

MINUTES OF MEMBERS MEETING HELD AT THE LEEDS HILTON HOTEL ON SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2019 COMMENCING AT 1.00 P.M.

PRESENT: N Woolven (Chairman/Leeds BC), J Staniforth (Secretary/Doncaster BC), L Millet (Treasurer/Leeds BC), L Bridson (Harrogate BC), L Cartwright (Barnsley BC), S Cartwright (Barnsley BC), S Cordingley (Halifax BC), M Dunkley (York BC), J Edwards (Leeds BC), S Friedman (Leeds BC), S Galpan (Brighouse BC), J Hayton (Malton BC), D Lewis (Scarborough BC), R Millet (Leeds BC), I Newsham (Wetherby BC), G Rickard (York BC), F Smart (Wetherby BC), P Stanley (Halifax BC), P Stout (Wetherby BC), C Thompson (Harrogate BC), P Wallace (Wakefield BC) and S Woolham (Sheffield BC).

APOLOGIES: P Godfrey (Vice-Chairman/York BC), S V Davies (Tournament Secretary/Bradford BC), M Fenton (Wakefield BC), R Jepson (Assistant Secretary/Leeds BC), K Lemm (Wakefield BC), P Mason (President/Malton BC), P Morrison (County Youth Officer/Leeds BC) and D Waxman (Sheffield BC).

1) CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION AND UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 5th Annual Members Meeting which for the second time was being held in conjunction with a Members Development Day. Members present were asked if the forum for the Members Meeting as part of a development day was deemed the most appropriate and this was unanimously agreed. It was explained that the meeting was to provide a forum for members to share information and ideas for improvements with the YCBA Management Board to aid ongoing development.

With regard to national issues the EBU AGM was scheduled to take place on 27 November 2019 and the proposed UMS rate was for an increase of 1p to 40p from 1 April 2020. The EBU financial position was such that savings were still being sought an example being the provision of a free diary was now subject to an 'opt in' procedure.

YCBA's financial position this continued to be strong in view of the income raised from the three congresses run by YCBA on behalf of the EBU, however there was a need to continue to support such events to enable the continuation of the new technology grants to clubs. A message of appreciation was extended to Lesley Millet the YCBA treasurer for her work arranging the Congress events which involved a great deal of time and commitment. The treasurer also explained that YCBA would fund the cost of a second club delegate on EBU teaching and director courses.

Arrangements were currently being made to update the website due to the serious illness of the current webmaster who had developed the site a number of years ago in conjunction with Lesley Blanchard who was supporting the website at the present time.

An update of county teams competitions was provided and whilst there had been no specific successes for the main inter-county competitions, Yorkshire had won the B division of the Northern Bridge League and were runners up in the A and C divisions. Yorkshire pairs had also won and were runners up in the Great Northern Swiss Pairs event.

2) MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The issue of car parking was raised and it was explained that a discounted rate of £5 was given by the hotel for those attending the event and free parking only a short walk from the venue was available on Sundays.

3) OPEN FORUM

The following questions were raised:

Q: What was the timescale for a second round of technology grants?

A: This would be finalised at the YCBA Board meeting early in 2020 with a view to information being sent to clubs shortly after with arrangements broadly in line with that applied in the first round.

Q: Could YCBA trial the new technology available?

A: It was hoped that the demonstration to follow would go some way to achieving this and to ask companies if they would be willing to provide this particularly any new software developments.

Q: Were any companies being approached to trial any new technology initiatives?

A: The EBU were currently investigating and are trialling some so as to ensure that it provided the necessary dovetailing with EBU systems. Huddersfield BC was currently installing an electronic teaching system and that this could be developed for wider use.

Q: Was any club using a 'robot' for sit out situations?

A: This had been trialled by Jim Edwards at Leeds BC but was dependent on a non-playing director being available.

Q: What could be done to increase attendance at YCBA one day competitions such as the Mixed Pivot Teams event?

A: It seemed that events for 'improvers' competitions (for those with fewer than 5,000 master points) were well supported and improvers teams events were now being introduced at Congress events. Similarly events for those with an NGS of Jack or below were also successful. The Tournament Committee would need to consider whether widening the format for some of the long standing competitions such as the Mixed Pivot Teams was needed.

Q: How could teams play be further developed?

A: Members present reported that local leagues were continuing to expand and that some clubs undertook Butler scoring for pairs events or held monthly team events.

Q: Were Yorkshire league match scores included in NGS grades?

A: These should be included as individual clubs were required to submit details to the EBU at the end of the season for the awarding of master points etc.

Q: Could consideration be given to holding an event in South Yorkshire such as at the Holiday Inn in Barnsley?

A: With regard to congress events venues the need for the right facilities at the right price was the main factor when choosing venues along with a location that had nearby places of interest that could be easily accessed.

Q: The EBU decision to require an 'opt in' for a free diary had been met with disappointment from many club members and how could it be ensured that those that wanted a diary could receive one?

A: Scarborough BC had raised this with the EBU and it had been possible for the club to send a list of those wanting to opt in. Ron Millet an EBU Board Member explained that for the first year additional copies would be ordered to ensure all those requiring a diary would receive one. The main expense was in the cost of postage and there was a suggestion that the diaries be delivered to clubs however it was explained that there may be an issue for members of more than one club and for those that did not play often at a club. There was the possibility of despatch with orders from the Bridge Warehouse but again there may be difficulties.

It was agreed that YCBA could denote the need to opt in on the website and for clubs to remind members.

6) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be the Annual General Meeting to be held at the Cairn Hotel, Harrogate, on Saturday 6th June 2020 commencing at 11.00 a.m.