

**Minutes of the YCBA Management Board Meeting held by Zoom video conference
on Wednesday 24th January 2024 at 7.00 pm**

Present: David Guild (Chair - DG), 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 – Graham Jepson (President) and Dani Hyman (Secretary). There were no declarations of interest.

Previous Minutes

2. The minutes of the Board meeting on 25th November 2023 were approved.

Matters arising from the minutes:

3a. Despite further enquiries by NW, the whereabouts of the missing **YCBA laptop(s)** have not been ascertained. As there appeared to be no reasonable prospect of recovering the laptop(s), it was agreed they should be written off. Note - the missing laptops have subsequently been found at York Bridge Club, see minutes of Away Day. **Closed.**

3b. Arising from the foregoing, it was agreed there should be an asset register of items of YCBA property held by individuals. **Open.**

3c. The proposal to appoint a paid consultant to advise on recruitment and marketing was deferred again, to the Away Day - see item 4 below. **Open.**

3d. MD gave an update on the EBU Festival of Bridge. The Festival website has been launched. MD will be attending a meeting of festival managers at the end of the month. To be discussed further at the Away Day. **Open.**

3e. The updating of the list of past winners of YCBA competitions on the website has still to be implemented. NW to liaise with Stuart Davies. **Open.**

3f. No other matters arising from the minutes.

4. Management Board Away Day (DG)

It was agreed that this will take place at the Swan Hotel, Harrogate, on Wednesday 20th March. Starting at 10.00 am and continuing until about 4.00 pm with a break for lunch. An Agenda will be produced but Board Members may put forward subjects for discussion. Stuart Davies, Alan Brosgill, Mike Jackson and Jim Edwards will also be invited to attend.

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

DG reported that most of the affiliated clubs have been visited and reports circulated, but a few reports are still outstanding. There has not been a great deal of interest in the Piggyback Teaching, but SC is to do some online marketing at Halifax. DG intends to further publicise the teaching proposals as part of YCBA's contribution to the Festival of Bridge. **Open.**

6. Complaint of discrimination by the YCBA.

RM has arranged a meeting on Monday 28th January with an elected member and an officer of Leeds City Council. DG, LM, RM and RJ will be attending and there will be an open agenda for advice on equality and diversity issues. The question of how to deal with the outstanding complaint will be considered further, in the light of such advice, at the Away Day or the next Board meeting. **Open.**

7. Report from Tournament Committee

NW reported that the outcome of the New Year Bonanza was mixed. Entry was free and entries for the Pairs event increased compared with the previous year, but there were fewer entries for the Teams. The TC will consider running the Bonanza next year as a Pairs event on one day only, dropping the Teams. After a slow start, following additional publicity entries for the Yorkshire Pairs are slightly up on 2023. LM said that advance entries for the Pairs and Teams at the Harrogate Spring Congress are also up compared with last year. There has been negative feedback about the absence of prize money and NW has been unable to obtain a steer from the EBU on their policy for congresses hosted by counties. To be considered further by the TC at its next meeting.

8. Report from Bridge Development Committee

MD reported on the use of the YCBA Facebook account. There hasn't been much interest from clubs or individuals in putting 'good news' stories on Facebook. Barrie Partridge has provided some valuable advice on the use of Scorebridge for teams events. The EBU's initiative on holding regional events within the county, with a view to attracting more entries to competitions from players deterred by long travelling distances and times, will be considered at the next meeting of the TC.

9. Report from Grants Committee

DG and LM reported that 12 grants totalling £7,600 have been made in the current year. The number of new grants is expected to tail off.

10. Report from Trophies Sub-group

The report by the sub-group comprising NW, RJ and Stuart Davies was noted and there was no objection to the proposals. These are to reduce the number of silver trophies awarded at YCBA competitions, though the silver trophies for division 1 of the Yorkshire League, the Pairs and Teams at the Yorkshire Congress, and the Waddington Shield, Yorkshire Trophy and Nelson Rose Bowl will be retained. Glass trophies (non-returnable) will be awarded to the winners of the other divisions of the Yorkshire League. **Closed.**

11. Nominations for positions on MB 2024-25 of members to represent interests of women and ethnic minority groups

Deferred to the Away Day. **Open.**

12. Other business

12a. Religious holidays. The response by Gordon Rainsford, to the YCBA submissions about the scheduling of the Crockfords Plate final in 2023, was circulated. It was noted that the EBU does take into account potential clashes with significant religious holidays in deciding the dates of its competitions and overseas holidays. It was also noted that the Northern Bridge League changed the date of one of the match days in 2024 after its attention was drawn to the original scheduling on a significant religious holiday. It was agreed that there should be a reply to GR's email, which would be delegated to the Officers. RM would prepare a draft reply for the Officers to approve. **Open.**

12b. Website mailboxes. Following his recent review of the availability and use of the mailboxes, DG will circulate proposals for their re-allocation. It was also agreed that

passwords ought to be made available to selected people to enable the content of mailboxes to be accessed when the person to whom the box has been allocated is unavailable for any reason. **Open.**

13. Date of next meeting - Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 7.00 pm - by Zoom video conference.