

Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Tuesday 29th November 2022 at 9.00 pm by Zoom video conference.

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

1) Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies had been received from Phil Godfrey. No declarations of interest.

2) and 3) Minutes of previous meeting on 20th September 2022 and matters arising

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

- Proposed legal agreement with Oliver Cowan. RM reported he was about to send the draft agreements to OC for approval.
- Events Checklist. RJ reported that the Checklist has been uploaded onto the website and is available on the Supervisor's Page under Official Documents but is password protected.

4) Review of competitions played since the last meeting

- Great Northern Swiss Pairs - feedback was generally favourable, players liked the free car parking and complimentary coffee machine. RM said the hotel was welcoming and seemed keen to build an ongoing relationship. SD said there had been a complaint about the cost of accommodation at the hotel.
- Tollemache qualifying event - NW and RJ reported that Yorkshire failed to advance, finishing 8th out of 15 in their group. Two of the six pairs had positive cross-imps ranking.

5) Arrangements for forthcoming events

- New Year Bonanza, Yorkshire Pairs, Harrogate Spring Congress -.SD provided an update on the entries received to date. At the request of RM, SD advised that the standard number of boards per day for a congress or full day competition organised in house by YCBA is 48 (e.g. 8x6) or 49 (7x7).
- Northern Easter Festival - no venue yet agreed. LM reported that the preferred choice of the Hilton, Leeds is too expensive with a day delegate price (including food) of £40 per person - compared with £32 per person at the Crowne Plaza Harrogate - also, at £900 the room hire charge is also too high for the number of players we expect to enter. Instead, LM will investigate the Marriott Hotel, York and report back.
- Yorkshire Cup - date of 16th April 2023 previously agreed and LM & DH will ask Leeds if they are willing to host.
- Waddington Cup - 9th July 2023 - York confirmed as venue.
- Affiliated Clubs Teams - PS reported that Huddersfield have declined to host, so neither venue nor date yet agreed. NW will ask Doncaster but not optimistic of their agreeing. As a fallback PS will enquire about the availability of the Bridge Hotel, Wetherby. Generally felt that this competition is intended to have a social characteristic rather than very competitive, so face-to-face play preferred to online. Event to be played midweek in June or July.

- Nelson Rose Bowl - PS reported that Wetherby will host under an outsourcing arrangement - date 18th May 2023. To be multiple teams rather than Swiss.
- Mixed Pivot Teams - agreed that this competition will not be staged in 2022-23, to be reconsidered in 2023-24.
- Castle Swiss Pairs - PS reported that Huddersfield have agreed to host the event but do not like the suggested date of 7th May, as it is the coronation weekend. RJ has offered several alternative dates for Huddersfield to choose from and we await their response.
- Peter Littlewood Trophy - RJ reported that Sheffield have agreed to host the event under an outsourcing arrangement and their preferred date is Sunday 23rd April.
- SD advised that the standard starting time for competitions run by YCBA in-house is 1.00 pm - clubs running outsourced events choose their own starting time.

6) Website Management

- SD will create a new web page for the Waddington Shield and Yorkshire Trophy 2022-23 with technical assistance from Jim Edwards.
- RJ offered to update the inter-county competitions page currently found via the NBL tab with a view to adding short reports on the final match day of the NBL and the Tollemache qualifying event.

7) Revision of YCBA Competition Rules

RJ had previously circulated a draft document for comment. (One comment received from PG about the definition of club member for the purposes of the Rules, which RJ had responded to.) It was agreed that club membership should be a requirement for players representing clubs in the Yorkshire Cup and Affiliated Teams. The updated Rules were approved and RJ will arrange for them to be uploaded onto the website, replacing the existing.

8) Report from Yorkshire League Committee

RJ reported that four rounds of matches have been played in the Yorkshire League Teams of 8 with no significant issues. A few matches have had to be postponed and new dates found, but most of these have now been played - just two outstanding - and generally the teams have been efficient and cooperative in making the relevant arrangements. Entries have just closed for the Winter 2023 season of the Online Yorkshire League and there will be 45 teams taking part which is an increase of 3 on the last season in spring 2022.

9) Other Business

NW reported he had asked Simon Woolham, Julia Staniforth and Gill Copeland to form the B & C Selection Committee - the members of the A Selection Committee at present are Dave Robinson and Alan Broskill with a third member still to be appointed.

10) Date of next meeting

Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 7.00 by Zoom video conferencing.