

## **Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Thursday 15th February 2024 at 4.30 pm by Zoom video conference.**

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

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

Apologies had been received from Dani Hyman No declarations of interest.

### **2) and 3) Minutes of previous meeting on 5th December 2023 and matters arising**

The minutes were approved and no-one had anything to add. Matters arising:

- NW is to ask DH to compile the archive of YCBA competition winners
- It was noted that the organisers have changed the date of NBL match day 4 to 19th October 2024
- It was noted that members had received feedback from players at recent Congresses about the absence of prize money for competition winners. NW has obtained and circulated advice from Robin Barker and Gordon Rainsford of the EBU, from which it is clear that YCBA when hosting EBU Congresses has discretion whether or not to offer prizes. After discussion, the previous decision of the TC not to give cash prizes was affirmed, but tangible prizes in the form of chocolates or wine will be awarded to winners of events at the Yorkshire Congress.
- EBU Festival of Bridge - NW reported that the proposal for YCBA to run a combined golf and bridge event is proceeding. NW will put forward to Mark Dunkley, YCBA FoB manager, a suggestion by RJ that a simultaneous pairs event should be held during the Festival week. Initially this would be a one-off but, if successful, consideration would be given to reinstating a simultaneous pairs into the YCBA calendar for future years.

### **4) EBU proposals to enhance participation by Nine High players**

NW reported on EBU proposals for the equivalent of the Corwen Trophy for Nine High players, which would start in 2025, with the Yorkshire heat taking place at the same time as the Yorkshire Pairs. This was supported by the TC, as was the proposal for a competition for Nine High players based on regional hubs within Yorkshire, research having found that long travelling distances of more than an hour are a deterrent to participation in county and national events.

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

The New Year Bonanza, played online, had an increased number of pairs but a smaller number of teams, only six. It was agreed that the New Year event next year would be a one day pairs, with no teams event, and it would again be free of charge.

The attendance for the Yorkshire Pairs were again disappointing with only nine tables. York Bridge Club, who hosted the competition, have made some suggestions for improving the number of entries.

The Harrogate Spring Congress was successful with an increased attendance. Ambiguity about the starting time of the Nine High competition led to one or more pairs arriving late, and after the stand-by pair had already left the venue as it was thought they would not be needed. The arrangements made by the hotel for the meal on the Saturday were not satisfactory, as a significant number of players had to queue for a long time and one of the

main course options was not available for the people at the back of the queue. In view of this a partial refund of the entry fee is to be offered to those affected.

## **6) Report of the Trophies Sub-Group**

The report appears below as an appendix to the minutes. Two more trophies are to be retained - Yorkshire Pairs (if found, as it is missing at present) and Waddington Cup. RM & LM to purchase the glass trophies to be presented to the winners of divisions 2-7 of the Yorkshire League. The cost of the glass trophies is estimated at £300 per year but will be met from YCBA general funds, not recouped from clubs via increases in the Yorkshire League entry fees. The division 1 silver trophy is still missing, as is one of the Yorkshire Congress trophies, the John Colley. A redundant silver trophy is to be re-engraved as a replacement for the John Colley.

## **7) Arrangements for forthcoming events**

- Northern Easter Festival - a good number of entries has already been received.
- Affiliated Clubs Teams (Wakefield, 18th April). NW to appoint a TD. RJ will take the entries and has already written to club secretaries. Contact at Wakefield is Stehen Hanslip. Entry fee £96 per team, including lunch, and about 36 boards to be played.
- Nelson Rose Bowl (Wetherby, 16th May). Jim Edwards will be TD. PS is the event organiser and arrangements are well in hand.
- Yorkshire Congress (8th-9th June) - LM and RM are considering alternative venues and a decision is to be made in the near future.
- Mixed Pairs (Wakefield, 16th June). NW to appoint a TD. SD to take entries - PS to produce a flyer. Entry fee £48 including refreshments, two session event with 40-48 boards.
- Waddington Cup (York, 14th July). NW to appoint a TD. RJ to take the entries.

It was agreed that a standing Congresses Sub-Committee should be formed, reporting to the TC, to make decisions on detailed arrangements for the Yorkshire Congress and the three Congresses hosted by YCBA (GNSP, HSC and NEF). Members LM, RM and PS.

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

The provisional dates of match days 5, 6 and 7 in the Yorkshire League 2024-25 were confirmed as 16th February, 2nd and 16th March - these are consistent with the recent additions to the EBU calendar for the first quarter of 2025.

The Winter 2024 season of the Online Yorkshire League has been completed with all matches played. Entries for the Summer 2024 season of the OYL will open at the start of April with 28th April as the closing date.

The Waddington Shield has reached the semifinal stage and the Yorkshire Trophy has already been completed. With a view to stimulating interest in the Yorkshire Trophy for 2024-25, free entry to the competition will be offered to the highest ranked teams in divisions 2 and 3 of the Summer OYL with at least four eligible players.

