

MINUTES OF YCBA BOARD MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19 MAY 2020 BY INTERNET CONFERENCE COMMENCING AT 6.30 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 and John Hayton .

INVITED TO ATTEND: Phil Mason and Ron Millet.

1) APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Apologies were received from Pauline Stout. There were no declarations of interest.

2) MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 13 (BOARD) and 20 APRIL (BDC) 2020

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record to be signed at the next formal meeting.

3) MATTERS ARISING – BOARD MEETING

a) Youth bridge – buddy support

BDC would consider at its next meeting.

b) Update on cancelled events

The EBU had now cancelled all events to the end of July which included the Scarborough Summer Congress and Ron advised that a decision was to be made in respect of the Eastbourne Summer Meeting in the next two weeks. The July NBL fixture had been cancelled and a decision was awaited on the August fixture and the cancellation of the two subsequent fixtures.

Phil M reported he had contacted both Huddersfield and Garforth BCs re their events in September and no decisions had been made. The production of the 20/21 competition calendar would be progressed by the Tournament Committee.

c) Financial Support to Clubs

No referrals had been received following the notification sent to clubs and it was agreed that a telephone conversation should take place to ascertain in clubs were raising revenue through online bridge events as there was no cost for establishing a virtual club via Bridge Base Online (BBO) and support arrangements had been established including the training of TDs

d) Bespoke email addresses

Phil G outlined costs of different providers and it was agreed that Microsoft 365 be contracted at a cost of £4.56 per person per month and there was the possibility of a six month free trial.

e) Learnbridge website – advertising of classes for non-affiliated organisations

The Chairman agreed to contact the web manager to arrange the removal of classes that were not attached to affiliated clubs in accordance with YCBA's policy.

f) County match with Lincolnshire

This was not being progressed due to the difficulties establishing pairs of different NGS grades.

4) MATTERS ARISING – BRIDGE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

a) Online teaching and seminars

Lesley reported that Oliver Cowan had joined the BDC meeting and had outlined how he had developed online courses through BBO. Nick was compiling a seminar to be held on Zoom on Tuesday 26 May at 11.00 am and that these could be extended to cover all levels. A number of online teaching facilities had been in existence for a number of years and a different strategy such as a more personalised approach would be needed to enter the market.

b) Members database

David confirmed that a copy of the EBU database had been downloaded to the Pianola database and used to send out an email notification of the forthcoming online Swiss (Danish) Pairs event to those members with an email address. A number of members had opted out and there were a number of out of date email addresses. The issue of the maintenance of the database still needed to be addressed and confirmation was needed as to whether the contact details of members could be amended directly on the Pianola database. Whilst clubs had been asked to notify the Membership Secretary or the Secretary of any deceased members at the same time as notification was sent to the EBU there was no formal system in place for changes in club membership to be notified to counties. The chairman agreed to remind clubs at the AGM. Ron suggested that the EBU should provide a monthly update of changes to county membership but this had been requested previously and declined.

c) TD training for online events

James Carpenter was leading on this and clubs had been notified that he was able to support club TDs and there was the facility for shared access across clubs and counties. Jim Edwards and Oliver Cowan were awaiting training and Phil G would aim to undertake a short session but could not commit to a greater time commitment. Stuart declined to undertake training at the present time. The Tournament Committee would discuss and oversee the matter further.

d) Swiss (Danish) Pairs Event

Stuart reported that 69 pairs had entered to date and Oliver was to act as organiser

5) DEVELOPMENT OF ONLINE BRIDGE AND VIRTUAL CLUBS

The two main platforms being used were Bridgebase Online (BBO) and Bridge Clubs Live (BCL) Virtual clubs could be created on either and to date Halifax, Harrogate, Ripon City and Leeds BCs had established clubs on BBO and Brighouse, Ilkley, Keighley and Sheffield BCs using BCL. It was known other players were playing socially using one of the platforms and an increasing number were registering to play.

It was agreed that all clubs would be contacted to ascertain what support might be needed and the current extent of online bridge. The Secretary to compile a list of Board members assigned to clubs and David to provide a list of questions to be asked.

6) DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WEBSITE

David reported that the transfer of the information to the new website was underway including the incorporation of the history of the clubs. It was intended to establish a Facebook page for photographs and links to Pianola, NBL and the EBU.

The site had been viewed by a partially sighted person who had indicated that the Learnbridge logo was not easily viewed and this would be changed.

7) ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It was agreed that Webex would be used rather than Zoom as it was a more secure platform. Phil G agreed to arrange. Clubs had been notified of the arrangements and information displayed on the website. Remaining details would be finalised at the next meeting.

8) ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR AGM AND NEXT BOARD MEETING

Financial Controls

John referred to the document that had been circulated at the January meeting and deferred for discussion due to the next meeting.

The Treasurer was asked if it was possible to estimate the loss of income and it was indicated that it may be in the region of £2k but some could be recouped through the introduction of online competitions.

It was agreed that a formal budget would be established for 21/22 along with levels of delegation of expenditure.

9) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

A further meeting by conference call to take place on Tuesday 23 June 2020 at 6.30 pm.

A Tournament Committee meeting was being convened the week of 1 June 2020