

**Minutes of the YCBA Management Board Meeting held by Zoom video conference
on Thursday 28th September 2023 at 7pm**

Present: David Guild (Chair - DG), Nick Woolven (NW), Lesley Millet (LM), Dani Hyman (DH), Robin Jepson (RJ), Pauline Stout (PS), Mark Dunkley MD), Ruth Kerr (RK). Graham Jepson (President) was invited but unfortunately unable to join the meeting owing to technical issues.

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest – Apologies had been received from Stehen Cordingley and Ron Millet. There were no declarations of interest.

Previous Minutes

2. The minutes of the Board meeting on 5th July 2023 were approved.

3a. DG said that SC had offered to act as Membership Secretary, and David as the outgoing holder of this position will provide SC with appropriate guidance and also the password(s) for database(s). **Closed.**

3b. NW said that the nomination of LM for a **Dimmie Fleming award** has been submitted to the EBU and approved - Lesley will receive the award at the EBU AGM in November.

Closed.

3c. The **YCBA laptop** has not yet been returned by Phil Godfrey. NW to follow up again.

Open.

3d. FastHosts server for website. Jim Edwards has access to the website but not control of it. The assistance of Phi Godfrey is still required to change the controller's name from PG to JE. NW also to follow up again. **Open.**

There were no other matters arising from the minutes.

4. Officers' report on the investigation of allegations of discrimination by the YCBA

DG opened the discussion by reminding the Board that in February, following the resolution by the EBU of a complaint about a member's conduct, the EBU had advised YCBA to investigate the allegations, and YCBA had agreed to do so, but the investigation had not yet got under way. DG said that in his opinion, owing to legal implications, an investigation should not be started until members of the Board and committees involved with conduct and disciplinary issues and selection of county teams have received training in inclusion and diversity. This was agreed. DG asked members to attend a training course on Wednesday 18th October, details to be circulated, and those not available on the 18th should attend another course as soon as possible thereafter. **Open.**

5. Officers' report on correspondence with the EBU relating to the participation of a team of YCBA members in the Crockfords Cup final

LM and DH said that a member of a Yorkshire-based team, who is Jewish, had been unable to participate in the second day of the Crockfords Cup final on 24th September owing to a clash with a religious holiday. The team withdrew from the competition. There has already been correspondence between DH and Gordon Rainsford of the EBU. It was agreed that DG and NW would draft a letter to the Chair of the EBU to request better scheduling in the future of the finals of EBU competitions to avoid such clashes. **Open.**

6. Receipt of Complaint

DG explained the background to a complaint recently received about a member's conduct. RJ said that once a complaint has been received by the Chair or Secretary, YCBA's Conduct Committee is constitutionally obliged to investigate it or refer it up to the EBU's Laws & Ethics Committee. On this occasion, owing to conflict of interest issues, the CC has decided to ask the L&EC to deal with the complaint. Note for information - since the meeting, the L&EC have agreed to accept the case. **Open.**

7. Report from Tournament Committee

NW presented a brief report on upcoming competitions, the next one being the New Year Bonanza, online on 31st December and 1st January. NW will ask Jim Edwards or Ken Johnston to run and direct this competition as James Carpenter has declined. **Open.**

8. Report from Bridge Development Committee

LM put forward a proposal to employ a paid consultant to advise clubs and recruitment and marketing. No decision taken - **Open.**

DG initiated a discussion on the respective merits of teaching bridge face to face or online with a proposal to initiate an online county-wide teaching programme starting in January. MD said that York had made a policy decision to be a face-to-face only club with no online play or teaching so unlikely they would participate. PS said that many members at Wetherby were also strongly opposed to online bridge. Agreed that DG would circulate a brief to Board members who would be asked to approach designated clubs to seek their support for the county-wide programme. Also to be publicised at the Members' Meeting next month. **Open.**

DG said he would circulate to the Board via email a presentation continuing statistics on participation in club face-to-face and online sessions immediately before, during and after the pandemic. Note for information: subsequently sent out later on 28th September. **Closed.**

9. Report from Grants Committee

DG had previously circulated a list of grants committed but not yet paid, totalling £5,500. **Closed.**

10. Joint Chairs' Meeting

NW presented a short report on the outcome of this EBU meeting. County-level TD training is to be moved from EBED to EBU but club level training will remain with EBED.

The Competitions working group is focusing on developing ranked events for players with lower level NGS ratings, for example a Nine High knockout.

A Bridge Week is planned for 2024.

A proposal for counties to fund the England Junior teams has not been well received by counties (LM pointed out that in the past YCBA has given support to junior members of the county). **Closed.**

11. YCBA Communications Strategy

MD had previously circulated his paper to Board members. MD suggested the county should focus on encouraging clubs to report news stories and information about activities other than competitions, as those are already well publicised and reported on the website. YCBA Facebook page to be developed. An accurate and up to date database of club

Chairs and Secretaries is required. MD has already agreed to work with Mike Jackson (Chair of Yorkshire League Committee) on communications. **Open.**

12. Other business

12a - DH maternity leave. RJ to stand in for DH as committee secretary for the next MB meeting in November and also for the Members Meeting. DH will continue to deal with correspondence addressed to the YCBA Secretary from the EBU and others. **Closed.**

12b - Members Meeting. To be held online using Zoom video conferencing, on Saturday 25th November at 11.00 am. Agenda items required, please send to DG, NW or RJ. **Open.**

12c - Dave Robinson (Sheffield submitted a list of YCBA development proposals which DG and NW have discussed with him. **Closed.**

12d - The list of trophy winners on the website is incomplete - referred to the Tournament Committee for consideration. **Open.**

13. Date of next meeting - Saturday 25th November 2023 at 10.00 am - prior to the Members' Meeting the same morning - by Zoom video conference.