



YORKSHIRE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

President: Graham Jepson www.ycba.co.uk



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MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEMBERS MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2022 COMMENCING AT 11.00 A.M.

PRESENT: N Woolven (Chairman/Leeds), D Hyman (Secretary/Leeds), L Millet (Treasurer/Leeds), R Jepson (Assistant Secretary/Leeds), R Millet (Leeds), P Stout (Wetherby), D Guild (Olicana), J Hayward (Leeds), S Hoyle (Bradford), M Jackson (Malton), J Peckitt (Thirsk)

APOLOGIES: P Godfrey (Vice Chairman/York), J Kawecki (Doncaster), J Stainforth (Sheffield) & M Cooper (Sheffield)

1) CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION AND UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed everyone in attendance and advised that this was his 10th year as Chairman.

The Member's meetings usually fall before the EBU AGM which is scheduled to take place on 30 November 2022. The EBU are trying to encourage face to face bridge so the cost of green points will be half if played face to face vs if online. The Chairman sits on the Disciplinary Panel for the EBU and the number of cases that have been referred to the Disciplinary Panel has reduced.

Ron Millet has sat on the EBU board for 9 years and has now stepped down and as such the YCBA has lost its Yorkshire representative on the board. RM will be recognised for his services at the EBU with a Silver Medal.

The County is still in a good financial position. David Guild has done some research and the YCBA currently has c.3,500 members which is slightly down from pre-Covid. Membership from the EBU has looked at pay to play and YCBA stands at 88% and if you include all the clubs the YCBA is at 66% of pre-Covid levels. Memberships aren't bad but clubs are under threat as some are only getting small tables at club night and the YCBA may need to support some clubs. The funding initiative only £6,000 was taken up from the £10,000 on offer and 8-10 clubs put in for funding, the Board is thinking of introducing another initiative to support clubs. As part of DG's research, he has identified that afternoon sessions seem to be on the increase so the Board are looking into potentially helping clubs that don't have their own premises that would like to run afternoon sessions to assist them with that and more information will be provided soon. EBED do offer small grants for premises with links to education.

Mike Ferguson and Robin Jepson have been excellent in getting the face to face leagues back. The online league continues to be successful and will continue over the winter period with two matches in January and

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Nick Woolven
Tel 01484 865170
nick.woolven@gmail.com

Vice-Chairman:
Phil Godfrey
Tel 07702735587
philgodfreybridge@hotmail.co.uk

Secretary:
Dani Hyman
Tel 07837462669
Dani.hyman1987@gmail.com

Treasurer:
Lesley Millet
Tel 0113 2888338
bridge@milletmail.net

Assist. Secretary:
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one in February to be held online. Entries have started to come in and the deadline for entries is the 27th November. If a club is interested in entering a team of four for the online league, please contact MJ.

Northallerton has joined the YCBA and they were welcomed to the YCBA and DG has been in contact with them.

Reminder of future events being the New Year Bonanza, Yorkshire Pairs and Spring Congress.

Middlesex are proposing a resolution to amend the disciplinary policy and how cheating is investigated.

YCBA are in a very good position, a number of clubs have taken up the help from YCBA to assist them with returning to face to face bridge. 14 clubs have received grants and there are a further 2 pending. Any clubs that are interested in receiving further information should contact a member of the Grants Committee. Progress is slow but people are returning to clubs.

There has been a number of competition results for the County and apologies if anyone has been missed; Tollemache Cup - Yorkshire failed to qualify and came 8th out of 14 teams

Northern Bridge League – Yorkshire entered team in each division

President's Cup - Manchester B won and Yorkshire came 4th

- Manchester won Division 1 and Yorkshire came 2nd

- Manchester won Division 2 and Yorkshire came 2nd

- Yorkshire were the runaway winners of Division 3 with the finals being held in June

Silver Plate final – McNiff, Robinson, Souter & Haywood are representing Yorkshire in the finals

Treasurers update – a lot of play is still coming from online and face to face has changed with more afternoon bridge. Clubs are missing higher level players who are preferring to play online. Board members are being allocated different clubs to visit Yorkshire and ask what assistance the YCBA can help with. Funds that are coming into the YCBA are coming from higher level tournaments for example congresses. Numbers are gradually on the rise and a successful Great Northern Swiss Pairs had 19/20 tables.

Teaching – additional funds are being allocated to the teaching campaign.

Funding is still available for start-up grants, for any clubs that are interested can contact DG.

TD training courses – 21 new club TDs have been trained through the YCBA. Barry Partridge successfully ran it and will be running another course in the future.

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UMS holiday – there has been a one year UMS holiday, but UMS will be reintroduced to the clubs in June.

Teaching update – thanks were given to Jim Edwards for the excellent materials that he has created for the clubs. The YCBA has funded the materials, so they are available to all clubs. The Board has agreed to run a trial on the training and are going to contact all North Yorkshire clubs that are affiliated about a 10 week training course in February and March. The Board will also speak to the clubs about the non-affiliates and assist with teaching. As part of the offer for non-affiliates from the EBU is that they will get a years EBU membership. If the trial with North Yorkshire is successful, it will be rolled out to other areas of the county.

2) MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no issues arising from the previous Members Meeting or Annual General Meeting.

3) DISCUSSION FORUM

The Board was asked why there was such short notice for the TD courses. The Board sent their sincere apologies for the lateness of the advertisement. The Easter TD courses will be sent out in good time. Thanks were given to BP for running the courses.

Praise was given to JE's course materials and thanks were given to him for putting it together. EBED have a narrow scope, so credit was given to what the YCBA teaching campaign is doing.

Governance was discussed and the lack of document being online, the only available information was the March Tournament Committee meeting, and it is difficult to see what work the Board has been doing. Andrew Pearson has kindly run the website on behalf of the YCBA but the problem that has been having is that a lot of information was being sent to AP to upload which overwhelming and the Board need to do better and come up with a better process. Some of the Board have been on training to update the website but the Board lack confidence. JE has had experience with Wordpress and can assist with updating the website. The Chair advised that a review of the website needs to happen, and thanks were given to AP & JE for their assistance and advised that the website is better than it was. If anyone has experience with Wordpress and would like to get involved, please contact a member of the Board. If there are any clubs who are running courses, please let the Board know so the Learn Yorkshire website can be updated. Any club chair/secretary change, please let DH know. The Chair is planning on having another club chair meeting in the new year.

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Succession planning has been had at Board level. The Board is going to be contacting clubs on succession planning and how the YCBA can recruit more members to the Board. There will potentially be a Treasury vacancy at next year's AGM, if any member is interested, they can contact a member of the Board. The meetings are all held on Zoom and the Board would like to see a greater cross-representation.

JP commented that Thirsk were lucky to get a grant from the YCBA for IT/Bridgemates and have been using Scorebridge. Northallerton were using tablets and EBU score and smaller clubs. Janet Leech from Olicana and Andrew Pearson created some comprehensive notes for EBU Score and the EBU website has a user guide. Harrogate have done a trial of moving Bridgemates to tablets and they're using Bridge Pal with Score Bridge as their scoring system and Olicana are following how the trial is going.

4) CLOSING REMARKS

If there are any courses that clubs would like to see, please let the Board know.

On closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

Date of next meeting – date TBC but will be held in November 2023.

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