

Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Wednesday 12th January 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 and Ron Millet. **Invited:** Oliver Cowan.

1) Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies had been received from Stephen Cordingley, and there were no declarations of interest.

2) and 3) Minutes of previous meeting on 1st December 2021 and matters arising

The minutes were approved and would be signed by the Chair at the first convenient opportunity. NW to ask Glyn Foley about the role of writing news items for the website. Vacancy in the position of Chair of Selection Committee A and the proposal to add another member to this committee referred to the next meeting of the Management Board.

4) Review of competitions played since the last meeting

The online New Year Bonanza had been a successful and popular event with 25 tables for the pairs event and 15 teams, achieving a surplus of £550.

5) Arrangements for forthcoming events

- (a) Nine High Pairs - 22nd January. Three entries received to date.
- (b) Yorkshire Pairs - 23rd January. Ten entries received to date. OC to send out further publicity for this and the Nine High event.
- (c) Harrogate Spring Congress. NW taking entries for the open pairs, open teams and Nine High events. NW will ask the EBU to publicise the event via their Event Focus newsletter.
- (d) Yorkshire Cup - 27th February. Event restricted to players at the level of Regional Master or below - teams represent affiliated clubs. DH to write to all clubs inviting entries before the end of this month - we will run the event online using Real Bridge provided there are at least 10 entries. Entry fee £25 per team, two sessions of approximately 40 boards altogether.
- (e) Northern Easter Festival. After discussion it was agreed to defer to the next TC meeting a decision on whether or not the NEF will take place as a face to face event. It was thought that if the TC decided a face to face event was not viable the EBU would probably merge the NEF with its Southern counterpart.
- (f) Nelson Rose Bowl - 5th May. As Harrogate has decided not to host the competition, LM and PS to investigate options of running it face to face at Leeds or Wetherby, failing which online.
- (g) Other YCBA competitions in spring and summer 2022 - deferred to the next TC meeting. NW to remind Andrew Pearson that the agreed dates for seven competitions starting with the Nelson Rose Bowl should be uploaded onto the Events Calendar of the website with further details to follow.

6) Report from Yorkshire League Committee

- (a) RJ reported that owing to the impact of the pandemic the YLC had activated the temporary rules allowing matches to be played online. Mike Jackson and Stephen Cordingley were thanked for their work in providing guidance notes, videos and zoom

presentations relating to the set-up of teams of eight online matches using BBO and Real Bridge. About half of the matches scheduled for match day 4 on 9th January had been played online, a small number face to face and five matches had been postponed. The YLC has decided that the season will not be extended beyond the final match day on 6th March and if any postponed matches have not been rearranged the positions in the applicable divisions will be decided by the average number of Victory Points gained per match played.

- (b) RJ and NW presented a proposal for the spring season of the Online League to be a hybrid competition with teams having the choice of playing matches on BBO or Real Bridge. PS expressed concern that players who have only played online bridge on BBO will not be familiar with Real Bridge. MJ, SC and RJ had attended a presentation by Real Bridge and received an offer to stage matches in the OYL at very affordable rates. LM was of the opinion that the entry fee to the competition should be the same for both BBO and Real Bridge clubs. After discussion it was agreed that RJ would ask Mike Jackson to produce detailed costings of the proposal for the hybrid competition, for consideration by LM and RM. OC offered to stage the Real Bridge matches centrally (which would avoid the need for the captains of teams using Real Bridge to set up their own matches) and RJ said he would arrange for MJ and SC to contact OC direct to assess the feasibility of this.
- (c) NW and RJ presented a proposal for a winter break in the Yorkshire League in the 2022-23 season, with the first match in late September, five matches in all before Christmas and the last two matches in March. A winter season of the Online League would be played in January and February on the three dates that, following the pattern of previous years, would have been Yorkshire League match days. A further summer season of the Online League would be scheduled for three match days in May, June and July 2023. RM drew attention to the break in continuity of the YL but nevertheless it was agreed by all that the advantages of the winter break outweighed the downsides, so the proposal was approved. The provisional dates are: Yorkshire League 25th September, 16th and 30th October, 20th November, 4th December, 12th and 26th March; Winter OYL 8th and 29th January and 19th February; Summer OYL 21st May, 18th June and 2nd July. In response to an enquiry by PS, RJ said the YLC had not yet decided the format of the Winter and Summer Online Leagues but he expected these to be the same as in the most recent seasons - divisions of 10 teams playing a round robin of 9 matches, three on each of the three match days.

7) Trophies

RJ reported he had written to the clubs and players who received trophies at the last presentation in 2019 at the AGM, and had tracked down the whereabouts of most of them. LM confirmed that the trophies are insured. RJ pointed out that some of the trophies are for competitions that will not be staged in 2021-22 (divisions 6-11 of the Yorkshire League and the Flitch) so they will have to be stored. It was suggested that Stuart Davies would agree to store these trophies (note for information: RJ has been in touch with SD who has agreed to this). It was also suggested that the existing trophies might be sold for the value of the silver and the proceeds used towards the cost of purchasing non-returnable trophies for competition winners but no decision was taken about this.

8) Other Business

It was agreed that DH would ask the EBU to enter the Yorkshire Pairs on the EBU website.

9) Date of next meeting

Tuesday 15th February 2022 at 7.00 pm by Zoom video conference.