

NORTHERN BRIDGE LEAGUE REVIEW MEETING 2025

Held online on Thursday 16th October 2025 at 10am

1 Present

J Smith	(Chairman)
K Johnston	(Treasurer)
B Kaye	(Merseyside)
S Norman	(Cumbria)
R Alexander	(Manchester)
J Hampson	(Merseyside)
M Curran	(North East)
R Jepson, A Broskill	(Yorkshire)
A Perkins	(Scotland)

2 Apologies for Absence

M Rothwell, B Kaye

3 Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising (24 October 2024)

Approved. No matters arising

4 NBL Chairman's Report (Jeffrey Smith)

Well done to the winners of the NBL Divisions – Div 1 Lancashire/Scotland tied, Div 2 Yorkshire, Div 3 Merseyside & Cheshire. The National Finals will be held on Sunday 7th June 2026 on RealBridge. Ken will approach Ian Mitchell on entering two teams for the A Final – Otherwise, Lancashire will qualify on EBU tie splitting rules. The balance of teams in the Divisions was better this year with 6, 6 and 4 teams respectively thus avoiding any sitout time. Thanks to those Counties who rearranged their squads to enable this balance. The total number of teams dropped from 18 to 16 from the previous year. Thanks to Ken Johnson who managed (occasionally with some help) and ran all the matches, and Rodney Lighton who maintains the central NBL site. Well done Ken on making a modest profit on the balance sheet!

5 Treasurers Report (Ken Johnson)

There were 16 teams. Entry costs were £4 per player, £20 per team.

Start Balance: £1373.88

Income: Entry Fees over 4 matches £2368

Expenses: TDs £850, EBU £475.64, RealBridge £430.08, Nat Final £350.

Final Balance: £1636.16 (This left us with a profit of £262.68)

The full Balance Sheet is on an Excel spread sheet. Ken proposed no increase in entry fees next year.

6 Matters For Discussion

Screens

These were trialled in all Divisions this year. Little feedback other than the odd like/dislike comment. Royce liked the written self alerts but felt screens were less social for C Division players. It was agreed to continue the trial for another year.

System Disclosure

Marion reported that sometimes there was no clarification or proper disclosure from the opponents. Ken mentioned that you could use the Speech Bubble to converse with your screen mate or the Chat. It was agreed that in the NBL Instructions, Ken should encourage players to load up their systems online and emphasise that players must give full system disclosure during play.

Team Placement

Sam felt that although his team had played in the A Division, they would much prefer the B Division next year. Ken said it depended on entries and as usual we would approach other Counties eg Lincs, Derbyshire, Isle of Man, Gloucestershire. Often the contact was not reporting back to the county players. Royce said he would try to get three Manchester teams for next year.

NBL Dates

John reminded us to check with Dave Stevenson to avoid a clash with Presidents Cup. Royce noted there were a lot of online dates during July and suggested the NBL better run from August to November. The Chairman explained that originally the summer months were used due to the weather for travel, but now its online, it made sense in the future to make the dates better fit the overall calendar.

Internet

John said that Bob Pitts using Norton had found the NBL site was insecure. This will be investigated.

Invitation

It was suggested we invite Ian Mitchell who runs the National Finals to future meetings.

7 NBL League/Dates

Sat 11th July 2026

Sat 15th August 2026

Sat 12th September 2026

Sat 17th October 2026

8 Any Other Business

The meeting ended at 10:30am.

Next Meeting: **Thursday 22nd October 2026 at 10am**