

Minutes N.E.B.A. Executive Committee Zoom Meeting on Thursday, 3rd July 2025 at 2p.m.

Present:

Marion Curran (Chair)

Graham Cox (Vice Chair)

Bill March (Treasurer)

Catherine Farrell (Secretary)

Helen Wildsmith (Chief Tournament Secretary)

John Portwood (Chief Tournament Director)

Jill Armstrong (Webmaster)

1. There were no apologies for absence.
2. The Minutes of the last zoom meeting on 23rd May were accepted as a true record.
3. The Minutes of the A.G.M. were also accepted as a true record.
4. Matters arising: The adopted changes to the Constitution have been sent to the EBU to be certified. The proposals from Dave Armstrong which were discussed at the AGM are covered under the Agenda. The online league is going well and is nearing completion with another one proposed to start in September. Everything else from the AGM is covered on this Agenda.
5. Timely responses to emails – Marion pointed out that responding to emails has been lax and in future an acknowledgement of receipt of email would be appreciated and any responses should be in a timely manner.

It was suggested and approved that we set up a Whatsapp Group for the Exec. instead of separate emails so we can see who has read anything posted on there. **(Action: Helen to set it up)** (Already done)

6. Co-opting other members of the committee – At present the only elected members of the Exec. are the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Chief Tournament Secretary. The co-opted positions are Inter-Club league, Web Master, Congress Secretary and Chief

Tournament Director. It was decided that the Chief Tournament Director should be an elected member of the Exec. and not a co-opted position. Bill proposed it and Jill seconded it.

7. It was decided to cancel the next competition on the 26th July 2025 at Stannington because of difficulties getting the format right and the lack of time to sort it all out. As brought up at the AGM the proposal that we ran less competitive competitions to try to encourage newer club members to try.

It was proposed that we run a handicapped competition i.e. A high ranking pair teamed up with a lower ranking pair to form a team to give a more even field. As this has only been tried by a very few clubs it was decided that a better approach would be to encourage clubs to try this format out in their own clubs first before we launch a competition on the same lines.

The cancellation was proposed by Jill and seconded by Bill and was carried by the majority. **(Action: Catherine to email Colin at Stannington BC to cancel the room booking).**(Already done)

8. The 2025 Congress – Helen has had a meeting with Liz and all the information concerning this year's Congress has been passed to her. Helen has also had a chat with Oliver Cowan about the best way forward for getting as much publicity as possible to promote the Congress. It has been suggested that some flyers are taken to the Scarborough Congress to promote the Congress and if Helen is unable to attend then Catherine and Marion who will be there to distribute them. Also Marion and Catherine volunteered to be a back up for Helen if another visit to Laura at the Marriott is necessary to finalise times for the 2 days. Need to have everything in place by the end of July. **(Action: Helen and/or Marion and Catherine)**

9. The way forward given the discussions at the AGM: Marion has been trying to contact an Irish team with the view to re-enacting a match that was held in the early days of NEBA as part of the 90th celebrations. As yet she has had no response but will keep trying.

At the A.G.M. Bev. Godfrey brought up how the game has changed with the majority of new members being more interested in the social side of the game rather than the competitive nature. It was suggested that a sub committee was set up to look into how the changes could be incorporated into the NEBA calendar Jill suggested setting it up to

utilise Bev's. Ideas and include Bev in the committee. **(Action Marion and Jill).**

10. Next Years Calendar: Helen is currently finalising it and will forward the draft making sure that it doesn't clash with other areas. Once completed it will be on the website and all Clubs contacted also a hard copy will be printed out for club secretaries.

Marion informed everyone that she was in the process of writing a friendly letter to everyone and would put something in it re. the Calendar and the lack of support for NEBA events.

John suggested resurrecting the booklet that we used to have printed for all members, This idea was not supported but Graham is going to produce a document with a little more detail about each of our events such as venue, number of boards etc.

Jill suggested that a more formal letter to all Chairs of clubs re. promoting NEBA events and informing their members. Also that the Calendar should be more detailed with starting times and cost for each event.

The next event is at Durham which they have confirmed and will be on Saturday 4th October. Also the number of boards at future events was discussed the most popular option is 18 boards then a break followed by a further 18 boards. It was decided that to keep the number of boards down at next years Chronicle cup final would go from 14 pairs to 16 pairs which means that only 45 boards would be played and not 52 as was the case this year. Proposed by Graham and seconded by Jill. Jill will be promoting the next event on the website. **(Action Helen, Jill and Marion)**

11. Dave Armstrong's recent email re. EBU and Shareholders. – Marion will be attending the next EBU Chair meeting and if appropriate will bring it up. Graham pointed out that this should be deferred to the next Council meeting as it was something that should be discussed by the Council and it was for them to decide what they wanted the Exec. to do. Bill proposed the deferment and Jill seconded it. Also Catherine to email Dave Armstrong to explain that it has been deferred until the Council meeting in October. **(Action Catherine)** (Already done and Dave Armstrong has replied).
12. A.O.B. – Marion mentioned that she had been contacted by John Gladders (one of NEBA selectors) requesting that the next

online league allow kibitzers. After discussion it was decided that if there are 2 divisions next time that kibitzing by selectors only would be allowed for the first division and not the second as this was intended to be more friendly and less formal. Captains would need to know who and their names beforehand.

Also Chris Benneworth has agreed to run an event for Club TDs to enable them to be able to assist at NEBA events if needed.

Catherine brought up a verbal complaint that she had received from Neil Oliver that no one had been entered for this years Corwen and that he had qualified but not approached as to whether he wished to play in it or not. It was agreed that this would be rectified and would not occur in the future.

13. The meeting concluded at 4p.m.