

Chairman's Report AGM 2020

- 1) Welcome to my 5th AGM as chairman, just 21 to go!

- 2) We never would have imagined that sitting in the Cairn Hotel about this time last year that we would be in this situation of having a virtual AGM. We would also not have imagined that the only way we would be playing the game we love would be on-line. However, the reality of the matter, at the moment, is that on-line bridge is the only game in town. So, my first plea to all those who think that it is not for them, please have a go. There is a plethora of information about how to get started at on-line bridge and whether you want to play socially with your friends or a bit more competitively, we are here to try and help, so please do not be afraid to contact any one on the board . This may involve setting up virtual clubs, just logging on to any of the current platforms or setting up tables with your friends. If you are already an on-line junkie then can I direct to the website where the YCBA there are notifications of tournaments that we will be running in the future. For those interested in getting masterpoints, there is usually a small entry fee (similar to your table money at a club) to cover the universal membership and administration but does allow to you to keep collecting them.
The other major concern we have as a county is the provision of teaching to old and new students alike. We are investigating ways of trying to provide lessons on- line to those students whose lessons were interrupted and indeed develop tools for introducing students to the game (for those lessons that would have usually started in September). In the meantime, there are lots of sites on line to visit where you can brush up/go over lessons again, so I would encourage you to do this or contact your teachers or the board about what is available.

- 3) The Yorkshire League remains one of the jewels in our crown. 90 teams again took part representing about 20% of our membership playing on any one of the 7 Sundays. The winners of Division 1 were Sheffield A and were one of only 3 teams (Harrogate A and Hull A) to complete a clean

sweep of 7 wins out of 7. My thanks go to our president Philip Mason and Mike Jackson for once again organising the fixtures and to say that the draft dates for the new season are on the website. As our President, Philip Mason, points out though, due to the current climate the date for entry into the league has been extended to September 1st as understandably there may a few teams who will be reluctant to play face to face bridge if indeed we are in the fortunate position of being able to. The YL committee have made a few changes to the regulations, which also include the way results will be recorded in the future for uploading onto the new website (more later on this). Presentation of the trophies for each of the division winners will occur when we get back to face to face bridge.

- 4) The Tollemache Cup was again a case of what might have been but again we failed to make the final and similarly the Presidents cup also proved disappointing. However, the Northern Bridge League (NBL) did have one notable success with Yorkshire winning the 2nd division but unfortunately not being able to play in the national final due to the current situation.

Other notable successes include (and please forgive me if I have missed you out):

NICKO Plate: Cohen/Morrison/Jarvis/Hayward (Leeds BC)

Harrogate Spring Congress (teams): Brosgill/Jepson/Kelly/Kenyon,

Great Northern Swiss Pairs: Read/Marchbank

Regional Masters Pairs: Berson/Cowan.

Also congratulations to Sarah Teshome for winning the Lady Milne trials with Catherine Jagger and to Janet Latham for her Dimmie Fleming award.

- 5) Our finances, as our treasurer will report, are still in a healthy condition even though we will not have income from the Easter festival which we run for the EBU and of course our very own congress. We do realise that as and when we get back to face to face bridge there may be clubs that require a kick start to get going again. Whilst details have yet to be established by the board we are hoping to have a fund available similar to the technology fund which proved such a success last year. The technology grant from last year proved a big success, with clubs

benefiting to the tune of about £6000 in all. We will of course also look at running this again in the future.

- 6) The website is still our first port of call for all county information and was regularly and tirelessly updated by the late Rob Turner and Lesley Blanchard. My sincerest thanks go to both for their fantastic work over the past years. Hopefully though you will have seen we have a new website now! We still welcome feedback about the new site and hope that you find it as informative as the last.

- 7) My thanks also go to all the club secretaries who impart information to their clubs and liaise with Julia, especially during this critical time. Lastly of course to the board members all of whom take on tasks which ensure the smooth running of bridge in the county and make my role a lot easier. I hope that this time next year I will be reporting on more face to face bridge items but for now please keep playing and keep safe.

Nick Woolven
YCBA Chairman