

Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Wednesday 15th February 2022 at 7.00 pm by Zoom video conference.

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

1) Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

No apologies had been received, and there were no declarations of interest.

2) and 3) Minutes of previous meeting on 12th January 2022 and matters arising

The minutes were approved and would be signed by the Chair at the first convenient opportunity.

It was agreed that RJ will send Andrew Pearson a list of competitions scheduled up to the end of July to be entered in the Events Calendar on the website. Note: this includes the Yorkshire 4 events, see later.

RJ reported that he had made further progress with tracking down the whereabouts of competition trophies, but a number of them including the Waddington Shield and Yorkshire Trophy have still to be located - RJ to report further at the next meeting.

4) Review of competitions played since the last meeting

The Yorkshire Pairs played online had an entry of 19 pairs, which was fewer than last year, but comparable to the last time the event was played f2f in 2020.

The Harrogate Spring Congress played online, and hosted by YCBA on behalf of the EBU, was a great success with 118 entries in the Swiss Pairs, 38 for the Swiss Teams and 62 for the Nine High pairs. The Congress was ably directed by Oliver Cowan and three assistant directors. RM suggested that in future the entry fee for the Nine High Pairs should be equivalent to that for the main events according to the number of boards played, but PS said regard must also be had to the fees charged at equivalent events elsewhere. OC reported feedback from players about the absence of prize money for the leading pairs and teams.

5) Arrangements for forthcoming events

Yorkshire Cup - teams event for players ranked below Regional Master. It was agreed this event will not be played this year but will resume in 2022-23.

Improvers Pairs - to be played f2f at Leeds on a date to be decided, with OC directing if available - however the intended date of 12th March on the Events Calendar to be left unchanged for the time being. It was also agreed at PS's suggestion that the event should be restricted to NGS Five High players.

Northern Easter Festival - NW reported a directive from the EBU that from now on competitions run by YCBA on EBU's behalf must be played face to face - thus, the event will be at Craiglands Hotel Ilkley and LM will confirm the booking with the hotel. Stuart Davies or Phil Godfrey to direct. The event will be held over two days - Swiss Pairs and Nine High pairs on Saturday 16th April and Swiss Teams and Nine High teams on Sunday 17th. Stuart Davies to take the entries for the main events if he agrees, failing which NW. PS to take the entries for the Nine High events.

Nelson Rose Bowl - to be played f2f on Wednesday 4th May. PS reported that Wetherby do not wish to host but LM will ask Leeds.

Yorkshire Mixed Pairs - to be played f2f on Sunday 15th May. PS will ask Weterby to host. 30-35 boards to be played with a break for limited refreshments.

Yorkshire Congress - to be played f2f at the Cairn Hotel Harrogate. LM to contact hotel to confirm prices. The format will be, as usual, Championship Pairs on Saturday 11th June and Championship Teams on Sunday 12th. AGM to be held f2f at 11.00 am on the Saturday.

Consideration of competitions scheduled for dates after the Congress deferred to the next meeting.

6) Yorkshire 4 competition

OC informed the TC that he would be organising four online Swiss Pairs events for affiliated clubs in the coming weeks and requested approval for these to be styled Yorkshire 4, each event being stand-alone but with prizes for the best cumulative scores in three out of the four. The events are Oliver Cowan Bridge Club SP on 19th February, Castle SP on 26th March, Malton SP on 9th April and Leeds SP on 7th May. Such approval was given. It was noted that the Castle SP is a YCBA event but agreed to delegate the event to Huddersfield BC for 2022 - with OC organising on behalf of HBC - this to be reviewed next year.

7) Proposal for a prepayment card or carnet of tickets

NW outlined a proposal for players in multiple YCBA events to pay in advance for all but one and have free entry to the last of the set. Practical difficulties were pointed out - variable pricing of competitions and the administrative challenge of keeping track of entries and entitlement to the free game. It was agreed that RM would research the proposal and report back at the next meeting.

8) Report from Yorkshire League Committee

RJ reported that all outstanding matches postponed on 9th January have now been played and the respective clubs are to be congratulated on making these arrangements. Most of the matches on 30th January were played f2f and the YLC expect this to be the pattern on the remaining two match days.

Entry forms have been sent out for the spring season of the Online Yorkshire League to be played on three match days in March and April.

NW put forward Mike Jackson's offer to organise a summer 2022 season of the OYL but it was agreed not to take this up, owing to the number of other YCBA competitions scheduled for those months. Nevertheless MJ and SC in particular were thanked for their ongoing work in the efficient organisation of the YL and OYL.

9) Other Business

None

10) Date of next meeting

Tuesday 5th April 2022 at 7.00 pm by Zoom video conference.