

**Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Wednesday 15th March 2023 at 8.00 pm by Zoom video conference.**

**PRESENT:** Nick Woolven (Chair), Lesley Millet (Treasurer), Robin Jepson (Assistant Secretary), Stephen Cordingley and Ron Millet. Invited to attend: Stuart Davies (attended for part of the meeting).

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

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

**2) and 3) Minutes of previous meeting on 17th January 2023 and matters arising**

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

- The proposed legal agreement with Oliver Cowan is awaiting NW's attention.
- The webpage for the Waddington Shield has been created - thanks to SD.
- The Yorkshire Cup will now be staged at Keighley rather than at Leeds
- Doncaster have selected Thursday 22nd June as the date for the Affiliated Clubs Teams.
- Sandra Penfold has been invited to join the A Selection Committee as its Chair and, if she accepts, PG will stand down from this role. These changes will have to be ratified by the MB at its next meeting. Agreed we will consider entering two teams in the C division of the NBL again if recommended by the B Selection Committee.

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

- Yorkshire Pairs. Well organised by York Bridge Club. The trophy is missing and will have to be tracked down before next year, otherwise replaced. (Note for information - when the competition was last played face-to-face in January 2020, the winners were Alan Hayward & Alan Jarvis).
- Harrogate Spring Congress. Successful in all respects, well organised and an encouraging level of entries with 12 pairs in the Really Easy, 68 pairs in the Swiss Pairs and 28 teams in the Swiss Teams. The playing accommodation was a little cramped but a larger room may be available at the hotel if we decide to return there next year.

**5) Arrangements for forthcoming events**

- Northern Easter Festival - 8th & 9th April, Harrogate. Entries to date 15 pairs, 9 teams and 6 for the Nine High Pairs. NW has publicised the NEF in his monthly Pianola newsletter, and it is also being advertised by the EBU.
- Yorkshire Cup - 16th April, Keighley. PS taking entries. Also publicised in NW's newsletter, and NW will send reminders to players and club secretaries. Formerly, clubs sent in entries after holding qualifying rounds, but this time players may enter direct. Entry fee £100 per team, including tea, was agreed. Stephen Brown of Keighley will act as TD.
- Peter Littlewood Trophy - 23rd April, Sheffield. Also publicised in NW's newsletter, to be repeated at the start of next month.
- Yorkshire Mixed Pairs - 14th May, online on RealBridge. SC is the event organiser. 32 boards to be played starting at 1.00 and finishing about 5.15 with a short break

after 16 boards. Entry fee £12 per pair. TD to be Jim Edwards or James Carpenter Masterpoints on the county scale to be awarded. Open entry, and SC will ask the EBU to include it in their events calendar. The event flyer will include information on joining the RealBridge taster sessions. A standby pair to be recruited in case of an odd number of entries, who will play for free if their services are required. To be publicised by NW as above.

- Nelson Rose Bowl - 18th May, Wetherby. 4 entries so far - to be further publicised as above.
- Yorkshire Congress - 10th and 11th June. Confirmed it will be held at York Bridge Club. PG to direct. PG and SD to liaise on production of a list of suitable hotels for visitors from outside the county, and feasibility of arranging a shuttle service to the venue. Publicity to begin next month.
- Affiliated Clubs Teams - 22nd June, Doncaster. Nothing to add to the above.
- Waddington Cup - 9th July. York Bridge Club not yet confirmed as venue - NW to remind Stuart Kay.

#### **6) Arrangements for Waddington Shield and Yorkshire Trophy 2023-24.**

As SD has decided to step down from organising these competitions after this present season, an offer to run the competitions in 2023-24 has been received from the Yorkshire League Committee. This was accepted. It is anticipated that Mike Jackson will set up the competitions using EBUKnockout in a similar manner to the use of EBULeague for the Yorkshire League and Online League. It was noted that better publicity is required with a view to attracting more entries.

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

It was agreed that the last three match days of the Yorkshire League in spring 2024 would be changed to 18th February and 3rd and 17th March, to avoid clashes with Mothers' Day and the regional heats of the National Pairs and to allow a gap of at least a fortnight between match days.

The Winter 2023 season of the Online League has been successfully completed - all matches have been played. Mike Jackson will be sending out the entry forms for the summer season of the Online League, which starts on 21st May, shortly after the completion of the Yorkshire League teams of eight later this month.

Mike Jackson has produced detailed costings for the summer Online League and Yorkshire League 2023-24. The recommendations are entry fees for the OYL of £16 per team (previously £15) and for the YL £25 (no change from last year though an increase will probably be required for 2024-25). RM has considered the costings and supports the proposed fees, which were accordingly agreed. RM asked the TC to note the principle that entry fees for the Leagues should be set at a level to cover costs with a small mark-up.

#### **8) Offer from RealBridge to sponsor YCBA online competition**

SC outlined the offer which is to run a pairs event with prize money of £100. Entry would be free of charge but no masterpoints. Concerns were expressed by LM that the majority of Yorkshire online players prefer BBO to RealBridge, and that the YCBA has recently made a policy decision not to award prizes at its competitions. LM suggested that instead the event winners might nominate a charity to receive the prize money. Others were in favour of proceeding with the event. Agreed that SC would revert to Shireen Mohandes at

RealBridge with the charity proposal, and to agree provisionally a date when the event might be held - suggestion late July or August and a midweek evening rather than a Sunday.

#### **9) Other Business**

LM suggested there should be a structure for appointments of TDs for YCBA competitions, rather than this being done on an ad hoc basis. Available directors, at county level or above. are PG, SD, Barrie Partridge, Jim Edwards, James Carpenter and Oliver Cowan. PG to organise or compile a list

#### **10) Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7.00 pm by Zoom video conferencing. However, it was agreed that the days of the week when TC meetings are held should in future be rotated so that committee members with teaching, tournament directing or other commitments on one particular day of the week would be able to attend at least some of the meetings.