

**Minutes of the YCBA Management Board Meeting held by Zoom video conference
on Saturday 25th November 2023 at 10.00 am**

Present: David Guild (Chair - DG), GrahamJepson (President - GJ), Nick Woolven (NW), Lesley Millet (LM), Ron Millet (RM), Robin Jepson (RJ), Pauline Stout (PS), Mark Dunkley MD), Ruth Kerr (RK) and Stephen Cordlingley (SC).

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest – Dani Hyman absent on maternity leave. There were no declarations of interest.

Previous Minutes

2. The minutes of the Board meeting on 28th September 2023 were approved.

Matters arising from the minutes:

3a. Not discussed, but NW has subsequently reported that Phil Godfrey has not yet returned the **YCBA laptop**. NW and LM to follow up. **Open**.

3b. Also not discussed, but NW has subsequently reported that Jim Edwards is now the controller of the website **FastHosts server**. **Closed**.

3c. No other matters arising from the minutes.

4. Campaign to contact Yorkshire Clubs and Piggyback Teaching proposal.

DG reported - several meetings with affiliated clubs have already taken place and reports circulated to Board members by email. Other meetings are scheduled within the next few weeks. After discussion it was agreed that the BDC will formulate an action plan and refer it to the MB for approval. Board members involved in the meetings with affiliated clubs will be invited to attend the BDC if not already members of that committee. **Open**

5. Inclusion and diversity training - investigation of allegations of discrimination by the YCBA.

All Board members have now either attended a course or applied to attend one, apart from SC, who will apply for the next course if a place is available. In response to RK's question, DG said that the process of investigating the discrimination allegations would resume when the training has been completed. **Open**.

6. Crockfords Plate final

DG said he had received two responses from the EBU, the second from interim Chair Adrian Darnell being more constructive than the first from Gordon Rainsford. These responses have been circulated to all Board members. **Closed**.

7. Receipt of offer to purchase surplus YCBA tables and bidding boxes

NW confirmed that Oliver Cowan withdrew his offer to purchase this equipment, before a decision on his offer had been taken by the Board. **Closed**.

8. Conduct complaints

RJ said two unrelated complaints about members' conduct have been received but both complaints were withdrawn. The first complaint, as mentioned in the minutes of the previous meeting, was referred up to the EBU's Laws and Ethics Committee but was withdrawn before the L&E had made a decision. The second complaint related to a player's conduct in a Yorkshire League match, and was submitted both to the club where the

incident occurred, and to the county. The club went first and the complainants were satisfied with the outcome of the club's disciplinary procedure, so decided not to proceed with the complaint to the county. **Closed.**

9. Report from Tournament Committee

NW reported - YCBA's hosting of the Great Northern Swiss Pairs was successful with an increase in the number of entries and positive feedback about the venue. TDs have been appointed for the New Year Bonanza (free entry for members) and the Yorkshire Pairs. The face-to-face Yorkshire League is under way with 56 teams taking part, an increase on last year, and entries will shortly close for the Winter 2024 season of the Online Yorkshire League on three dates in January and February. **Closed.**

10. Report from Bridge Development Committee

No discussion of LM's proposal put forward at the previous meeting, to employ a paid consultant to advise clubs on recruitment and marketing. Carry forward to next meeting - **Open.**

MD reported - YCBA's Facebook page has been created and, after its launch at the Members' Meeting, a note will be circulated to all county members inviting contributions with news of forthcoming events and good news stories. MD attended a planning meeting for the EBU's Festival of Bridge taking place in September 2024 and he is developing a proposal for a joint golf and bridge event with Alastair Davidson and Anthony Abrahams. The EBU is to create a Festival website which will go live in January. MD will welcome further ideas and initiatives to promote the Festival. The EBU has invested £20,000 in the Festival - to be decided if the YCBA will make a contribution of its own. **Open.**

11. Grants Committee

It was agreed that the current round of grants will remain open till 31st March 2024. RK suggested that, to improve awareness of the availability of grants, with the permission of the recipient each award of a grant should be the subject of a YCBA Facebook post. **Closed.**

12. Contested elections for EBU Chair and Vice-Chair

DG reported - YCBA has four shareholders (DG, NW, LM and PS) who are entitled to vote in the elections. PS is unable to attend the meeting but has nominated RM as proxy on her behalf. The shareholders have agreed to vote in the elections for the current interim Chair and Vice-Chair, Adrian Darnell and Tony Russ. **Closed.**

13. Other business

13a - Members Meeting. To follow immediately after the Board meeting. **Closed**

13b - The list of trophy winners on the website is incomplete - previously referred to the TC, which has not met since the last MB meeting. **Open.**

14. Date of next meeting - Wednesday 24th January 2024 at 7.00 pm - by Zoom video conference.