

DRAFT MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE YCBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CAIRN HOTEL HARROGATE ON SATURDAY 2 JUNE 2018 COMMENCING AT 11.00 A.M.

PRESENT: N Woolven (Chairman/Leeds), P Godfrey (Vice-Chairman/York), J Staniforth (Secretary/Doncaster), L Millet (Treasurer/Leeds), J Brennan (Wetherby), J Cole (Olicana), T Crebbin (Membership Secretary/Harrogate), B Davison (Olicana), L Earle (Wakefield), J Edwards (Leeds), C Fort (Brighouse), A Goulding (Wakefield), D Guild (Olicana), J Hayton (Malton), M Jackson (Malton), A Jeal (Garforth), M Jeal (Garforth), R Jepson (Leeds), G W Jepson (Vice-President/Beauchief), C Kelly (Olicana), R Millet (Leeds), G Rickard (York), M Stanton (Garforth), P Stout (Wetherby), R Turner (Sheffield) and D Waxman (Sheffield)

APOLOGIES: A Abrahams (Wensleydale), S V Davies (Bradford), J Latham (Harrogate), P Mason (Malton), S McKellar (Wensleydale), F Rhodes (Settle), J Rouse (Thirsk), P Wallace (Wakefield) and M Whymys (Sheffield)

1) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 3 June 2017 and Members Meeting held on 26 November 2017

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3) Chairman's Report Including National Update and County Matches/Tournament Report

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and commenced his report with a review of the 2017/18 Yorkshire League season which had comprised 85 teams (an increase of four teams from the previous year) across ten divisions and remained the largest county league, For the first time in a number of years Leeds A had won division 1 but had not qualified for the Garden Cities national final. After many years of producing the league fixtures Philip Mason had found a successor in Mike Jackson who had completed the forthcoming year's fixtures which had now been circulated to clubs and uploaded on the YCBA website. It was very pleasing to report a further increase in the number of teams competing in the league for 2018/19 resulting in a return to eleven divisions of eight teams. A message of thanks was extended to Mike for agreeing to take on the responsibility of producing the fixtures and to Philip for his work over many years.

Yorkshire players had enjoyed success in national competitions with the Sheffield team of Tom Gisborne, Sandy Davies, David Robinson and Richard Pike recently winning the Hubert Phillips Plate final; Tony McNiff, Bill Townsend, Dave Robinson and Robin Jepson (along with Richard Edwards and Robert Ross) won the 2016/17 Gerard Faulkner Salver and Sarah Tesholme, Richard Winter, Tony McNiff, Bill Townsend and Tom Cohen won the 2016/17 Silver Plate. At the Northern Easter Festival the Yorkshire team of Geoff Kenyon, Carole Kelly, Robin Jepson and Alan Brosgill had won the teams event, Gill Copeland and George Bak the Mixed Pairs with the Leeds pair of Ralph Thompson and Sheila Dodd winning the Improvers event.

A copy of the Tournament Secretary's report was circulated and this indicated a slight reduction in entries to a number of one day and knock out competitions in line with national trends however there had been an increase in some improvers events and the introduction of an improvers team event was attracting a number of entries and clubs were asked to continue to promote teams competitions in view of their popularity.

With regard to national matters Gordon Rainsford the EBU General Manager would now assume the role of Chief Executive Officer and Donna Wright had been appointed to a comparable role

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with EBED. It was explained that EBED was a charitable arm of the EBU and provided a national network for bridge teachers to support the teaching of bridge. The EBU had produced a new Strategic Plan with a focus on the retention of new members by the EBU and a new welcome pack for new members had recently been introduced and a copy forwarded to county chairmen. A member enquired as to whether there was a requirement for new members to purchase the booklet and it was explained there was no requirement to do so but it did contain some useful information. The Learnbridge website which was maintained by Jim Edwards was available to freely advertise bridge classes and information and resources were available to support teaching.

4) Secretary's Report Including Membership Information

The Secretary confirmed that meetings of the Management Board and a Members meeting had been convened in accordance with the constitution and a number of committee meetings had taken place including one meeting of the Conduct Committee which after undertaking a thorough investigation of a complaint received decided no further action was required.

