

Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Tuesday 3rd August 2021 at 7.00 pm by Zoom video conference.

PRESENT: Nick Woolven (Chair), Lesley Millet (Treasurer), Robin Jepson (Assistant Secretary), Ron Millet, Pauline Stout and Stephen Cordingley. Also attending by invitation - Dani Hyman.

1) Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies had been received from Phil Godfrey. There were no declarations of interest.

2) and 3) Minutes of previous meeting on 26th June 2021

The minutes were approved and would be signed by the Chair at the first convenient opportunity. It was confirmed that PS and SC had received administrative access to Pianola and that Oliver Cowan would direct the Midweek Summer Pairs Bonanza. NW dealing with entries to the Open Pairs. Reminders to be sent in two weeks' time.

4) Review of competitions played since the last meeting

RJ reported that the summer season of the Online Yorkshire League had been completed with the YLC adjudicating the results of four matches that had not been played by the competition cut-off date. It was also noted that Jim Edwards & Brian Davison had run a successful competition for players who had completed a recent training course.

5) Arrangements for forthcoming events

LM reported that Stuart Davies had agreed to duplimate boards for the Great Northern Swiss Pairs and to act as director but did not wish to be chief TD, and PG would take on this role if available. A Nine High improvers event would be staged on the Sunday, but there would not be a separate Fve High event.

A contingency plan was discussed for moving the event online in case of very low entries - fewer than 20 tables. LM said that the booking of the Hilton Hotel could be cancelled with 8 days notice and it was agreed that the a cut-off date, of 14 days before the event, for the receipt of entries should be stipulated in the entry form. The hosting arrangements with EBU specify the competition being played face to face, so EBU approval would be required to move it online. Entry forms to be sent out before the end of August.

LM also reported that the Cairn Hotel has been booked for the Harrogate Spring Congress on 11-13 February next year. LM had also ascertained that the Craiglands Hotel in ILkley was available for the Easter Festival and views were expressed that this venue was preferable to the Marriott Hotel in York. The committee noting that the Marriott was still holding a deposit of £500, originally paid for the event planned for 2020 but rolled over twice when the 2020 and 2021 competitors had to be cancelled owing to the pandemic, which deposit might be forfeited if the booking was cancelled.

It was agreed in principle that an online Elevenses competition should be held on the third Wednesday of each month, played online during the daytime- the first one to be in September.

It was also agreed that, on the assumption that the EBU would not be staging a face to face New Year competition in the north of England, the YCBA would stage a New Year Bonanza played online similar to that in 2020.

NW reported an offer had been received from James Carpenter to organise the resumption of simultaneous pairs events in 2021-22. It was agreed NW would liaise with JC to ascertain

the practicalities of running the events either face to face or online - the first (Kath Grimoldby) to be held later in the autumn rather than the customary date in September

6) Calendar of events

It was agreed that this present meeting would plan for events to be included in the calendar up to the end of 2021, with consideration of events for the remainder of the 2021-22 season deferred until the next meeting.

It was agreed that RJ and/or DH would:

- Ascertain whether Garforth Bridge Club intend to proceed with their Swiss Teams planned for 19th September,
- Invite Bradford Bridge Club to host the Mixed Pivot Teams with 17th October as the committee's preferred date
- Ascertain whether Malton Bridge Club intend to hold the Ryedale Pairs in the autumn, 7th November being the committee's preferred date.
Invite Stuart Davies to organise the Waddington Shield and Yorkshire Trophy knockout competitions for 2021-22/

It was also agreed that the WS and YT would preferably be played face to face but online play permitted by agreement between the teams. RJ to draft any necessary amendment to the competition rules such as including reference to the EBU Sky-Blue Book.

7) Report from Yorkshire League Committee

RJ and SC reported that entry forms had been sent out by Mike Jackson for the autumn season of the Online Yorkshire League, with an entry fee of £16 per team, and the Yorkshire League teams of eight. MY expected entries to be down for both competitions PS commented that several Wwtherby players had opted out of this season of the OYL as they would be on holiday in the early autumn.

Amended guidelines had been sent out on the provision of refreshments for visiting teams in Yorkshire League matches after two clubs had expressed concerns about the practicalities of doing so consistently with their Covid mitigation strategy For the 2021-22 season only clubs would not be expected to provide substantial refreshments but home teams should provide teas and coffees unless they notified the visitors to the contrary. Visitors would be welcome to bring their own drinks and snacks and there would be a short break of about 30 minutes during the match.

It was agreed that the YLC should make a contingency plan for the YL teams of eight to be moved online in case of a resurgence of the pandemic or the entries being so low that it was not considered viable for the competition to be played face to face. The merits of playing a teams of eight online using either BBO or Real Bridge were discussed but a decision on this would be made if the issue arose. MJ had already produced a guide for setting up teams of eight matches using BBO.

8) Other Business

None

9) Date of next meeting

Tuesday 14th September at 7.00 pm by Zoom video conference.