

**Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 7.00 pm by Zoom video conference.**

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

**1) Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**

Apologies had been received from Phil Godfrey, Dani Hyman and Ron Millet (RM engaged in another meeting, attended for the last 15 minutes.) No declarations of interest.

**2) and 3) Minutes of previous meeting on 29th November 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. LM reported the agreements have not been completed as OC is reluctant to sign them. The problem is each party having to issue separate invoices for the services provided. However OC is continuing to provide event organisation and TD services, and to hire YCBA equipment on an ad hoc basis.
- RJ reported that the Competition Rules have been uploaded onto the website, and the reorganisation of the inter-county section of the website has been completed. Team selections and results of inter-county competitions can be added as they take place.
- NW said that the Selection Panel A comprises Phil Godfrey, Dave Robinson and Alan Brosgill. The only confirmed member of Selection Panel B is Julia Staniforth but Simon Woolham has been asked to join. Janet Latham does not wish to continue as an active selector on the B panel but will act as a consultant as required. In response to a query, NW said that two experienced and well-qualified women players had been asked to join the Selection Panel A but both had declined.
- The webpage for the Waddington Shield has still to be created (action SD with assistance from Jim Edwards if required). SD did not expect the Yorkshire Trophy to take place in 2023 owing to the low number of entries for the WS. SD also said he did not wish to continue as organiser of the WS & YT after this year.

**4) Review of competitions played since the last meeting**

- New Year Bonanza - though entries were slow to come in, eventually there were 23 pairs and 10 teams so it was a worthwhile competition and made a small profit.

**5) Arrangements for forthcoming events**

- Yorkshire Pairs Jim Edwards will be TD. An enquiry has been received from a player who is vegan. It was thought York BC would be able to offer a vegan option.
- Harrogate Spring Congress -.SD reported 27 pairs and 18 teams have entered the main competition to date, with a month to go. Only two pairs have entered the Really Easy Pairs. PS to send further publicity to club secretaries and teachers. RJ to amend the Event Calendar to clarify that the Really Easy is a Nine High Event.
- Northern Easter Festival - to be staged at the Cedar Court Hotel, Harrogate. Pairs on the Saturday with a meal provided. Teams on the Sunday with an earlier start and players make their own arrangements for lunch. Entry fee £65 for the pairs, £45 for the teams - no discount for players taking part in both. As LM and RM will be out

of the country during the run-up to the NEF, NW will stand in as Event Organiser. PG or SD to be TD.

- Yorkshire Cup - date 16th April. Leeds have agreed to host. For this competition players must be below the rank of National Master and clubs send in entries. DH to write to club secretaries to ask for entries.
- Peter Littlewood Trophy - 23rd April, hosted by Sheffield Bridge Club. RJ had agreed with Sheffield that YCBA would publicise the event with a view to attracting entries from other clubs. NW agreed to send a Pianola email to all YCBA members.
- Yorkshire Mixed Pairs - 14th May, online. SD to be Event Organiser and Oliver Cowan or James Carpenter to act as TD and deal with set-up on the day.
- Nelson Rose Bowl - 18th May, Wetherby. Jim Edwards to be TD. As it is a devolved event Wetherby may set the entry fee, and PS said it would be £25 including food.
- Yorkshire Congress - 10th and 11th June. Further discussion deferred but, on the assumption it will be staged at York Bridge Club as currently advertised, NW, PG and LM will look into the availability of suitable hotels in York for players taking part in the whole Congress who wish to stay nearby.
- Waddington Cup - 9th July 2023 - York to be confirmed as venue.
- Affiliated Clubs Teams - NW reported that Doncaster have agreed in principle to stage this event and would like it to be on a Thursday in late June or early July. Agreed that NW will offer Doncaster the choice of 22nd or 29th June.

## **6) Report from Yorkshire League Committee**

The first match day of the Winter season of the OYL had caused some practical difficulties with team captains making mistakes in the set-up of matches on BBO, and not knowing how to cancel them. One complaint had been received of noise disturbance during a match played on RealBridge. Mike Jackson will be producing an additional training video on how to cancel matches on BBO and will advise on means of addressing unacceptable behaviour during online matches. He will also arrange for RealBridge to offer additional taster sessions for players without previous experience of playing on the platform.

After discussion, the proposed dates for Yorkshire League matches in 2023 and the Winter 2024 season of the OYL were agreed. There will be four YL matches before the end of 2023 and three between late February and the end of March. The change from the 5-2 split in 2022-23 is to avoid clashes with Northern Bridge League dates and other competitions in late September and October - also there has been some feedback that the last Sunday in September is rather too early to start the YL. The dates are:  
YL 2023-24: 8th & 29th October, 19th November, 3rd December, 25th February, 10th & 24th March. OYL Winter 2024: - 7th & 21st January, 4th February.

## **7) Other Business**

None

## **8) Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 14th March 2023 at 8.00 pm by Zoom video conferencing. Later start than usual, to enable LM and RM to participate from Australia where the local date and time will be 15th March, 7.00 am.