

Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Tuesday 29 June 2021 at 7.00 pm by Zoom video conference.

PRESENT: Nick Woolven (Chair), Lesley Millet (Treasurer), Robin Jepson (Acting Secretary), Ron Millet, Pauline Stout and Stephen Cordingley.

1) Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

There were no apologies and no declarations of interest.

2) and 3) Minutes of previous meeting on 10 May 2021

The minutes were approved and would be signed by the Chair at the first convenient opportunity. There were no matters arising

4) Review of competitions played since the last meeting

The Yorkshire Congress attracted 36 entries for the Swiss Pairs, 14 for the Swiss Teams, 16 for the Nine High Pairs and 18 for the Five High Pairs. LM reported that a surplus of £800 had been achieved. PH, supported by SC, suggested that the Nine High and Five High events would attract better entries with more targeted marketing, for example publicity at her local club drew another five entries. With a view to facilitating this, PH and SC will be given administrator access to Pianola. The entry fees for such competitions held online are price sensitive and should be comparable with other similar events for improvers. NW said that the two leading pairs in the Nine High event would be invited to represent YCBA in the forthcoming county match against Surrey.

5) Arrangements for forthcoming events

It was decided the YCBA will stage an online Midweek Summer Pairs Bonanza on Wednesday 25th August. The competition will comprise:

- three stand alone Open multiple pairs of 16 boards each, blue pointed with starting times 10.30, 2.00 and 7.00. Players may enter one, two or all three of these with a prize for the leading pair playing in all three
- Five High pairs in the afternoon playing 16 boards, black pointed, organiser SC.
- Nine High pairs in the evening playing 18 boards, black pointed, organiser PH

To be played on the BBO platform - to be costed by RM. Director Oliver Cowan if available. LM reported she had been in touch with the Leeds Hilton Hotel about arrangements for the Great Northern Swiss Pairs. Their rates are unchanged from 2019. The playing areas required will depend on social distancing regulations in force at the time.

LM also reminded the TC that the Marriott Hotel in York are still holding a deposit of £500 placed for the 2020 Easter Festival but rolled over. It was too early for any detailed planning of this event in 2022 or the Harrogate Spring Congress at the Cairn Hotel, as we do not yet know whether or not the EBU will wish YCBA to host these competitions.

6) Calendar of events

The outline calendar produced by RJ for the purpose of Yorkshire League match days could be used as a basis for the 2021-22 calendar (copy attached). Other than the Yorkshire League and EBU events no competitions could yet be entered in the calendar - it was thought that affiliated clubs were holding back the announcement of planned face to face or online events pending the expected government announcement of the lifting of remaining restrictions on social contact.

Further consideration of the calendar was therefore deferred to the next meeting.

7) Arrangements for publicising the calendar

It was agreed that the calendar would be uploaded on to the YCBA website and no printed brochure would be produced. However secretaries of affiliated clubs would be notified when the calendar has been put on the website and asked to bring it to the attention of their members with an interest in county events.

8) Covid risk assessments for YCBA competitions played face to face

RJ suggested that as a condition of entry to the YL clubs should be obliged to carry out risk assessment of the premises to be used as match venues and post these on their website for inspection by members of visiting teams. This was agreed and NW suggested the use of the risk assessment template on the EBU website. (Note: further advice from the EBU is available at <https://www.ebu.co.uk/article/planning-face-face-bridge-2021>).

9) Guidance to affiliated clubs on Covid risk assessments

Clubs would be similarly advised to carry out such assessments before reopening.

10) Report from Yorkshire League Committee

RJ summarised the outcome of the recent YLC meeting. Mike Jackson will be dealing with entries, the fixture list and setting up the Leagues for both the teams of four OYL and the teams of eight YL. John Hayton will act as committee secretary and RJ will be the League Secretary and initial point of contact for rule queries, requests for bridge rulings and appeals from TD decisions. SC gave a presentation on setting up online teams of eight matches using Real Bridge. After discussion, it was decided that in certain circumstances matches could be played online instead of face to face. It was agreed that Real Bridge was the preferred platform because the match set up is relatively straightforward compared with BBO and because the Real Bridge fees are paid direct by the club setting up the match. Clubs will be advised that if there is a resurgence of the pandemic the whole or part of the YL teams of eight might be moved online. It was also decided that the YL entry fee would be £25 per team. RM will cost the autumn series of the OYL teams of four and the entry fee for that competition will be advised.

In response to a query from a member, a new VP scale will be used in the YL teams of eight following recommendations from WBF also adopted by the EBU. The differences from the old scale are slight but the bandwidth for 10-10 is narrower and only 96 imps rather than 100 are required for 20-0. County-wide duplicated boards will again be used in the top three divisions and the four people involved in this (Jim Edwards, Tom Gisborne, James Carpenter and RJ) have all agreed to continue.

Note: following the meeting, a member of the Yorkshire League Committee drew attention to a message from Philip Mason to the membership, posted on the website earlier in the year, stating that the entry fee for the 2021-22 season of the Yorkshire League would be unchanged at £20 per team. In the light of this information NW emailed all TC members with a recommendation that the decision to increase the fee to £25 per team should be reversed, and this was agreed by the majority of the TC members who responded.

11) EBU notifications of suspended players

These are received by the Secretary and also posted on the EBU website where they are available for inspection by Organisers taking entries for YCBA competitions.

12) Other Business

None

13) Date of next meeting

Tuesday 3rd August at 7.00 pm by Zoom video conference.