

Minutes of the Virtual YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Monday 10 May 2021 commencing at 10.00 am.

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

INVITED TO ATTEND: Pauline Stout and John Hayton

1) Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

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

2) Matters arising from the minutes dated 30 March 2021

a) Online event checklist

This was agreed subject to the deletion of 'Phil Godfrey' in item 8 and replacing with 'Nick Woolven/Lead TD'.

b) Review of Affiliated Teams, Mayday Castle Pairs and Nelson Rose Bowl events

Sixteen teams had competed in the Affiliated Teams event which was more than in previous years in the face to face event, twenty eight pairs in the Mayday Castle pairs and thirteen teams with a standby team in the Nelson Rose Bowl broadly in line with face to face entries. All the events had been well received.

c) Automated competition/payment entry form

A reply from 'Stripe' was still awaited and it was felt that in view of the lack of response an alternative provider may be more appropriate. It was agreed that the development be deferred to the start of the new bridge season and a designated event would be needed to trial the system rather than a Congress event.

d) Notification to EBU of qualifying events

The Sheffield A team had been placed fourth out of fourteen teams in the northern section qualifying event and had therefore qualified for the national final.

Five pairs had been entered for the Corwen Trophy event.

The EBU had recently announced that it would be possible for a team of eight players to be selected for the Pachabo event which could include players of the winning teams of the 2019/20 and 2020/21 events or runners up if needed. The current year's final was due to be completed on 12 May which left little time for a play-off between the two season's winners to be arranged by the closing date of 28 May 2021. It was agreed that Nick would contact the captain of the 2019/20 winning team to ascertain if a team of eight could be arranged.

e) Third online league entry fee

It was noted that the original fee of £20 agreed by the Tournament Committee had been subsequently amended to £16 by the Online League Committee.

f) 2021 Northern Bridge League.

Nick reported that a meeting of the 'A' selectors was scheduled for 13 May and a squad of players had been identified. Julia explained that the 'C' selectors felt it would be difficult to enter two teams as some players may be needed for the B team but efforts were continuing.

3) Update on arrangements for forthcoming events

a) Mixed Pairs and Stepping Stones

Pauline reported that twenty seven pairs had currently entered the Mixed Pairs and Stephen reported that the entry form for the Stepping Stones event had now been circulated with entries expected to be received in the near future.

b) Yorkshire Congress – 12/13 June 2021

Robin Jepson had offered to administer the entries for the Swiss Teams. In consultation with the Tournament Director it had been agreed that 7 x 6 board matches would be played to better facilitate the awarding of green points. The entry fees would remain as agreed at £25 per pair and £50 per team for the main events. The '9' high' event would be blue pointed playing 24 boards at a cost of £12 per pair with Pauline as the entry administrator commencing at 2.00 pm on the Saturday. The '5 high' would commence at 2.00 pm on the Sunday playing 16 boards costing £8 per pair with Stephen administering the entries via the online comps email address although previous entrants could email Stephen direct. In view of the timings Nick would arrange for Oliver or Brian Davison to present the Zoom meeting to discuss the hand records. Nick would arrange for Ken Johnson from Leicestershire to be appointed as a third TD if entry numbers required this.

4) Summer Online League Update

John reported that around 80 teams were expected to take part (58 had paid to date) in leagues of ten with three matches on each of the three dates. Zoom meetings for team captains had been arranged for the 17 and 18 May and it was felt that each club should have a lead member to support captains if there were any technical issues. Oliver was not available to act as TD for the whole of the three match dates but would provide some assistance if this was needed.

Team captains would be expected to sort out any general issues and if these could not be resolved the matter would be referred to the Online League Committee.

5) 21/22 Calendar of events including Yorkshire League and Online League

The Online League Committee had submitted three options for consideration as how a further online league could be played in addition to the return of the face to face Yorkshire League. It was agreed that the seven dates that had been published for the Yorkshire League should remain unchanged and that a further online league could take place with three matches in September and October and three matches after the completion of the Yorkshire League in March and April. The cost of the online league would need to be determined as if it could only be run as two separate league this would double the BBO costs. Ron agreed to cost the event assuming a maximum of 500 players and a minimum of 320.

Whilst it was hoped that the Yorkshire League would return in its original format it was proposed that the Yorkshire League Committee consider that if both teams agreed the matches could be played on Realbridge. Stephen reported that Halifax BC was trailing teams of eight using Realbridge and Phil had already agreed to provide feedback on the Malton Cup (teams of four event) which was being played on Realbridge.

6) AGM Question – Entry fees strategy

John had requested that a question be included on the forthcoming AGM relating to how the

Tournament Committee determined entry fees for YCBA competitions and whether there was any differentiation for events involving only YCBA members as he felt such events should be non-profit making in view that the organisation was non-profit making. He suggested that the next season's Yorkshire league matches be at no cost to clubs and there should be consideration to a subsidy for club events. It was explained that the cost to clubs entering the Yorkshire League was £20 per team which included the £15 payable to the EBU with the remainder covering administrative costs and trophy engraving etc. Lesley explained that the only one day event open only to YCBA members was the Affiliated Teams event and all one day events ran at an overall break even situation with only Congress events accruing a surplus which was intended to be reinvested in bridge development initiatives. It was agreed there was a need to support clubs and the reserves currently accrued had been earmarked to provide grants for new equipment and other short term subsidies.

Discussion took place on other strategies and it was agreed that subject to EBU approval a proposal would be put forward at the forthcoming AGM that the county UMS payment (5p per player per session) would be removed for the period after the AGM to 31 March 2022 with a continuation from 1 April 2022 subject to the 5p amount being reinstated with two months' notice should this be required. The next Board meeting would consider entry fees for the forthcoming Yorkshire League season and other competitions.

7) Any Other Business/Future Items

a) Trophy for '9 High' event

An enquiry had been received as to whether a trophy could be dedicated to an improvers event in memory of a YCBA member who had died in an accident and who had taken part in many improvers events. It was agreed that it was more appropriate for the club to honour the player and it was felt that further trophies should not be introduced other than in exceptional circumstances.

8) Date and Time of Next Meeting.

This would be decided at the next Management Board meeting which would be held on Monday 14 June at 7.00 pm