

## **Minutes of the Virtual YCBA Bridge Development Committee meeting held on Monday 11 January 2021 commencing at 7.15 pm.**

**PRESENT:** Lesley Millet (Chair), Nick Woolven, Phil Godfrey, David Guild, Ron Millet and Brian Davison.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Julia Staniforth (YCBA Secretary).

### **1) Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**

Apologies for absence had been received from Pauline Stout and Rowena White. There were no declarations of interest.

### **2) Minutes of meeting held on 17 November 2020**

The minutes were recommended for approval by the Management Board and the following matters arising were considered.

#### **a) Item 3 – Meeting with bridge teachers**

This had taken place and revealed as expected that little teaching of new students was taking place and a list of current teachers for circulation was awaiting completion by David Guild.

The following teachers were known to be undertaking some teaching:

David Guild – 2 groups for beginners,

Pauline Stout – 1 group of beginners,

Jim Edwards – 1 group of beginners and 1 group of year 2

Nick Woolven, Brian Davison, Paul Green, Hilary Gaunt and Dominic Rayner were teaching small groups that had commenced face to face prior to lockdown.

#### **b) Item 6 - Review of Stepping Stones event**

This had been very well received with 48 pairs taking part followed by an excellent presentation from the Chairman with 44 of the players in attendance. The results displayed on the Pianola listing denoted that master points had been awarded and Lesley agreed to contact the Director to remove these as it had been agreed not to award any master points for this event.

It was agreed that a further event be arranged for Sunday 28 February 2021 in the same format subject to a Director being available. Stephen Cordingley would again be asked to be the event administrator.

With regard to the annual Yorkshire Improvers Pairs event it was agreed to defer this until such time as it could be arranged face to face.

The Tournament Committee would be considering the arrangements for a '9' High pairs and teams competition over the Easter weekend.

#### **c) Item 7 – Teaching in Schools Update**

Rowena had provided a report outlining developments at Stamford, Oxford and York BCs.

In view of Rowena's absence and the fact that schools were currently closed it was agreed to consider the report in more detail at a future meeting.

### **3) Discussion paper from David Guild on the development of online teaching**

Discussion took place on falling membership numbers exacerbated by the current pandemic and lack of teaching new students. It was felt that a strategy was needed to develop a system of online teaching for new students across the county. The differing platforms that could be used for playing were considered and it was felt that the platform developed by Jim Edwards was suitable but would attract a cost of £5 per month which it was agreed would be funded by YCBA if teachers wished to use it. An alternative was to use Zoom and BDO the latter being a free playing platform. It was believed that the use of Realbridge for teaching with a playing facility was only available to established

Realbridge clubs.

In order to develop the initiative it was agreed that EBED be approached by David Guild to obtain the teaching materials for a course of ten lessons with presentations to be delivered by Nick Woolven, David Guild, Pauline Stout, Brian Davidson and Jim Edwards all of whom would be asked to undertake these free of charge. The supervised play would then be undertaken by bridge teachers who would choose which platform to use with support being arranged as required. The method of presentation would need to be finalised and issues such as whether it could be pre-recorded, or a live recording and reused, whether to use just a single set of slides or incorporate video with a split screen was raised and the method may depend on the numbers attending the presentation.

David aimed to have a programme prepared by the end of January and once available a meeting would be needed to identify the marketing of the programme. Brian wondered whether Look North would be interested in featuring this as a means of a new activity that could be undertaken during the present lockdown at a low cost.

#### **4) Support for affiliated clubs**

Phil Godfrey outlined that the Grants Committee had agreed to administer a 'hardship fund' to any club who needed financial support to meet any shortfall with rent/overhead costs when face to face bridge returned with lower numbers prior to the pandemic. In addition there would be a second round of technology grants to provide new or updated hardware or software (but not consumables) to help clubs particularly if equipment was needed to facilitate continued online play which was expected even when face to face bridge returned.

Amounts of £8k would be available for technology, £2k for hardship and the annual £3k for bridge development would be available.

#### **5) Any other items/future items**

No other issues were raised.

#### **6) Date and Time of Next Meetings.**

The next meeting is arranged by the chairman of the committee in consultation with members.