

**MINUTES OF YCBA BOARD MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23 JUNE 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 (Membership Secretary), John Hayton and Pauline Stout.

**INVITED TO ATTEND:** 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 MEETINGS HELD ON 19 MAY (BOARD) and 4 JUNE (TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE) 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) Bespoke email addresses

Phil G was seeking to negotiate a six month free trial.

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

The Chairman had contacted the webmaster to request the removal of any non-affiliated clubs from the list of classes.

**4) MATTERS ARISING – TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE**

a) Arrangements for the services of Oliver Cowan as the Online Bridge Administrator

The contract of service for Oliver Cowan in respect of the Swiss Pairs event was agreed and that the proposed payment arrangement for the Swiss Teams event was agreed on the same basis as the Swiss Pairs event.

Discussion took place on the difference between paid and voluntary services and it was agreed that contracts for services were entered into when specialist expertise was needed.

b) Update on Swiss Pairs event

A total of 118 pairs had competed and there had been very positive feedback. Any technical issues had been dealt with by the organiser and the TD had dealt very effectively with a conduct issue.

A further event was to be arranged for August 2020

c) TD training for online events

James Carpenter was training Oliver Cowan and John Hayton agreed to contact Mike Swain who was a BBO Director to ascertain if he wished to be included within the Director pool. No other current Directors were being trained as online Directors. The Bridge Development Committee was currently creating a resource centre to support any clubs with the development of online bridge.

d) Programme of online events

A programme of events with at least one event per month had been compiled and would be finalised at the next meeting of the Tournament Committee. Harrogate BC had made an approach as to whether YCBA wished to arrange a ladies teams of four event to replace the cancelled Nelson Rose Bowl event for 2020.

e) Completion of 2019/20 teams of four event

As there was no commitment to complete matches online a date for the commencement of face to face (F2F) was awaited.

f) 2020/21 competition calendar

This would be considered at the next meeting of the Tournament Committee.

## **5) CLUB CONTACT REPORT**

All YCBA affiliated clubs had been contacted by telephone to ascertain if they were aware of the first online bridge competition, if the club was organising any online bridge for its members and if it was facing any financial issues. The results had been documented and the contact had been very well received. At least two clubs had benefitted from a £10k government grant and a further one was making an application on being informed of its availability. It was agreed that an amount of £10k would be set aside to support clubs returning to F2F bridge possibly towards the purchase of any protective equipment that might be needed. Ron Millet reported that the EBU were investigating the bulk purchase of plastic screens to obtain better rates per unit and compiling a risk assessment for clubs for returning to F2F club bridge. It was agreed that EBU advice and guidance would be followed rather than being devised separately by the county.

It was agreed to establish continuing club contact arrangements on a quarterly basis when more was known about the return to F2F bridge.

## **6) UPDATE ON THE NEW WEBSITE**

David Guild reported that the website was near to completion with just a few outstanding issues including the uploading of all minutes, the webmaster contact and the establishment of a secure platform for the permanent archive. The Yorkshire League information was being updated by Robin Jepson and it was agreed that the annual accounts would now be published. The new site would be live on 1 July 2020.

It was known that a member of Malton BC had a successful TV career and his family were also bridge players. It was agreed that Philip Mason ask if the person would be willing to arrange a family photograph to promote the playing of bridge for inclusion on the website.

## **7) CLARIFICATION OF EBU SWISS PAIRS SCORING PROGRAMME**

Phil Godfrey confirmed that the EBU programme had been amended and that the issue arising at the Doncaster Swiss Pairs event was due to a late scoring amendment.

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

Phil Godfrey explained that the Webex meeting facility provided for the display of a platform of three (agreed as the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) with other participants muted and a facility to write questions via a chat box. A copy of the email to be sent via Pianola to all members by the Secretary had been circulated and advised that questions be submitted in advance and that questions taken on the day would only be answered if time allowed. Board members were asked to join the meeting from 10.30 am. and members attending asked to join as soon as possible from 10.45am to ensure any technical issues could be resolved. Phil Godfrey would be available online to assist should any technical issues arise. David Guild would arrange for the uploading of documents to the new website.

## **9) MANAGEMENT OF MEMBERS' DATA**

Oliver Cowan had arranged a training presentation on the use of the Pianola database for notifications to members for designated members of the Board. As part of the exercise the notification of the forthcoming Mixed Pairs event had been sent to all current members and those contained on the 'Visitors' list. However subsequently it was realised that some of the data on the visitor list may be out of date and that 'opt ins' had not been checked. However out of over 5,000 notifications only around 40 were not accepted for various reasons. It was agreed that a new visitor list would be compiled by the Membership Secretary using the latest competition details with Oliver Cowan liaising with David, including confirming those that had opted out of receiving information. Notification of the forthcoming Swiss Teams event would be sent to members and those on the newly compiled visitor list. The old visitor list would be deleted or superseded. Phil Godfrey agreed to obtain advice regarding the retention of older data.

## **10) YCBA STRATEGY DOCUMENT**

John Hayton had circulated a document that set out a future strategy for YCBA to take into account developments with online bridge and issues facing the county due to the current pandemic in order to best plan and prepare for these changes.

The document was accepted as greatly important and it was agreed that a special meeting be arranged to finalise and approve it.

**11) DIMMIE FLEMING NOMINATIONS**

It was agreed to nominate Stuart Davies and Stuart was asked to compile a list of the service he had undertaken voluntarily for the county. This was needed to be forwarded to the Secretary to enable the nomination to be submitted by 19 August 2020

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

No other specific items were raised.

**13) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Further virtual meetings were agreed as follows:

Bridge Development Committee: Saturday 11 July

Board Meeting followed by Tournament Committee Meeting: Tuesday 28 July 2020

Board Meeting (single item YCBA Strategy Document): Tuesday 25 August 2020

Grants Committee: Phil Godfrey to arrange.