

Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Tuesday 26th October 2021 at 7.30 pm by Zoom video conference.

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

1) Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2) and 3) Minutes of previous meeting on 14th September 2021

The minutes were approved and would be signed by the Chair at the first convenient opportunity. NW confirmed that the Waddington Shield and Yorkshire Trophy would be organised by Stuart Davies who had suggested Tuesday 16th November as the closing date for entries. NW had yet to contact Alastair Davidson about the Golf Clubs event. DH reported that Huddersfield have decided not to host the Castle Swiss Pairs. PS had contacted Harrogate about hosting the Nelson Rose Bowl but they have not yet decided. NW had also spoken to Oliver Cowan with a view to avoiding clashes between YCBA and OCBC competitions in the future.

4) Review of competitions played since the last meeting

The Great Northern Swiss Pairs was played online instead of face to face. LM reported the event had broken even financially and NW thanked the organisers.

5) Arrangements for forthcoming events

RM declared an interest as an EBU Board member, and said he would take no part in the discussion beyond outlining the intention of the EBU Board - the EBU had decided that, to provide an incentive to move back to face to face play, the cost of green points awarded for online competitions would be increased to double that for equivalent f2f ones.

LM confirmed the arrangements for the New Year Bonanza described in email correspondence since the last TC meeting. OC would publicise the event. Unfortunately OC was unable to attend this present meeting as had been intended. The NYB will comprise an open multiple pairs, a Nine High pairs and a Swiss Teams with the open event featuring separate sections played on Real Bridge and BBO.

After discussion it was decided to defer a decision on whether the Harrogate Spring Congress will be played f2f at the Cairn Hotel or online. It was similarly decided to defer a decision about the Northern Easter Festival.

It was agreed to trial the resumption of the monthly Elevenses competition with the next one on Wednesday 24th November. The event will be organised by PS and SC, starting time 10.00 playing 22 boards and a starting time of 10.00. Entry fee £10 per pair.

It was further agreed that the Yorkshire Pairs will be played online using BBO.

The entry fee for the Waddington Shield and Yorkshire Trophy will be £36 per team.

Decisions about other YCBA competitions scheduled for later in the season were deferred.

6) Arrangements for publicising YCBA competitions and news items on the website

It was agreed that DH will ask Andrew Pearson to post on the website the dates of forthcoming YCBA competitions up to the end of the 2021-22 season with "details to follow" where no more than a date has yet been decided by the TC. RJ will send AP news items such as successes by YBCA members in national competitions. It was further agreed that

the county-wide hands used in divisions 1,2 and 3 of the Yorkshire League and Butler scores for matches in those divisions will be posted on the Yorkshire League pages of the website.

7) Tollemache team

NW reported that a team had been selected for the qualifying competition on 13th and 14th November. This would be posted on the website as a news item and LM will send in the entry to the EBU.

8) Report from Yorkshire League Committee

RJ reported that the autumn season of the Online Yorkshire League had been successfully completed with 70 teams playing 315 matches, only two of which had had to be rearranged (to his knowledge). NW thanked the organisers.

The first round of the Yorkshire League face to face would take place on 31st October. One team had withdrawn since the fixture list had been published and as a result there would be a bye round in division 4. (Note for information - since the meeting two more teams have withdrawn and there will also be bye rounds in divisions 1 and 5). One team applied to the YLC for approval of online play for some of their matches owing to the travelling distance and time - this was not agreed as the circumstances were not considered exceptional but the YLC would reconsider the subject of online play at the end of this present season. Arrangements have been made for the use of county-wide hands and Butler scoring in divisions 1, 2 and 3 of the YL.

9) Update of General Competition Rules

RJ had previously circulated the updated version of the Competition Rules incorporating amendments requested by RM, including a reference to Best Behaviour at Bridge and links to the three EBU manuals - White, Blue and Sky-Blue Books. There is a new section relating to online play in YCBA competitions. The italicised sections relate to competitions that will not or are unlikely to take place in the present season and will be omitted. The old version of the Rules will be moved to the website archive. The updated version of the Rules was approved (subject to the correction of one typo) and RJ will ask the webmaster to upload it to the website.

10) Other Business

It was agreed that the Mixed Pivot Teams competition will be listed in the events calendar for 22nd May 2022.

11) Date of next meeting

Wednesday 1st December at 7.00 pm by Zoom video conference.