

Minutes of the Virtual YCBA Management Board meeting held on Tuesday 13 October 2020 commencing at 7.00 pm.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: P Mason and R Millet.

1) Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Stuart Davies after initially sending his apologies had submitted his resignation from the roles of Yorkshire League and Tournament Secretary and also the Management Board because of his current limited involvement with online bridge administration. He had indicated that he would review the situation as and when face to face bridge could resume. Members of the Board expressed a wish for Stuart to continue on the Board in view of his very valuable experience and the Chairman agreed to contact him to ascertain if he would consider remaining as a member of the Board and/or undertaking any duties in connection with the collection of entries for online events. There was a need to address the following:

- collection of entries for online events
- storage of furniture and equipment
- viewing access to the bank accounts

2) Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the Management Board meetings held on 28 July and 18 August and Joint Committee meetings held on 10 September and 6 October 2020 were agreed as a correct record for signing at the next available opportunity and for uploading to the website.

3) Matters arising from the minutes

a) Bespoke email addresses

The Vice- Chairman explained that a trial was still being worked on and was expected to be completed for the start of 2021 at a cost of around £500 per annum. It was agreed to progress with this.

b) Website maintenance

Information would continue to be forwarded to David Guild for onward transmission to the webmaster. The Chairman agreed to draft a protocol for the inclusion of obituaries for inclusion on the website in line with the current arrangements.

c) Report from the GDPR Working Group on data management

Members of the group reported that it had been agreed that details of non YCBA members entering YCBA competitions would be retained for no longer than 12 months from the date a competition was last entered. The Membership Secretary had deleted all older records held on the Pianola visitor file database and it now contained around 80 records. It was agreed that there was no longer a requirement for a 'tick box' for opting into marketing emails as this was compatible with the 'legitimate interest' criteria contained in the general policy statement. John Hayton agreed to produce a written statement on the day to day usage of data.

A member had reported concern that emails had been received on a bespoke bridge email account from an unknown source. The secretary would reaffirm that no data breaches had taken place and any fault must rest with the person's email account.

d) Additional access to bank accounts

The Chairman had now been added as a second administrator of the account at a cost of £5 per month.

e) Appointment of County Youth Officer

An approach had been made to Rowena White who had indicated that she would be willing to assume the responsibility in the near future.

f) Co-option to Management Board vacancies

The Chairman agreed to contact two individuals whose names had been put forward at a previous meeting.

g) Update on pairs competitions

The Great Northern Pairs event had attracted 66 pairs (more than the last face to face event) and had accrued a profit of £1, 248.60. A mid- week, day- time pairs event on 15 September had an entry of 24 pairs.

h) Update on online YL teams of four competition

The online league had attracted 128 teams with only three matches not completed for technical reasons and one that had been played in an incorrect format. There had been much positive feedback and a message of appreciation was extended to Mike Jackson, Robin Jepson and John Hayton for the work undertaken for the successful development of this. It was proposed that a further league be played on the match dates of the Yorkshire League in 2021 with details to be finalised at the next Tournament Committee Meeting.

4) Report from EBU Chairmen's Meeting on 2 September 2020

The EBU finances projected a £100k deficit for 2020/21 which was to be funded from reserves. There was a commitment to pay 5.1% of revenue to the World Bridge Federation and an amount to the European Bridge Federation based on membership numbers. Some EBU staff had been furloughed and possible reductions may be needed.

Platforms currently being used for online bridge were discussed including the new Realbridge which was being trialled and intended to be used for the Autumn Congress event. There was also a new mobile app named 'Tricksters Bridge'. All EBU face to face events had been cancelled to 31 December 2020 and it was felt there was no foreseeable return to face to face bridge for at least six months. The EBU had arranged a virtual meeting on Tuesday 20 October 2020 to provide further information on the setting up on online clubs and it was agreed that the secretary circulate the email to all club secretaries.

A consultation on UMS payments for 21/22 was also being undertaken.

The new EBED CEO gave a presentation on the English Bridge School and its teaching methods.

5) Report from YCBA Club Chairmen's Meeting on 13 October 2020

The Chairman reported that three dates had been proposed to clubs for the meeting and the date selected was the one most favoured. Seventeen clubs had denoted attendance but two apologies had been received on the day due to other bridge commitments.

Details of online teaching had been sought and it was established that whilst some classes that had commenced prior to the pandemic were continuing online it was difficult for new students to be taught online.

It was felt that a number of members were not conversant with playing online and it needed a team of people to support them and information on the Learnbridge website needed updating. Details of club sessions online were identified including where two clubs had joined together to make a viable session with one attracting 13 tables on the first night. Halifax BC had arranged a bridge match with Halifax Novia Scotia and Huddersfield were joining with DIVA BC in Chester for an event. It was estimated that around 50% of members were playing online with the percentage varying from club to club. The social aspect of bridge was still very popular and not all members wanted to play in a highly competitive format. Representatives of small clubs expressed concern for the future viability of clubs when only a small amount of members were playing online. The treasurer reported that it was intended to establish a fund to help clubs return to face to face bridge.

6) Financial Update

The treasurer reported that there was a bank balance of £54k but there were still some online competition costs to pay. Very little UMS payments had been received to date but were these were slowly increasing due to the creation of more online clubs and the receipt of the income was reliant on the EBU. No monies had been lost on online events and the level of income from online events may reach similar levels to that of competitions in the previous year dependent on income from the Harrogate Spring Congress. There were no concerns over the finances and the priority was to be increase the number of members playing online.

7) Arrangements for the Members Meeting on Sunday 22 November 2020

It was agreed that a Members Meeting should go ahead as a Zoom meeting commencing at 10.30 am but in a different format that would need to be determined and to include the following topics:

- Information and latest update on online bridge platforms
- How to become a virtual club
- 'Marketing the Bridge Club after Covid' to be delivered by David Guild
- YCBA grants for the return of face to face bridge
- Open forum

The Vice-Chairman was asked to arrange a meeting of the Grants Committee.

8) Payment of Tollemache entry fees

It was agreed that the entry fee would be paid in full by YCBA. Details of the six pairs selected would be posted on the website.

9) Development of Realbridge

A number of members had participated in a session of Realbridge which was completing its trial phase in preparation for use at the EBU Autumn Congress on 23/23/25 October 2020. The software which was felt easy to operate could facilitate pairs, teams and Swiss events with four different formats including a competitive format where kibitzing was delayed by 15 minutes. The EBU had not made any final decision which platform would be adopted for all events as this was still being evaluated.

There had been many positive comments that the facility to see and speak to partners and opponents had been welcome but there was an issue that relatively new devices were needed and small screens were difficult in view of the amount of items needed to be displayed. The experience however was the closest possible to face to face bridge.

10) Any other urgent items

No items were raised under this category

11) Approval of Dimmie Fleming award and NBL dates for 2021

The secretary reported that the nomination for a Dimmie Fleming award for Stuart Davies had been approved and the award would be forwarded to him by post but presented when face to face bridge returns.

The dates for the 2021 season were now posted on the NBL website.

12) Date and Time of Next Meetings.

The next meetings to be held on Thursday 29 October at 7.00 pm – Joint Committees for tournament matters and Tuesday 10 November 2020 – Board meeting.