## **9) Other Business**

A suggestion has been received from Mark Dunkley (York Bridge Club) that all affiliated clubs should be asked to produce a visitor information sheet with details of addresses and postcodes of club premises and venues for Yorkshire League matches, availability of car parking, access arrangements and facilities for disabled persons. The suggestion has

been made because a member of a York team in the YL is a wheelchair user, but the information may be required by all visitors to affiliated clubs and not just YL players. NW to ask MD to lead on the project which will involve contacting all club secretaries.

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

Thursday 9th May 2024 at 4.30 pm by Zoom video conferencing.

### **Appendix - Report of Trophies Sub-Group**

A meeting of the Trophies Sub-Group was held by zoom on Tuesday 9th January 2024

Present: Nick Woolven, Stuart Davies and Robin Jepson.

1. We agreed the following recommendations to be subject of a report to the YCBA Management Board at its next meeting on 24th January.
2. The four trophies that are presented to winners of the Swiss Teams and Swiss Teams at the HarrogateSpring Congress and Northern Easter Festival, currently hosted by YCBA, are the property of the EBU. Therefore YCBA will retain these trophies so long as it hosts the congresses, present the trophies to the winners of the events, and have the trophies engraved. This includes arranging for the engraving of the names of the winners in previous years where not up to date.
3. YCBA will retain the silver trophies for the six main events of the Yorkshire Congress (the pairs and teams main, secondary and consolation finals). These trophies will be presented to the winners of the events and engraved, including engraving of the names of the winners in previous years where not up to date. In former years the Congress was held over three days with separate events for Men's, Women's, and Mixed Pairs, each with their own trophies. In the last few years those events were not held but the trophies were presented to the leading men's, women's and mixed pairs in the final of the main pairs event. This will no longer take place.
4. Two of the above Yorkshire Congress trophies are missing, the Fell-Vincent Trophy for the main teams final and the John Colley Trophy for the secondary teams final. Both are believed to have been last presented in 2019. SD will endeavour to retrieve the Fell-Vincent and RJ the John Colley.
5. Of the Yorkshire League divisional trophies YCBA will retain only one silver trophy, the Morning Telegraph Cup for division 1, which will continue to be engraved and presented to the winners at the AGM. This trophy is currently missing. It is believed to have been last presented to a representative of Sheffield A, the winners in 2021-22, at the 2022 AGM. RJ has already been in touch with Glyn Foley of Sheffield, who responded that the division 1 trophy is not in Sheffield's trophy cabinet. NW will contact Sheffield A players individually with a view to retrieving this trophy.
6. The other silver trophies for YL divisional winners will no longer be presented, but instead the winning team in each division will receive a non-returnable glass trophy to be presented at the AGM.
7. YCBA will also retain the Waddington Shield and the Yorkshire Trophy for the winners of the knockout competitions, which will continue to be engraved and presented to the winners at the AGM. The Nelson Rose Bowl will likewise be retained, engraved and presented. All other trophies will no longer be presented.

8. Winners of silver trophies will not be permitted to take them away. Instead the silver trophies will be retained in a YCBA repository. NW to enquire if the trophies may be kept at York Bridge Club along with the other YCBA equipment currently stored there. The exception is the Nelson Rose Bowl which, if the club agrees, will be retained at Wetherby Bridge Club for as long as they continue to host the competition.
9. In respect of the Harrogate Spring Congress, the Northern Easter Festival, Yorkshire Congress and the Nelson Rose Bowl the Event Organiser will be responsible for retrieving the applicable trophies from the repository and arranging for them to be cleaned and taken to the competition venue. Then, after presentation of the trophies to the winners, the Event Organiser will also be responsible for arranging for them to be engraved and returned to the repository.
10. In respect of the Morning Telegraph Cup, Waddington Shield and Yorkshire Trophy the YCBA Secretary or Assistant Secretary will likewise be responsible for retrieving the trophies from the repository, cleaning them and taking them to the AGM venue, and thereafter, following presentation, arranging for them to be engraved and returned to the repository. The Secretary or Assistant Secretary will also be responsible for purchasing the glass trophies for presentation to the other Yorkshire League divisional winners. The Secretary or Assistant Secretary may delegate all or any of these tasks to another member of the Management Board or Tournament Committee.
11. Lesley Millet has advised that YCBA's insurance of the trophies is valid even if they are held at premises not belonging to YCBA.

### **Footnotes**

(12th January 2024) - the Fell-Vincent Trophy has since been located in the possession of a member of the winning team in 2019.

(15th February 2024) - NW completed his enquiries of members of the Sheffield A team, all of whom were unaware of the whereabouts of the Morning Telegraph Cup.