

MINUTES OF THE YCBA VIRTUAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD ON SATURDAY 18 JULY 2020 COMMENCING AT 11.00 A.M.

PRESENT: Nick Woolven (Chairman/Leeds), Phil Godfrey (Vice-Chairman/York), Julia Staniforth (Secretary/Doncaster), Lesley Millet (Treasurer/Leeds), Mollie Bell (Olicana), Alan Brosgill (Leeds), James Carpenter (York), Stephen Cordingley (Halifax), Shiona Dawson (Keighley), Mark Dunkley (York), Jim Edwards (Leeds), Chris Fort (Brighouse), John Hayton (Malton), Annette Jackson (Malton), Mike Jackson (Malton), Robin Jepson (Leeds), Daryl Kayes (Leeds), Carole Kelly (Olicana), Philip Mason (Malton), Ron Millet (Leeds), Ian Newsham (Wetherby), Rosemary Page (Wetherby), Andrew Pearson (Keighley), Richard Pike (Sheffield), Gill Rickard (York), Pauline Stout (Wetherby), Tony Watson (Olicana) and David Waxman (Sheffield).

APOLOGIES: David Guild (Olicana).

1) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8 June 2019 and Members Meeting held on 17 November 2019

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman at the next available opportunity.

2) Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no separate matters arising.

3) Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting and outlined the contents of his report which had been made available in advance of the meeting.

Details of the online bridge events which had taken place very successfully were outlined with the next event being a 'Play Without the Experts' event. A second Swiss Pairs competition would commence on the 16/17 August 2020 and there would be at least an event each month following the establishment of a virtual club on Bridge Base Online (BBO). Whilst not everyone was willing to play bridge online it was explained that those that were playing did find it a good substitute and anyone not currently playing should be encouraged to try. A substantial amount of information was available from the EBU, EBED and YCBA to support anyone to play online.

Efforts were being made to plan and arrange for teaching sessions online as new classes would normally start in September and any ideas were requested from existing teachers to help support this.

A message of appreciation was extended to Philip Mason and Mike Jackson for their work compiling the Yorkshire League fixtures for the previous season and which had been completed shortly before the lockdown had commenced. A scoring issue had been raised recently and the Yorkshire League Committee would consider this. The first match for the new season was scheduled to take place on 1 November 2020 but it had been decided that no matches would take place in 2020. Plans were being put in place as to whether there should be an online league or whether a revised structure of a six team league should be enacted if it was possible to resume face to face matches by 1 January 2021. The closing date for entries to the league had been extended to 1 November 2020.

The 2020 Presidents Cup (a competition for northern counties) was currently taking place online and Yorkshire was leading to date.

Details of Yorkshire players' success in national events were provided the details of which were available on either the EBU or YCBA website.

A new website had been commissioned and David Guild along with Andrew Pearson (the new webmaster) thanked for their work developing this. A message of appreciation was extended to Lesley Blanchard for maintaining the former website over the past nine months and along with the late Rob Turner for the development of the former website which had provided members with valuable information over many years.

Further message of appreciation were extended to members of the YCBA Management Board, those with roles supporting the Board and club officials all whom worked tirelessly on a voluntary basis for the benefit of bridge across the county.

4) Treasurer's report and presentation of 2019/20 accounts

Copies of the accounts prepared by Brown Butler (Leeds Chartered Accountants) for the year ended 31 March 2020 were made available on the website. Whilst there had been a very small loss of income in 2019/20 due to the lockdown there had still been an overall increase in UMS receipts which totalled £8,734. The financial position at the end of the financial year was therefore very good regardless of funding £6.5k in grants to seven clubs for the investment in new technology.

The accounts for 2020/21 would look different due to the current situation and that there was no income from either the Easter or Yorkshire Congress with the Great Northern Swiss Pairs event scheduled for 17/18 October 2020 in doubt. The UMS income was substantially affected however the online bridge events had raised an amount of revenue.

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

The Chairman reported that a similar fund to that of the technology grants had been established to assist with any additional expenditure that may be required to enable the reopening of bridge clubs for face to face bridge in the future.

No questions were raised in connection with the accounts presented and the Chairman agreed these by duly signed.

5) UMS (P2P), Club Affiliation and Direct Members Fees for 2021/2022

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 and direct membership fee should continue for the next year.

6) Items Submitted for Resolution by Members

No items had been submitted for resolution by members.

7) Questions Raised by Members

The following item was raised by a member of Olicana BC in advance of the meeting:

'Some clubs have started planning for a potential September re-opening for face to face bridge. Could the YCBA commit to sharing the plans and preparations those clubs are making with all affiliated clubs so they can all benefit and share ideas.'

The Chairman responded that no club had made any direct approach to YCBA regarding reopening however it was known that the issue was being raised and the general policy was to follow the line of the EBU. To date the EBU had uploaded a risk assessment document prepared by Rugby Village BC online and a clubs online forum currently existed and suggested that the forum be used to share information and ideas about preparations for reopening. Lesley Millet reported that the EBU Northern Counties Working Group was working on this and Ron Millet (EBU Director) stated that the EBU was looking into the purchase of screens and how a loan system might operate for these rather than a large quantity being purchased and becoming surplus in a short period of time.

Any relevant information would be displayed on the YCBA website with signposting to the EBU site as appropriate.

A second question had been raised relating to the scoring system for Yorkshire League matches and this had been referred to the Yorkshire League Committee for a response and any change would be incorporated into the league rules.

A further question had been raised regarding the EBU scoring programme for Swiss Pairs as this had been raised some two or three years earlier and an amendment enacted however at a one day event the former method seemed to have been applied. The member had been notified that the scoring programme was correct but on the occasion referred to, the Tournament Director had been required to make a manual scoring correction thereby overriding the programme.

8) Election of Officers and Management Board for 2020/21

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

Chairman	Nick Woolven	Mike Ferguson	Tom Copeland
Vice-Chairman	Phil Godfrey	Stuart Kay	Martin Bayne
Secretary	Julia Staniforth	Geoff Kenyon	Philip Mason
Treasurer	Lesley Millett	David Waxman	William Holmes
Assistant Secretary	Robin Jepson	Alan Brosgill	Christina Turner
Tournament Secretary	Stuart Davies	Elaine Van Heel	John Dickson
Management Board	John Hayton	Mike Jackson	John O' Sullivan
Management Board	David Guild	Mollie Bell	Shiona Dawson
Management Board	Pauline Stout	Lesley Millet	Ron Millet

The unfilled vacancy would be considered by the Board and a co-option would be undertaken as appropriate.

9) Date and Time of Next Annual General Meeting and Members Meeting

- a) The next AGM was agreed as Saturday 12 June 2021 at the Cairn Hotel Harrogate at 11.am.
- b) The next Members Meeting was agreed to be held on Sunday 22 November 2020 at the Leeds Hilton Hotel and incorporated into an event day in line with that of the last two years subject to lockdown restrictions being sufficiently lifted.

Signed: ----- (Chairman)

Dated:-----

