunice Ferguson (Brunton), Norman Gray (Cramlington), Ken Goddard (South Shields), Chris Griffiths (Middlesbrough), Sheena Hudson (Castle Morpeth), Eddie Moore (Middlesbrough), Steve Renold (Whitley bay & Tynemouth), Ali Ritz (Morpeth) and Tony Watson (Wearside).

Guest: David Guild, EBU & YBU.

Apologies: Steve Ray (Treasurer), Chris Simmons (Darlington), and Ann Squires (Durham).

2. Minutes of last Meeting, Jan 30th 2019 (Doc A) were received and approved.

3. There were no matters arising

4. The Chair had no business, but welcomed everyone to her last meeting of Council.

5. The Chair welcomed David Guild who addressed the meeting on the important issues of recruitment and membership (Doc B)

David's role within the EBU is to assist Tim Anderson, who is the EBU Membership Officer. David spoke to his paper, and identified a number of factors which contribute to a healthy and welcoming Bridge Club, which include excellent premises (in terms of facilities, décor, heating and décor) and a Committee which manages but which does not micromanage. David noted that the average age of EBU members is 73, and that the average age of new starters is 66.

He recommended that any recruitment drive should:

- focus on the 'nearly retired';
- run flexible classes (flexible with respect to am/pm/day of the week);
- note the EBED fund which supports Clubs with the rental costs for classes;
- use David, as appropriate, in the design of flyers;
- make use of digital platforms and social media.

All present were invited to consider how to promote their own Club, and in particular how to attract and retain new members.

6. The proposed changes to the NEBA Disciplinary Processes (Doc C) were approved unanimously.

7. NEBA Finances

The Treasurer had provided a written report, as below:

"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.”

8. The Draft Calendar for 2019/20 (Doc D) was received and approved.
9. Arrangements for the NEBA AGM, June 14th 2019
It was noted that there remained a vacancy for the post of Treasurer.
10. Matters arising from Clubs
It was decided that for future Council Meetings the Secretary would circulate all papers to all Secretaries and Chairs
11. Any other Business
Liz Muir, as outgoing Chair, was sincerely thanked for her sustained energy and commitment to the NEBA.