

Minutes of the Virtual YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Tuesday 8 December 2020 commencing at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Nick Woolven (Chair), Stephen Cordingley, Phil Godfrey, Julia Staniforth, Philip Mason, Lesley Millet and Ron Millet.

INVITED ATTENDEES: John Hayton, Robin Jepson and Oliver Cowan.

1) Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

There were no apologies and no declarations of interest.

2) Matters arising from the minutes dated 29 October 2020

a) Review of Elevenses Pairs event

28 pairs had participated and feedback was positive. It was agreed to hold a further event on Tuesday 23 February 2021 commencing at 10.00 am. playing 22-24 boards at a cost of £5 per player. Pauline would be the event organiser.

b) Updated rules

Robin had drafted an update to the rules and had circulated this to the Chairman and Secretary and would circulate to all members of the Tournament Committee. Oliver would forward the original rules produced by Phil Godfrey to enable these to be cross checked with the new rules.

c) Tournament procedures 'checklist'

John had produced a first draft of a document to assist organisers of competitions and would be updated for circulation and adoption.

It was explained that competition entries were received via the 'online competitions' email address and accessed by the designated event organiser which currently is either Pauline, Lesley, or Oliver. The treasurer would forward details of payments received to the organiser to cross check against the entries received to enable any non- payments to be followed up. Entry forms were currently designed by Lesley or David Guild and send out via Pianola to the appropriate groups. The event organiser would check details of entries and compile lists which needed to include email and BBO names for the Director.

Pauline explained that often entry forms were completed incorrectly or had missing information and that an online form with mandatory fields would be useful. Phil denoted that it would be possible to produce such a form and he would forward details to the Chairman to liaise with the webmaster.

3) Update on arrangements for forthcoming events

a) Christmas Bonanza event

Pauline was the event organiser and to date had received 6 entries for the pairs event, 3 for the teams and 3 for the '9 High'. The Chairman would arrange a commentary and a zoom conference for the '9 High' event. The format would be 7 x 5 board rounds for Swiss Pairs and 6 x 6 board rounds for the Swiss Teams.

It was suggested that feedback be sought on the format and Oliver agreed to arrange for this via Survey Monkey and would send a link with the results.

b) Second Online YL for clubs teams of four

John had been appointed Chairman of the online committee and he reported that after consultation with clubs there would be no change to the number of boards and no change of opponents after six boards. The starting time of the second match would be brought forward to 4.15 pm.

The issue of lack of disclosure of systems was discussed and it was agreed that match secretaries be asked to ensure that players were aware of how to use the 'chat' and 'explain' facility and that 'undos' we only allowed for bidding mistakes not for play.

A knockout competition was to be included with the first round played on the third match date for the second match and the second round on the fourth match date as the second match and the final on the last match date as the second match. . The top four teams of each league would be seeded and a random draw made from the remaining four teams. The entry fee would remain at £20 per team as an encouragement to members to take part and the additional costs for the extra fixture met from the surplus of the first online league.

Sheffield A as winners of the 2019/20 Yorkshire League would play in the Garden Cities event on 9 May 2021 and the Chairman would notify them accordingly. The fee of £232 would be paid by YCBA.

c) Yorkshire Pairs - Sunday 24 January 2021

The Chairman agreed to be the event organiser and it would be a 2 session event of 2 x 20 boards with the top five pairs eligible to represent the county in the Corwen Trophy event. It would be played on BBO with an entry fee of £24 per pair.

d) Waddington Shield and Yorkshire Trophy events

Stuart Davies, the former competitions secretary, had agreed to organise the two events. The Secretary was asked to send an email to all members with details including a closing date of 14 January 2021 and an entry fee of £30 per team.

The 2019/20 Waddington Shield event was being completed online and it was agreed that the winners of the 2020/21 event would play a head to head match to decide who would represent the county in the Pachabo event on 13/14 June 2020.

e) Proposed Simultaneous Pairs event – 18 February 2021

Discussion took place on how this could be arranged and it was concluded that as clubs currently played fewer sessions it was likely that there would be insufficient support with an additional £2 entry fee. In view of the discussion it was agreed not to progress the event.

4) Finalisation of arrangements for the Harrogate Spring Congress

Entry fees were agreed as £12 per player for the Green Pointed events and £5 per player for the '9 High' events which would take place on both days playing 24 boards with Duplicate pairs. John would be the event organiser.

5) 'Stepping Stones' event – Sunday 10 January 2021 at 2.30pm

The Bridge Development Committee had proposed that a 12 board event on BBO be held free of charge for players graded 5 and below as an introduction to county newcomer events for those new to playing formal bridge. There would be no master points.

Oliver would be the Director with pre-determined hands and the Chairman would provide a commentary and host a Zoom meeting at the end. Stephen agreed to be the event organiser.

Lesley would produce an entry form with a closing date on 8 January 2021. The Secretary would email clubs with the form to request that bridge teachers were notified in order to contact their students. Jim Edwards would also be approached to contact other known teachers. Oliver would create a group on Pianola to mail out to all those eligible on the database and liaise with Pauline for a standby pair.

6) Any other business

There were no other items raised.

7) Date and Time of Next Meetings.

The next meetings to be held as follows:

Board Meeting: Tuesday 19 January 2021 at 7.00 pm

Tournament Committee: Tuesday 2 February 2021 at 7.00 pm

Bridge Development Committee: To be decided