

## **MINUTES OF YCBA BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13 APRIL 2020 BY INTERNET CONFERENCE COMMENCING AT 2.00 PM.**

**PRESENT:** Nick Woolven (Chairman), Phil Godfrey (Vice-Chairman), Julia Staniforth (Secretary), Lesley Millet (Treasurer), Stuart Davies (Tournament/League Secretary), Robin Jepson (Assistant Secretary), David Guild, John Hayton and Pauline Stout.

**INVITED ATTENDEES:** Phil Mason and Ron Millet.

### **1) APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

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

### **2) MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 MARCH 2020/MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record to be signed at the next formal meeting. There were no separate matters arising.

### **3) CANCELLATION OF YORKSHIRE CONGRESS AND OTHER EVENTS**

The Chairman in consultation with Board members had taken the decision to notify the Cairn Hotel that the Congress would not take place. The hotel had accepted the cancellation with no cancellation fee was payable. The Harrogate Spring Congress in February 2021 would be the next planned event to take place at the hotel and the Great Northern Swiss Pairs in October 2020 the next Congress event.

It was agreed to cancel all YCBA events in the current YCBA calendar year and to contact clubs hosting events on behalf of YCBA. Pauline to inform Wetherby BC re the Mixed Pairs and York BC re the Play Without the Experts, Julia to contact Doncaster BC re the Fitch and Sheffield BC re the Peter Littlewood and Nick to contact Leeds BC re the Waddington Cup. Philip M agreed that the Malton Cup would be cancelled.

No decision had been made regarding the Northern Bridge League (NBL) matches but Stuart reported that if both the July and August fixtures had to be cancelled the two remaining fixtures would also not take place.

The deadline for entries to the Yorkshire League had been extended to 1 September 2020.

### **4) DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WEBSITE**

David outlined the work of the committee established to progress the development of the new site and a digital image of the proposed new site had been circulated. It was explained the photographs would be changed to reflect actual photographs at a later date.

Most of the information contained on the current website would be transferred and archived in an online storage facility. The main change was that the Yorkshire League information would now be accessed via a link to the EBU site and those inputting results (mainly team captains) would need advising of the new arrangements. The Yorkshire League Secretary would still verify results and be linked to the system.

Andrew Pearson has volunteered to help keep the site updated but there would need to be other designated facilitators for uploading information. It was hoped the site would be operable for the start of the new Yorkshire League season.

A small number of reservations were expressed about the new format and there was a concern that the background to the main heading was too dark. The Website Development Committee agreed to address the colour of the background and issue an updated template for consideration of the committee who would be responsible for the completion and transition from the current website to the new website.

### **5) ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

It was agreed to hold a virtual AGM using an online meeting facility on Saturday 18 July at 11.00am. A voting facility would be available by a show of hands. More detailed discussion would take place at the next virtual board meeting. The Secretary would arrange for the communication to clubs and information to be available on the website.

## **6) VOLUNTEER BUDDY ISSUES**

A communication had been received via Youth Bridge relating to volunteers teaching in York schools where a 'buddy' was being linked to each pupil and that there was a cost for a DBS check if the buddy was not a member of an affiliated club and whether YCBA had public liability insurance for volunteers.

The matter was referred to the Bridge Development Committee for consideration.

## **7) EXTENSION OF SHEFFIELD BRIDGE CLUB SUPPORT INITIATIVE**

Sheffield BC had established a website forum for members to post information and wondered whether this would be of interest to other clubs and YCBA during the period of 'lockdown' to provide support to members particularly those living alone.

Phil G and the Secretary agreed to arrange to circulate information to clubs.

## **8) 20/21 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

A copy of the draft calendar had previously been circulated to the Tournament Committee members. The date for the Mixed Teams event (replacing the former Mixed Pivot Teams) was agreed as Sunday 25 October 2020 at Doncaster BC. Notification had been received that Helen Barr was not available to arrange the Affiliated Teams competition in 2021 and it was agreed that Wetherby BC be approached to host this on Thursday 18 March 2021. The date for the Improvers Pairs was agreed as Sunday 21 March 2021. The calendar would not be published until it was clear that events would be able to take place from September 2020.

## **9) GRANTS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO AFFILIATED CLUBS**

The Treasurer reported that the current bank balance was over £50k following a £7k surplus from the Harrogate Spring Congress event. It was agreed to create a fund of £10k administered by the Chairman, Treasurer and John Hayton to assist any club that had a serious financial issue. It was felt that in the short term most clubs would not have an immediate difficulty and it was possible to raise revenue through online bridge sessions. However in the longer term club particularly with their own premises may have overheads to meet or there may be mortgage/rental commitments.

## **10) ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS**

Having undertaken three virtual meetings it was agreed that a number of future meetings particularly committee meetings could be held remotely with just periodic board meetings held in person for the purposes of signing documents etc.

## **11) INTRODUCTION OF ON-LINE TEACHING FACILITIES**

On-line teaching was being introduced by EBED and it was agreed that the possibility of on-line seminars was worthy of exploration and that this would be an item for the AGM. The Bridge Development Committee (BDC) was asked to consider any arrangements further.

## **12) PROVISION OF BESPOKE EMAIL ADDRESSES/ONLINE STORAGE**

In order for improved data protection compliance it was felt that dedicated mailboxes using the @ycba.co.uk addresses was preferable to a forwarder to board member's personal email accounts along with shared online storage would be beneficial. An example provided was Office 365 package which currently cost £3.80 per user per month.

Phil G agreed to investigate costs of various providers for email, storage and conference facilities for future consideration.

## **13) CHARITABLE STATUS**

Phil G outlined the benefits of charitable status that York BC had accrued in the form of business rate reductions and gift aid although neither of these would apply to YCBA. There were some minor benefits such as access to free software. It was agreed to consider this at a future date when more information was available.

## **14) ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR AGM AND NEXT BOARD MEETING**

a) On-line bridge

Ron reported that prior to the 'lockdown' there were around 2k members of Bridge Base Online playing at any one time and since the lockdown this had increased to 6k. It was now possible for clubs to set up their own clubs and provide sessions for their own members and visitors which enable members to continue playing as well as keeping in touch with the club's membership and for the club to receive revenue. Discussion took place as to whether all clubs could have the same hands however it was felt that security issues may arise but was an area for future development. There was an organisational issue in that Tournament Directors (TDs) were still needed for rulings and adjusted scores as well as setting up movements and Ron agreed to progress the training of a pool of YCBA TDs to facilitate this and in conjunction with Lesley arrange to update the website.

The BDC was asked to consider in more detail and whether a Congress Pairs event could take place after the AGM and possibly a Mixed Pairs event.

b) Safeguarding Policy

The Secretary enquired as to where a copy of the Safeguarding policy could be obtained as it was not available on the website. In the absence of a copy being available it was agreed to adopt the EBU policy until such time as a new document could be produced.

c) LearnBridge website – teaching advertisements for non-affiliated clubs

A small number of classes were being advertised that were not linked to affiliated clubs and it had been previously agreed that only bridge matters in respect of affiliated clubs would be displayed. It was not known if Barr None Bridge Club had an associated affiliation following the EBU's decision to not allow affiliation to continue due to not meeting the required criteria. Ron agreed to verify this. The Chairman agreed to contact Jim Edwards regarding an advertisement for a further education class.

d) County match with Lincolnshire

An approach had been made to play a friendly match (probably a team of four on BBO) with players averaging grade jack. Suggestions for players ranging in grades from 9 – K were requested.

## **15) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

A further meeting by conference call to take place on Tuesday 19 May at 6.30 pm.