

**MINUTES OF THE YCBA VIRTUAL MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 2 MARCH 2021 AT 7.00 PM.**

Present: Nick Woolven (Chairman), Julia Staniforth, Lesley Millet, David Guild and Robin Jepson.

In Attendance: Philip Mason and Ron Millet.

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies for absence had been received from Stephen Cordingley, Phil Godfrey and Pauline Stout. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Management Board Resignation

It was reported that John Hayton had decided to step down from the Management Board but was willing to continue to serve on the YL Online League Committee and provide any support requested. A message of appreciation was extended for the valuable contribution that John had made and for his work as Competition Secretary for the Harrogate Spring Congress. There were now two vacancies and it was agreed that the Chairman would send a letter to clubs informing them of the vacancies and inviting expressions of interest.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meetings held on 19 January (Management Board), 2 February (Tournament Committee) and 15 February (Bridge Development Committee) 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting

(a) Management Board:

(i) Membership Data Issues

RM reported that the EBU could not provide email addresses of any competition entrants but could forward any message to seek to obtain the required information. The Membership Secretary stated he would commence a manual exercise of comparing records on the EBU membership database with those held on the Pianola database.

It was agreed that a review of access arrangements to the Pianola database would be undertaken after the AGM when the role/responsibilities of Competition Secretary was determined.

(ii) Budget Planning

The Secretary and Treasurer agreed to progress when time permitted. The current bank balance was £61k although there were a number of expenses to be met from events held in 2021. Information had also been received that the EBU financial position was no longer a cause for concern.

(iii) County Teams of Four Match with Surrey

The match was to take place on 11 March 2021 on BBO. The Chairman had finalised the teams and Oliver Cowan would facilitate the matches to be played on the private platform. A similar match against the NEBA was under consideration.

b) Tournament Committee.

i) Review of events that had taken place since the last meeting.

The Treasurer reported an excellent attendance in the EBU Spring Congress with 141 pairs in the main event, 24 pairs in the '9' high and 48 teams giving a surplus of approximately £2,750. There had been a need to appoint a third Director in view of the number of

participants. 24 pairs competed in the Elevenses Pairs event and it was agreed that any further one session pairs' events be reviewed by the Tournament Committee. The Stepping Stones event had attracted 58 pairs and it was recommended that the Bridge Development Committee/Tournament Committee arrange a third event with an increase to 16 boards on 18 April.

An issue had been raised that the results of the YL Online league knock out matches had not been displayed on the YCBA website. It was clarified that the results were available on the YCBA website but were not easy to find and there had been some technical difficulties creating the required links between the EBU league and EBU knock out scoring systems and the YCBA website. The Chairman agreed to raise the issue at the next Online League committee meeting.

ii) Proposed events for April and May 2021

An Affiliated Teams event was to take place on 21 April 2021 at a cost of £24 per team playing 30- 35 boards and the Nelson Rose Bowl would take place on 5 May 2021 with a similar format and cost.

iii) Automated entry/payment form

Ron provided a detailed report on payment platforms comparing the cost of Stripe with Paypal which denoted that there was no monthly fee with Stripe compared with £20 per month charged by Paypal and the percentage transaction 0.5% less with Stripe. Ron explained that some providers would not accept bridge operators as it was perceived as gambling and it was agreed to adopt Strike if they would agree to provide a contract on the basis outlined. Ron was thanked for the information provided.

iv) Outstanding Master Points for 2020 Swiss Pairs event

The points had now been awarded.

c) Bridge Development Committee

i) Online teaching initiative

310 beginners had attended the first presentation with ten clubs participating in practise play sessions. The number had reduced to around 272 but many clubs had reserves to take the place on anyone discontinuing. There had been some technical issues particularly with the Realbridge teaching platform and the bespoke platform developed by Jim Edwards had operated more successfully. David was congratulated for the success of the initiative.

ii) Website development

The webmaster had provided a draft which re-sited the Learnbridge logo and clubs information to the heading section enabling a results section to be added alongside the News and Events sections. It was agreed that this was an improvement and Lesley was asked to inform the website to undertake the work. The Secretary would take responsibility for updating the new section.

5) **Government Lockdown Plan/Implications for Yorkshire Congress and AGM**

Prior to the latest government announcement the EBU Chairman had denoted that the Eastbourne Congress was likely to be the first planned face to face event although the latest guidelines may allow clubs to reopen earlier than that. It was agreed the Yorkshire Congress and AGM would take place online, the AGM at 11.00am on Saturday 12 June with a Pairs plus a '9 High' event following in the afternoon and a teams' event on Sunday 13 June 2021. Ron reported that the EBU had established a F2F start up group and a review would be undertaken in April which would then assist clubs seeking guidance.

6) **Newly Affiliated Online Club**

The Ace of Clubs Bridge an online club with members largely based at Harrogate had recently affiliated to the EBU. The Secretary would arrange to include in the list of clubs for circulation of information and to obtain details for inclusion on the website.

7) 2021 Northern Bridge League

Notification had been received of the four fixture dates and the intention to play the matches online at a cost of £10 per team payable by the county and a £5 cost per player per match.

The Secretary was asked to clarify whether the county fee was per match or per season and whether any fixtures would be played F2F if F2F bridge resumed.

8) EBU correspondence relating to a suspended member

Notification had been received that the EBL had suspended a member of the Irish Bridge League for a period of 5 years and as the same member (Richard Elvin) was a also a member of Surrey he had been duly suspended from membership of the EBU for the same period.

9) Item of Other Urgent Business

No additional items were raised.

10) Date and time of future meetings

- Joint YL Online League and Yorkshire League – 9 March 2021 at 11.30am.
- Tournament Committee – Tuesday 30 March at 10.00 am.
- Bridge Development Committee – Wednesday 7 April at 10.00 am.
- Management Board - Tuesday 20 April at 7.00 pm.