The Membership Secretary had produced a report denoting the number of YCBA members for each affiliated club based on county of allegiance giving an overall total of 3,784 members which included 34 direct members and 58 student members. It was explained that in most cases the total for each club would reflect a lower number than the actual club membership as many clubs had a small number of members whose county of allegiance was not YCBA and only players with YCBA as their county of allegiance were contained in the EBU database file. The Membership Secretary was thanked for the production of the information

A substantial amount of work had been undertaken to ensure that the association complied with new data protection legislation and thanks were extended to John Hayton, David Guild and Phil Godfrey for undertaking the strategic work and advice to clubs. As part of this work it had been agreed that home addresses would no longer be published or collected and all communication including the collection and distribution of Yorkshire League information would be sent electronically.

A message of appreciation was extended to Janet Latham who was retiring as Assistant Secretary and to all the affiliated club secretaries for their support over the past year.

5) Treasurer's Report

Copies of the accounts prepared by Brown Butler (Leeds Chartered Accountants) for the year ended 31 March 2018 were circulated for consideration.

- The Treasurer reported the following information:
- Universal Membership Subscription (P2P) receipts reflected an increase of £797 from the previous year denoting an increase in bridge playing at clubs
- The level of reserves was now just over £49k with an in-year surplus of £10,090 due largely to successful congress events. The surplus would be used to provide resources and support to clubs to promote and market bridge to improve membership
- The outsourcing of some one day competitions continued to be successful

A message of appreciation was extended to the Tournament Secretary and those involved with the running of events for the efficient arrangements enacted.

No questions were raised in connection with the accounts presented.

6) Bridge Development Committee Report

The Chair of the Committee reported the committee (which comprised a number of co-opted members who were involved with bridge development in their clubs) had met throughout the year and had arranged a number of events for improvers.. The Improvers Pairs event held at Leeds BC had been full, attracting 19 tables and the introduction of an improvers teams event at the Congress had attracted nine teams and clubs were asked to continue to promote teams competitions in view of their popularity..

The EBU's Northern Counties Working Group continued to promote bridge across the region and had continued to introduce regional events in order to encourage new members to play competitive bridge.

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A new editor was still being sought for the publication of the Yorkshire News. The Regional Development Officer had undertaken a significant amount of work with clubs to support clubs to increase membership and a number of successful initiatives were taking place and this had been reflected in the increased UMS (P2P) receipts

7) Draft Calendar of Events for 2018/19

The calendar of events would be made available in the near future when venues had been finalised.

8) Constitutional Changes

a) Section 5 - Membership Criteria (enclosed)

Revised membership criteria was presented and it was explained that it was aimed to simplify the differing criteria that currently existed and the new criteria would be mainly based on membership of a YCBA affiliated club plus a small number of direct members. YCBA competitions would be open to all EBU members but in line with EBU criteria where applicable. A vote was taken and all members were in favour of adoption of the new criteria with the exception of two abstentions.

b) Section 7 – Members’ Behaviour (enclosed)

In line with changes to the EBU’s ‘Best Behaviour at Bridge’ document a minor change was proposed to incorporate the facility for appropriate behaviour away from the bridge table in connection with the playing of duplicate bridge. It was explained that this would enable inappropriate behaviour such as offensive comments on social media or where members may be at risk due to a members’ behaviour. A vote was taken and the amendment was accepted unanimously.

9) County UMS (P2P), Club Affiliation and Direct Members Fees for 2019/20

In accordance with the requirements of the constitution consideration was given to the fees to be charged by YCBA for the following year. In view of the current financial position it was agreed that the 5p UMS levy and the waiving of any county club fee should continue for the next year. It was agreed that the £5 charge for direct members be removed in line with the new membership criteria. A vote was taken with all but in one in favour.

10) Members Forum

The following issues were raised:

- Should the ‘Play without the Experts’ event be renamed ‘Jack High’ in line with the EBU comparable event. – A response was that for the present time the current name remain in order to avoid any confusion.
- The lack of convention cards in Yorkshire League matches – It was agreed that arrangement would be made for the requirement for all pairs to have identically completed convention cards be circulated and denoted on the website.
- A message of thanks was given to members of the Management Board and other associated officers for the work carried out over the past year for the benefit of the YCBA membership.

