

N.E.B.A. Executive Meeting at Chester-le-Street Cricket Club on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 10.30a.m.

**Minutes:**

**Present:**

Sue Davies (Chair)  
Marion Curran (Vice Chair)  
Catherine Farrell (Secretary)  
Jill Armstrong (Webmaster) (by Zoom)  
Graham Cox (Inter-club league)  
John Portwood (Chief Tournament Director)  
Helen Wildsmith (Co-opted Chief Tournament Secretary)

**Apologies:**

Liz Muir (Congress Secretary)  
Bill March (Treasurer)

1. The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed and the amendment to the previous minutes approved.
2. Matters Arising – There were no matters arising and we moved straight onto the Agenda.
3. Constitution – Catherine reported that there had been a meeting of the sub-committee to discuss altering the existing Constitution to bring it into line with the model recommended by the EBU. They had started on the Schedule of Disciplinary Procedures which was now ready to be adopted. Assuming this is adopted at the AGM then Catherine Farrell was elected to Chair the Conduct Committee and Graham Cox was elected to Chair the Disciplinary Committee should the need arise. The sub-committee (Catherine Farrell, Jill Armstrong and Andy Pryor) felt that the model from the EBU covered what was suitable for NEBA and were planning to adapt it for NEBA. Then if it is adopted at the AGM it would then be submitted to the EBU as requested by them. (CF)
4. Online League – Entries for this league were standing at 7 teams which meant a bye. But another team came forward after the meeting making 8 teams and the schedule has been drawn up and the matches will be starting shortly. The Captains of each team will enter results on the website and Helen will collate them. (HW)
5. Congress Secretary – We still don't have a Congress Secretary for this year's Congress but as Liz has already done most of the groundwork. It was decided that a small team would be put together to help set up the room on the Saturday morning. John recommended that starting at 10.30a.m. would give enough time to have everything ready and Helen and Tim would be available to help with the work. Also Catherine, Sue and Marion are going to look at alternative venues shortly in case we need to find another hotel for 2026.
6. Sue mentioned that Helen, Catherine and herself had an informal meeting to discuss Helen's role. Marion had been unable to attend but had sent recommendations for the role. This included making a sub-committee comprising Graham, Jill, Helen and John (if needed) this was widely accepted as a good idea. They would meet to do the Calendar and Events. Helen and Jill would work on doing a quarterly update from NEBA. Also

Helen mentioned that she could do simple posters to send to the clubs to help with the advertising of upcoming events. (HW)

7. Chronicle Cup – There had been many comments after this year's final and these were discussed and the Exec. favoured a direct entry for future events but decided that this should be put to the Council for their views. It was felt that 52 boards had been too much and John pointed out that an 8 table final could be 45 boards or a 7 table final could be 39 boards without affecting the allocation of green points.
8. Computer used by John – John confirmed that the computer he used was NEBA's computer and purchased in 2018. He was happy to keep using it. Also the subject of tablets was raised to be used instead of bridgemates they are currently around £100 each and this will be looked at for the future. (John to advise)
9. This year is the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations for NEBA one of the suggestions for this event was brought up by Marion, Jill and Dave Armstrong that we run a simultaneous pairs in the clubs with the hands that had been used in an early competition when NEBA was in its infancy. This was discussed and generally well received.
10. Calendar 2026 – Graham has already put together a draft calendar for 2026 and the aforementioned sub-committee would meet and finalise it.
11. A.O.B. – Sue had been to Bob Watts funeral which had been well attended . The AGM was agreed to be on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 6p.m. at Wearside Bridge Club and the Exec. will probably meet for a short meeting on Zoom beforehand. John was asked to put together an inventory of equipment that we hold. He agreed to make a list.
12. The meeting closed at 11.30a.m. The next f2f meeting will be Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at Chester-le-Street Cricket Club at 10.30a.m. followed by a Council meeting