



North Eastern Bridge Association

Everything you need to know about Duplicate Bridge in the North East of England

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT CHESTER LE STREET CRICKET CLUB TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2017

Present: Exec: Liz Muir (Chair), Steve Ray (Treasurer), Nigel Durie (Vice Chair) Mary Page (Secretary), David Gold (CTD), Gill Gold (CS), Brian Pacey (TS), Elaine Purvis (TS).

Clubs: Robert Blofeld/Steve Reynolds (Whitley Bay), Jocelyn Gordon/Pam Niven (Hexham), Gordon Cockburn (CLS), Chris Griffiths/Eddie Moore (Middlesbrough), Ken Goddard (South Shields), Louis Babcock (Bishop Auckland), Peter Sykes/Ann Squires (Durham), Tony Watson/Allan Davies (Wearside), Dave Dansie (Ryton), Mike Craig/Sheena Hudson (CMBC), Simon Hedley (Cramlington), Ali Ritz/Jim Turnbull (Morpeth).

1. Apologies: Norman Gray (CTD), Ed Thompson (Hartlepool), Eunice Ferguson/Don Reid (Brunton), Peter Grundy (Whitby), Bev Godfrey (St Georges), Roger Chappel (Hurworth), Brian Hooper (Darlington), Paul Costello (Newcastle).

2. FINANCE:

Treasurer presented a detailed remit of the NEBA Executive role, outlining all costs involved in the running of the NEBA and explaining current financial situation. Treasurer explained NEBA had been running at a loss for the last three years and would be showing another loss at the end of this financial year and this meeting of Club's Chairman and Secretary had been called to address this situation. Lengthy discussion took place and following points made:

- County Teams:
Treasurer clarified all costs involved in running County teams events which he thought was important NEBA continued to enter namely:
Tollemache, Corwen, Garden Cities, Pachabo, NBL, Presidents Cup, Scottish match.

Discussion took place and it was agreed to leave matters as it is for this year and review situation after the Congress in November 2017.

- NEBA Booklet:
A saving of £600 could be made if booklet was not produced this year and matter was put to the vote. As vote was a 50/50 split it was agreed to print booklet this year and discuss with Webmaster producing a pdf version on the website for members to access.
- Increase in P2P
Although the EBU had increased P2P for 2017 NEBA had not as we had implemented an increase in 2016. Treasurer would be recommending a further increase of 1p for 2018 which would relate to a 50p increase per player per annum. CTS proposed in view of current financial situation P2P be increased to 10p for next year but objections to such an increase in one go was raised and it was suggested a more gradual increase would be more appropriate.
- Trophies:
As engraving costs to date are £258 it was suggested we no longer engrave trophies and Exec to investigate other options.

3. CONGRESS:

Treasurer explained last year's Congress made a loss of £400 and we needed members support to make our Congress viable. Treasurer explained we needed 130 delegates to attend which would ensure Congress made a profit and could remain at the Marriott. Secretary explained we had moved the Congress date a week earlier for 2017 to avoid clashing with the Yorkshire major team's event and Avimore Congress. The format has also been changed to try and encourage entries and will be a green pointed event for all sessions and newcomers event moved to a Sunday to include a meal. Steve Reynolds made the point some members found the number of boards played too excessive - Chairman stressed all green pointed events had to remain at 48 boards but the Exec would look at introducing a single session event (not green pointed) for club players.

4. RULE 17:

Brian Pacey explained to the meeting why Rule 17 had been introduced to try and reduce travelling for inter club matches. Unfortunately problems had been experienced in finding half way venues available on specific match dates and vote was unanimous to delete Rule 17 for next season as Clubs mentioned they had no problems with travelling. Chris Griffiths raised Middlesbrough complaint concerning their last match which had already been discussed by the Exec and it was agreed in this one instance, Middlesbrough be allowed to replay their match against Alnwick if possible. There were no objections to this proposal at the meeting due to the exceptional circumstances and Chairman expressed this was a one off exception to Rule 18 and would not be repeated.

5. Matters raised by Clubs:
 - Ken Goddard raised an issue from South Shields Club regarding the same sets of boards being played for 2/3 teams at inter club matches. Matter discussed and Clubs agreed they have not experienced any problems with duplicating the boards but it is purely a Club decision whether they duplicate the boards for all teams or deal separate boards.
 - Pat Niven from Hexham Club raised the point regarding team selection for inter club matches and would like to see A teams nominated at start of season with possible reserves and restrictions put into place so A team players could not then play in any other division. Matter discussed and Clubs commented this would impose huge restrictions on them being able to enter all their teams and it was agreed to leave as is and rely on the integrity of the Clubs to abide by the Rules.
 - Steve Reynolds asked regarding Directors course based in the North East. Secretary advised we had just completed one at St Georges in February and details had been circulated to all the Clubs and advertised on the website.

6. Attendance at Council Meetings/NEBA events.

Chair expressed her thanks to all the Club Chairman and Secretary for attending the meeting and explained in the past attendance had been very poor at Council meetings. Secretary advised NEBA Constitution stipulates there has to be 2 council meetings p.a. and Clubs agreed it was not an arduous task for them to attend twice a year.

7. Minutes of Council meeting 5.9.16 – Minutes approved – no matters arising.

8. A.O.B.:

Secretary raised the issue of organising another Teachers course in the North East. Three members of Hexham Bridge Club were keen to attend a course and the Secretary asked the Club Secretaries to speak to their members and see who would be willing to attend. Currently EBEDS are charging for their beginner's course at £106.00 per delegate which includes lunch. It is a 2 day event and minimum numbers required would be 10 delegates. Club Secretary to let the Secretary know the names of any of their members who would be interested in this course.

9. Date of next Meeting:

As discussed in item 2, Council agreed to meet after the Congress to review financial situation.

As no other matters raised meeting was closed at 12.30 pm.