11) Election of Officers and Management Board for 2018/19

The office holders of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and Tournament Secretary along with two nominations for the Management Board were duly proposed and seconded as follows:

Chairman	Nick Woolven	Brian Davison	Gill Copeland
Vice-Chairman	Phil Godfrey	David Waxman	Janet Latham
Secretary	Julia Staniforth	Geoff Kenyon	Graham Jepson
Treasurer	Lesley Millett	Nick Woolven	John Hayton
Assistant Secretary	Robin Jepson	Christina Turner	Angela Buckley
Tournament Secretary	Stuart Davies	David Donaldson	Elaine Van Heel
Management Board	John Hayton	Philip Mason	Richard Hilton
Management Board	David Guild	John Hayton	Nick Woolven

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The two unfilled vacancies would be considered by the Board and co-options would be undertaken as appropriate.

12) Date and Time of Next AGM and Members Meeting

- a) The next Members Meeting would be held prior to a training event to be arranged in November 2018.
- b) The next AGM was agreed as Saturday 8 June 2019 at the Cairn Hotel Harrogate at 11.am.

13) Presentation of Trophies

Trophies were presented to a representative from the club of the leading team in each Yorkshire league division for the 2016/17 season as follows:.

Division 1 – Leeds A (Morning Telegraph Cup) – Nick Woolven

Division 2 – Sheffield BA (Green Un Cup) – . Rob Turner

Division 3 – Keighley A (The Sheffield Shield) – Carole Kelly to forward

Division 4 – Ilkley B (Lawrence Batley Trophy) – Harrogate BC to forward

Division 5 – Shelley (Toulson Trophy) – Nick Woolven to forward

Division 6 – Keighley B (Winnie Pattinson Salver) – Carole Kelly to forward

Division 7 – York D (Cartwright Trophy) – G Rickard

Division 8 – Thirsk B (YCBA Trophy) – Retained

Division 9 – Garforth B (Yorkshire Bank Trophy) – Audrey Jeal

Division 10 – Sheffield H (YCBA Trophy) – RobTurner

(Division 11 – Two Trophies are retained by Olicana BC)

The Yorkshire Trophy was presented to Rob Turner a member of the winning team.

Signed: ----- (Chairman)

Dated:-----

APPENDIX 1

PROPOSED CHANGES TO YCBA CONSTITUTION – 2018

5.1 Any person becomes a member of the YCBA when they are a member of a bridge club that is an affiliated Duplicate Bridge Club of the YCBA.

5.2 Any person also becomes a member of the YCBA when:

- they are an Individual Player Member of the EBU and;
- they have given express notice, either directly to the YCBA or via the EBU, that they wish to become a member of the YCBA.

5.3 At the point when a person agrees to join the YCBA, they will have been made aware of the YCBA Constitution and they will have given express notice that their personal information can be shared between the YCBA and the EBU.

5.4 A YCBA member continues to be a member until:

- they state in writing to the YCBA (by letter or by email) that they wish to terminate their membership, or:
- the YCBA receives notification from the EBU that the person wishes to terminate their YCBA membership, or:
- the individual ceases to be a member of the EBU.

5.5 Members of YCBA at 1 April 2018 will retain membership under the membership conditions in place at 31 March 2018, for a period of 12 months up to 31 March 2019. From 1 April 2019, the membership criteria under 5.1 to 5.3 will apply.

5.6 There is no annual subscription for YCBA membership. The YCBA element of Pay to Play fees levied on players participating in YCBA affiliated Duplicate Bridge Club events, or in YCBA events, is unaffected by YCBA membership status.

5.7 All events organised by the YCBA are open to members and non-members. However, membership of the YCBA is required in order for a person to represent the county in certain events, the conditions for which will be determined on an annual basis by the YCBA.

APPENDIX 2

PROPOSED CHANGES TO YCBA CONSTITUTION – 2018

Removal of wording in red and insertion of wording in green in the section denoted below.

7. MEMBERS' BEHAVIOUR

7.1 Each Member shall be required, **in connection with the game of Duplicate Contract Bridge** **whether at or away from the bridge table** to conform to the standards of fair play, courtesy and personal deportment prescribed by the Bye Laws and regulations for the time being of the EBU, **including the fundamental principle set out in the EBU's ' Best Behavior at Bridge.'**