

NOTES OF MEMBERS MEETING HELD AT BRADFORD BRIDGE CLUB ON SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2017 COMMENCING AT 11.30 A.M.

PRESENT: P. Godfrey (Vice Chairman) , J . Latham (Assistant Secretary), S. Davies (Tournament Secretary), J. Hayton, R Jepson, D. Guild, H.. Hobson, E. Latham, E. Crebbin, J Foggitt, S. Robertson, S. Flett, S. Crossland, C. Babington, P. Trevanion, P. Baker, J. Carpenter, S. Kay and C. Thompson

1) VICE CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the 3rd Annual Members' Meeting, explaining that he was deputising for the Chairman who was unable to attend.

2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Philip Mason (President), Graham Jepson (Vice President, Nick Woolven (Chairman), Julia Staniforth (Secretary) Lesley Millet (Treasurer) Ron Millett, David Waxman, Peter Wallace, Chris Fort and Gill Copeland.

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A seminar aimed at the more experienced players had been given by David Bakhshi and this had been very well received. It was anticipated that more seminars of a similar nature would be arranged and Fiona Brown, Hugh McGann and Michael Byrne had been approached with a view to arranging these.

4) UPDATE ON NATIONAL ISSUES

The Vice Chairman reported as follows on National Issues:

- a) All the EBU Board Officers had been returned at the AGM and Gordon Rainsford was now General Manager taking over from the retiring Barry Capal.
- b) New laws had been introduced in April 2017 and courses had been held to help club directors to understand these.
- c) It had finally been decided by the European Court that bridge did not qualify as a sport for VAT purposes.
- d) Pay to Play will be increased from 37p to 38p in April 2018.
- e) The EBU has suffered a yearly loss of £25,000 with a projected 4 year loss of £130,000 but is aiming for a small profit over the 4 year international calendar. Part of the reason for the loss is the success of the national teams.
- f) The number of clubs affiliated nationally has dropped from 615 to 613.
- g) County working groups are operating successfully in the North and Midlands but not so successfully in the South.

5) COUNTY UPDATE

Yorkshire is in a very healthy position financially and is continuing to run 3 events successfully for the EBU, (Great Northern Swiss Pairs, Harrogate Spring Congress and the Northern Easter Festival)

Competition Results

President's Cup 2nd behind Manchester

NBL	Div.1	Yorks 1, 3 rd ;	Yorks 2, 4 th	(out of 6)
	Div 2	Yorks, 4 th		(out of 8)
	Div.3	Yorks SE 1 st ,	Yorks NW 3 rd	(out of 8)

Tollemache, 5th in their section. Graham Jepson reported that everyone enjoyed the event and he felt the younger players gained from the experience

National Events

The Gerard Faulkner Salver (Seniors National Knockout) was won by W Townsend, T. McNiff, R. Edwards, R Ross,, D. Robinson and R. Jepson.

W Townsend, T. McNiff, S. Teshome and R. Winter are through to the Silver Plate Final

6) BRIDGE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES AND MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UPDATES

The Vice Chairman reported that:

a) The Bridge Development Committee has been meeting quarterly to address the modernisation of the game and membership across the County.

b) The YCBA have appointed a Bridge Development Officer, David Guild, who is working with part funding (up to £5,000) from the EBU for one year.

c) A Play without the Experts Event attracted 12 tables and went well.

d) City Centre Bridge

This is being trialled in Leeds by Tom Copeland and Alan Hayward. They will be going into large companies and holding classes after work. This will hopefully encourage younger people to play.

e) Phil Morrison from Leeds has been appointed as County Youth Officer

f) Teaching Aids and Seminars

A successful seminar was held at the Hilton in Leeds. 60+ attended a morning session on EBU Score and an afternoon session on the new EBU laws.

David Guild spoke to the meeting saying that he would be pleased to advise any club on possible methods of marketing bridge and attracting new members. He suggested that the main focus initially should be on increasing numbers rather than improving standards of play.

Ripon City was an example of a club where the introduction of 'gentle' sessions had considerably increased their membership. He suggested that targeted marketing was more successful than blunderbuss marketing.

7) OPEN FORUM

a) David Guild answered questions about marketing methods. Stan Robertson from Harrogate asked whether he would attend a meeting of Harrogate BC committee and he agreed to do so.

b) YCBA News Letter was discussed. Members who read it found it interesting. A request was made for a volunteer for a replacement editor for the newsletter and also for volunteers to help to run the Yorkshire Simultaneous Pairs events

c) Patricia Baker from Olicana Bridge Club reminded people that TD courses were being held there on January 13th, February 3rd and March 10th.

d) Phil Godfrey thanked Bradford Bridge Club for hosting the event and for providing a very enjoyable brunch.

8) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Annual General Meeting to be held at the Cairn Hotel, Harrogate, on Saturday 2nd June 2018 commencing at 11.00 a.m.