

**Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7.00 pm by Zoom video conference.**

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

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

Apologies had been received from Stuart Davies No declarations of interest.

**2) and 3) Minutes of previous meeting on 15th March 2023 and matters arising**

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

- It was noted that since the last meeting Phil Godfrey has resigned from the MB and all committees. NW hopes that PG will continue to act as TD at YCBA events though he will not be available for the Yorkshire Congress. NW to write to PG on behalf of the whole committee to thank him for his services. DH / LM to remove PG's name as office-holder from the website, and his authorisation in relation to YCBA's bank account, and look into the question of PG being the legal holder of the domain name ycba.co.uk.
- Proposed agreements with Oliver Cowan - since the last meeting OC signed the consultancy agreement, but he declined to sign the equipment hire agreement, and has given notice to terminate the consultancy agreement. As YCBA does not wish to lose OC's consultancy and TD services, NW wrote to all TC members suggesting a compromise on the terms of equipment hire. After discussion, the feeling of the meeting was that if OC wishes to borrow YCBA equipment for competitions staged outside the county it should be on 'commercial' terms, equivalent to the EBU going rate, However it would be reasonable to offer a discount in respect of competitions taking place within Yorkshire, as one of YCBA's objectives is to promote bridge within the county. It was agreed NW would endeavour to re-open discussions with OC on this basis and report back.
- Appointment of TDs for YCBA events - NW agreed to take on this role, which it had been hoped would be carried out by PG.

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

- Northern Easter Festival - overall was a success. Entries were up on the previous year's Congress held in Ilkley, with 28 pairs plus 16 in the Nine High event and 13 teams. The playing area was spacious. The arrangements for food could have been better and, following a misunderstanding about catering, a partial refund was offered to the Nine High players.
- Yorkshire Cup - this event did not take place, as only one entry was received, with the lack of support probably attributable to multiple causes. It was agreed we would not attempt to reschedule this competition this year but decide at a later meeting whether or not it will be included in the calendar of events for 2023-34.
- Peter Littlewood Trophy - this competition attracted only eight entries, all of them from Sheffield.

**5) Arrangements for forthcoming events**

- Yorkshire Mixed Pairs - 14th May, online on RealBridge. SC reported that only seven entries had been received, plus one stand-by pair, but it was agreed this event would nevertheless proceed.
- Nelson Rose Bowl - 18th May, Wetherby. 9 teams have entered.
- Yorkshire Congress - 10th and 11th June. NW will ask James Carpenter to act as TD or, if James is unavailable, Barrie Partridge.
- Affiliated Clubs Teams - 22nd June, Doncaster. Teams are nominated by clubs - DH to write to club secretaries to invite entries. NW to appoint a TD. Entry fee £96 per team including a meal, which is lower than the entry fee when this competition was last staged in 2019.
- Castle Swiss Pairs - 25th June, Huddersfield. PS has received an enquiry from Huddersfield about arrangements for this competition, and will reply explaining that it is a devolved event, but giving details of how the Nelson Rose Bowl has been organised at Wetherby. YCBA will also publicise the competition via the website and chairman's blog.
- Waddington Cup - 9th July, York. Entries (1 or 2 teams) are submitted by clubs, and may be the leading teams in a local league or qualifying competition or nominated by the club. DH to write to club secretaries to invite entries. Entry fee £96 per team including a meal.

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

RJ reported that the summer season of the Online Yorkshire League will start on 21st May and 35 teams have entered.

Mike Jackson is planning a consultation exercise during the summer, with clubs and players who participate in the Yorkshire League and the Online League, on future arrangements for both Leagues.

It was suggested that MJ would make valuable contributions to the work of the TC and RJ will ask Mike if he would agree to become a co-opted member.

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

There was a difference of opinion between members on whether the prize money should be paid to competitors or donated to charity(ies) nominated by the leading pairs. After discussion, it was agreed that NW will revert to Shireen Mohandes saying that YCBA would like to stage an event on the basis that the prize money would be paid to YCBA who would decide how it is to be distributed.

#### **8) Calendar of Events for 2023-24**

RJ had circulated a draft calendar as a discussion paper, with decisions to be taken at a future meeting. NW pointed out that the third match day of the Northern Bridge League has been changed from 23rd to 2nd September and RJ will correct the draft calendar accordingly.

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

- NW reported that Sandy Davies has agreed to join the A Selection Committee, which will be chaired by Alan Broskill. These appointments to be confirmed by the MB at its next meeting.
- Julia Staniforth as chair of the B Selection Committee has written recommending that two teams should be entered in the B division of the NBL and one team in the C

division and she is confident there will be sufficient support from players at the appropriate levels. This was agreed.

- LM said she has booked the Village Hotel (Weetwood, Leeds) for the Great Northern Swiss Pairs in the autumn, and consideration is being given to switching the venues of the two Harrogate hotels (Crowne Plaza and Cedar Court) used as venues for the Harrogate Spring Congress and the Northern Easter Festival.

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

Tuesday 25th July 2023 at 7.00 pm by Zoom video conferencing. (Note: to be confirmed when the TC is reappointed at the first meeting of the MB after the AGM)..