

Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Thursday 14th September 2023 at 7.00 pm by Zoom video conference.

PRESENT: Nick Woolven (Tournament Chair), Lesley Millet (Treasurer), Robin Jepson (Assistant Secretary), Ron Millet and Stuart Davies.

1) Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies had been received from Dani Hyman, Pauline Stout and Stephen Cordingley. No declarations of interest.

2) and 3) Notes of previous meeting on 25th July 2023 and matters arising

The notes were approved and no-one had anything to add. The notes do not count as minutes, as RJ had been absent from parts of the meeting owing to Zoom communication difficulties. Matters arising:

- As the relationship between YCBA and Oliver Cowan has come to an end it is no longer practicable, or necessary, for the proposed agreement(s) with him to be completed.
- The proposed RealBridge competition has not taken place and NW will contact SC to ascertain if it is intended the competition will be rearranged.
- Trophies. Of the 8 Congress trophies, 6 are either held by SD or the whereabouts are known. That leaves 2 trophies, those for the A and B teams competitions, which have not been presented since the pandemic and probably are still held by the 2019 winners. RJ to follow up and ascertain if these can be retrieved.

Three of the Yorkshire League trophies are missing - they are believed to have been presented at the 2022 AGM, but unfortunately either a record of the recipients was not kept, or it is not currently available.

It was agreed that, owing to the problems or retrieving trophies the following year, in future competition winners will not be allowed to take trophies away with them but consideration will be given to presenting small mementos instead which they may retain.

NW reported that Richard Winter has now made arrangements to return the Waddington Shield trophy after first arranging at his own expense for a new plinth to be added.

4) Review of competitions played since the last meeting

None

5) Arrangements for forthcoming events

- Great Northern Swiss Pairs. SD reported that to date 33 entries have been received, most of which are paid up, plus 12 entries for the 9 High competition. NW will give the competition further publicity via the Chair's Blog. The trophy is to be returned by one of last year's winners, Michael Byrne.
- New Year Bonanza. Confirmed this will be played online on BBO, with a Swiss Pairs on Sunday 31st December and a Swiss Teams on Monday 1st January. Both competitions will be 6 x 6 board matches with the starting times 12.30 on Sunday and 1.00 on Monday. Entry will be free and YCBA will award a prize of £100 for each competition, to be paid to a charity chosen by the winners. Blue points awarded. NW will ask James Carpenter or Ken Johnston to be TD.

- Yorkshire Pairs. To be played on Sunday 28th January at York Bridge Club. Starting time 1.00. NW will ask Jim Edwards to be TD.
- Harrogate Spring Congress. To be played at the Cedar Court Hotel. Stuart Davies and Jim Edwards to be TDs.
- Consideration of venues and arrangements for other YCBA events scheduled for later in the 2023-24 bridge season deferred to the next meeting of the TC.

6) Report from Yorkshire League Committee

SD reported that to date only five entries have been received for the Waddington Shield and only two for the Yorkshire Trophy, closing dates for both being 30th September. RJ asked if further publicity could be given to both competitions via a Pianola email to all members and/or the Chair's Blog. Apart from that there was nothing to report from the YLC as the new season of the face to face Yorkshire League does not start until October.

7) Other Business

NW reported that an offer had been received from Lancashire CBA to revive the annual inter-county matches involving Lancashire, Yorkshire and Manchester, that were discontinued when the NBL was formed. These would be played face to face during the summer months, between May and September, and would involve open and Jack High teams. NW had asked several county selectors and others for their opinions – of those consulted, several were in favour, but others had reservations about the overload of competitions for the higher ranked players during the summer months. TC members all supported the proposal for matches involving Jack High teams. NW will reply accordingly to Lancashire.

8) Date of next meeting

Tuesday 5th December 2023 at 7.00 pm by Zoom video conferencing.