

Minutes of the Virtual YCBA Management Board meeting held on Tuesday 10 November 2020 commencing at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: N Woolven (Chair), J Staniforth (Secretary), L Millet (Treasurer), R Jepson (Assistant Secretary), D Guild (Membership Secretary), J Blackett, S Cordingley, J Hayton and P Stout.

IN ATTENDANCE: P Mason, R Millet and R White (County Youth Officer).

1) Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from P Godfrey. There were no declarations of interest.

2) Co-options to the Management Board Vacancies

It was agreed to co-opt John Blackett (Ripon City BC) and Stephen Cordingley (Halifax BC) to the Management Board until the next Annual General Meeting and both were welcomed to the meeting.

3) Review of committee membership, structure and terms of reference

The committee structure was updated to include the Online YL committee and it was agreed the committee appoint a Chairman. Stephen Cordingley was appointed to the Tournament Committee following the resignation of Stuart Davies. The terms of reference were amended in accordance with the draft circulated with the agenda other than to adopt the wording for the online league committee to the Yorkshire League committee.

4) Minutes of meetings held on 13 and 29 October 2020

That the minutes be agreed subject to amendments to item 6 and 7 in the minutes of 29 October 2020 as follows:

Item 6 – To denote that the request to play two x six board rounds in each match in the second online YL commencing in 2021 was still to be determined by the online YL committee along with minor rule changes.

Item 7 – That the Yorkshire Trophy event for 2019/20 be cancelled and an online event take place in 2020/21.

5) Matters arising from the minutes

a) Minutes of 13 October 2020 – Membership Data

It was explained that it had been discovered that the deletion of a member's record removed all details from competition results so in order to retain the competition record information records are flagged and only visible to administrators of the Pianola database. There was also an issue regarding the adding of non- members to the Visitors file as no email addresses were supplied other than the main contact. Ron Millet agreed to raise this with the EBU.

b) Minutes of 29 October 2020

i) Competition update

- It was agreed that an online Yorkshire Pairs event be held on Sunday 24 January 2021
- The EBU had refused the request for the holding of a two day Blue Pointed event on 28 and 29 December due to a clash with a four day online EBU tournament. It was agreed to move the event to 1 and 2 January 2021 based on the same format.
- The EBU had agreed the proposed format for a two day online Spring Congress event which would be Swiss (Danish style) Pairs on 13 February and multiple teams on 14 February 2021. A '9 High' event would also take place on both days.
- A Simultaneous Pairs event on 18 February 2021 would be a club charity event directed by James Carpenter and with an online commentary booklet.
- It was confirmed that there would be no increased entry fee for the second online

league starting in January 2021 and the extra cost for the tournament director and UMS fees would be covered from the surplus from the first league.

ii) County Youth Officer Appointment

Rowena White had accepted the appointment of County Youth Officer and was welcomed to the meeting. It was agreed to co-opt Rowena to the Bridge Development Committee.

Rowena reported that at the present time schools did not want additional visitors in schools so no bridge teaching was currently taking place. Fulford School in York had requested that a bridge enrichment course for VI form students be arranged in the near future and it was hoped that this may expand to a total of three schools in the group of schools.

iii) Documentation of procedures/rules for Tournament Directors of online events

Robin Jepson reported that he was still working on the tournament rules and John Hayton had produced a document for discussion at the next Tournament Committee meeting.

iv) Next Meeting of the Grants Committee

It was agreed that the chairman of the committee (PG) be asked to consider convening a meeting after the Members Meeting if issues were raised as it was felt that some small clubs may have difficulty re-establishing once face to face bridge is able to resume and some clubs may wish to continue with online sessions. If no issues were raised then the matter could be raised at the next AGM.

6) Arrangements for the Members Meeting on 22 November 2020

The Chairman had produced a document outlining the format and the Secretary agreed to forward this to members including the Zoom link for the meeting which would be forwarded by the Treasurer.

7) Update on Realbridge

There were still mixed views on whether Realbridge was preferred to BBO as some technical issues still existed although it was expected that these would be alleviated but more up to date IT devices were needed and there was a greater dependency on the quality of broadband connectivity. I pads and tablets were more difficult to use in view of the amount of display area needed and BBO graphics were felt to be easier. David Guild reported that Olicana had signed up for usage and a teaching session was taking place the following day. Leeds BC was exploring the social merits of the platform.

It was noted that Bridge Club Live was also developing a similar type of platform but Pianola was not yet developed.

Phil Godfrey was asked to provide a list of criteria on the current platforms to enable a more informed judgement to be made and it was recommended that an Elevenses Pairs event be trialled on Realbridge.

8) Responsibilities and arrangements for the administration of online events

Any issues relating to the Online YL had been resolved and for other events the administrator would forward competitor information to the TD if it was different It was agreed that the Chairman would appoint the TDs and currently only Oliver Cowan and James Carpenter were directing events, Pauliine Stout had agreed to take entries for all '9 high' events and other events as designated, the treasurer was managing all financial transactions and John Hayton had offered to accept entries for the main Spring Congress events.

9) Future planning of the storage of items of furniture and equipment

Stuart Davies had confirmed that he was in agreement with continuing to store the items of furniture and equipment for YCBA for which he received a payment of £150 per annum.

The cost of a lockup facility had been sought and the cost deemed prohibitive. It was agreed that a more accessible arrangement was needed to be sought for the longer term which could be a bridge club that had ground floor storage. The treasurer suggested she make an enquiry with the Cairn Hotel as to whether any storage facility was available at the hotel at a reasonable cost as this would save some transportation costs for two of the four congress events. All of the equipment had been documented, labelled and was insured.

10 Urgent items

a) Request for approval to obtain a licence for a Swiss Pairs event

Oliver Cowan intended to apply to the EBU for a licence to hold a Swiss Pairs event on Saturday 28 November 2020 and was required to confirm that the county had no objections. As the proposed event did not coincide with any YCBA event there were no objections.

b) Request to promote a publication relating to 75 years of York Bridge Club

A request had been received from the Secretary of York BC to promote a publication on the history of York BC. David Guild agreed to seek a written submission that could be incorporated into the club history section on the YCBA website and in the next edition of the EBU magazine.

c) Consultation on EBU UMS fees and structure for 2021/22

The EBU had issued the findings of a consultation that had recently taken place regarding the structure of UMS as some representations had been received that a more equitable arrangement would be for a payment per board or an increased number of levels to reflect the reduced number of boards played in online sessions. 80% of respondents were not in favour of any change to the current structure at the present time and this would be the recommendation to the AGM along with a report on the proposed fees for the next financial year which was awaiting publication.

11) Date and times of future meetings

The next meetings to be held as follows:

Bridge Development Committee: Tuesday 17 November 2020 at 7.00 pm

Tournament Committee: Tuesday 8 December 2020 at 7.00 pm

Management Board: Tuesday 19 January 2021 at 7.00 pm

Signed:-----: Chairman

Date:-----: