

MINUTES OF THE YCBA VIRTUAL TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4 JUNE 2020 AT 7.00 PM.

Present: Nick Woolven (Chair), Godfrey, Julia Staniforth, Lesley Millet, Stuart Davies, Philip Mason, Ron Millet and Oliver Cowan.

1. Co-option of Oliver Cowan

Oliver Cowan was agreed as a co-opted member in view of his contribution to online bridge tournaments.

2. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies as all members were present and no declarations on interest.

3) Designation of an Online Events Administrator

Oliver had offered his services as an Online Bridge Administrator and had arranged the first online competition (Swiss Pairs) following a similar event arranged for Leeds BC.

A draft contract of service had been drawn up for the administration of the Swiss Pairs event with a fee payment based on a fee of £250 with an additional £1.25 for each entry over 100 pairs for ratification by the Management Board

Consideration would be given to similar contracts when further online tournaments were arranged.

4) Update on online Swiss Pairs Event

117 pairs had entered the event which was to take place over three weeks playing two eight board sessions in designated time periods within the week. Oliver reported that the first round had completed at 5.00pm that evening and assignments for the next round had been despatched. There had been a small number of very minor issues which had all been rectified and there had been positive experience from some less experienced pairs that had entered.

It was confirmed that Master Points would be awarded and that there was no cost payable to BBO as the tournament was being played on one of the free platforms and as a consequence the EBUscore programme could not be used.

5) Training of Directors for Online Events

The resignation of Adrian Goulding as an EBU Congress B TD had been received with regret. Currently only James Carpenter was an EBU trained online Director and training as a full EBU Director along with Jim Edwards. Both Stuart and Phil G were national TDs and Barrie Partridge was also a Congress B Director but mainly focused on Bridge Club Live events along with Sheffield BC events. As a consequence the YCBA pool of Directors was now reduced. StuD

6) especially with free tea and coffee throughout the event, together with free parking. Whilst the rooms were a little more expensive, this was not felt as a hindrance to the event. If the numbers were on a par with last year at Ilkley, then the forecast was for a £2500 surplus. So far, 2 improvers pairs had entered. SD noticed that the codes were wrong on the EBU website and will get them changed. NW to do the improvers booklets.

7) Yorkshire Congress: All preparations in place. LM and SD said they found it difficult to have a full attendance at the board meeting but the consensus was to still have it

at the congress. Food requirements for the AGM were to be looked at by LM but again the consensus was that the food last year was more than adequate.

- 8) **GNSP**: This had been moved to 17/18th October due to the clash with the overseas congress and a date for the NBL had also to be changed. It was felt that with the Premier league going on that weekend there would be a loss of maybe up to 10 tables but hopefully this will be avoided in later years. Profit from last year was about £2000.
- 9) All dates for future congresses had been submitted to the EBU to try and ensure no (or a reduced) number of clashes with other events. **YC** 12/13-6-2021 and 11/12-6-2022. **NEF** 2/3/4-4-2021, 15/16/17-4-2022. **GNSP** 2/3-10/2021, 1/2-10-2022. **HSC** 12/13/14-2-2021, 11/12/13-2-2022.
- 10) The costings for the very successful Yorkshire improvers pairs was discussed, especially concerning the food costs and what was provided for the £12 charge. Whilst a small profit usually ensued, only 24 boards are played and the query was whether such a substantial tea was required. NW to check with Brian Davison/Jim Edwards.
- 11) Non-congress Yorkshire events were discussed as follows: **Mixed Pivot Teams** only 6 teams this year and one proposal was to scrap the event altogether or to outsource it. (York/Sheffield/Doncaster were mooted as possible venues for 2021). However, after discussion it was proposed that the event continue at Doncaster for 1 more year with a change in format to mixed teams (not pivot). NW to check with JS over Doncaster hosting. **Yorkshire Pairs** 9 tables this year meant that it was just viable to run but there was no discussion about scrapping the counties premier pairs event. The suggestion was made to move it to a week later in January in the hope of a greater attendance and this was approved but a change in venue from Bradford was also looked at. No change, apart from date for next year though. PGM to check YL dates for 2021 to avoid clash. **Yorkshire Cup** 13 tables at Leeds, no changes proposed. **Mixed Pairs** 10 tables at Wetherby, no changes proposed. **Waddington Cup** 13 tables at Leeds, no changes proposed. **PwtE** 14 tables at York, no changes proposed. Thanks to Pauline Stout for taking on the organisation.
- 12) For the outsourced events, Nelson Rose Bowl, Castle swiss pairs, Flicht, Peter Littlewood pairs and affiliated teams PGM to look at dates for the calendar to check no relevant clashes with EBU or other events for next year. No other changes proposed.
- 13) Yorkshire league dates for 2020/21 to be approved by the board were: 1/11,15/11,6/12,3/1,24/1,21/2,7/3.
- 14) The EBU run a service to host knockout teams events and with a view to reducing the burden on SD, PG agreed to look at the costs (if any) of this service for the Waddington shield and Yorkshire trophy.
- 15) A letter had been received by SD and PG regarding the year end congress at Blackpool from Gordon Rainsford. He suggested the event was no longer viable (17

tables pairs/16 teams) and was looking at the potential for large clubs to host the event in future. Yorkshire would take over the organisation and running of this event and liaise with Leeds as a possible venue. Suggestions then abounded about ways to change the event (3 to 2 days etc) and the amount of work involved. In principle, if Leeds were willing, it was agreed to be looked at and PG to approach a possible helper for LM to organise the event.

- 16)** It was suggested by RM that at the next meeting improvers events needed to be given a higher profile as this was the growth area. Charges for all congresses needed to be looked at, including entry fees for all improvers events. This was agreed.
- 17)** The meeting closed at 9.45 pm and the date for the next meeting was agreed as Monday 16th March 2020 at the same venue, starting at 10.30.