

Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Tuesday 20th August 2024 at 4.30 pm by Zoom video conference.

PRESENT: Nick Woolven (Tournament Chair), Robin Jepson (Assistant Secretary), Pauline Stout and Stuart Davies.

1) Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies had been received from Lesley Millet and Ron Millet. NW said that Stephen Cordingley had resigned from the Tournament Committee. There were no declarations of interest.

2) and 3) Minutes of previous meeting on 9th May 2024 and matters arising

The minutes were approved. Matters arising:

- NW has completed the spreadsheet of YCBA competition winners from 2000. Jim Edwards has been asked to upload this into the Results Archive on the website. Future winners will be added year by year and winners of trophies before 2000 will also be added as and when information becomes available. **Closed.**
- The production of the Visitor Information Sheet has been referred to the Diversity, Inclusion & Equality Committee. **Closed.**
- The decision not to proceed with the Festival of Bridge simultaneous pairs event was confirmed. **Closed.**

4) Report of the Congresses Sub-committee

NW reported following a briefing from LM.

- The Yorkshire Congress was poorly supported and made a substantial loss. It was agreed that NW will follow up a preliminary discussion with Oliver Cowan with a view to his organising the Congress next year. It will still be headlined the YCBA Yorkshire Congress. OC has suggested holding the Congress at the Holiday Inn, Brighouse. The format would not change, so a two day event with Pairs and Teams competitions and also including the YCBA AGM. Discussions will include whether OCs remuneration will be a flat rate, or, will include a percentage of the entry fee, and whether or not prize money is to be awarded. It was also agreed at the request of PS that the arrangements with OC must be documented in advance. It was also agreed that PS will act as a host for any ranked event such as Nne High or Six High that are included in the Congress. **Open.**
- Arrangements for the Great Northern Swiss Pairs are proceeding; the Village Hotel has been booked and a deposit paid, and entries are coming in. **Open.**

5) Review of competitions played since the last meeting

The Nelson Rose Bowl at Wetherby, Yorkshire Mixed Pairs at Wakefield and Waddington Cup at York were all well supported with 12 tables at Wakefield and 18 teams at York. It was agreed that these three clubs would be invited to stage these competitions again next year. **Open**

6) YCBA Competition Rules 2024

This new edition of the Rules drafted by RJ and including amendments suggested by SD and Mike Jackson was adopted. **Closed.**

7) Calendar of Events for 2024-25

The proposed dates for the summer 2025 season of the Online Yorkshire League were approved 18th May, 22nd June and 6th July. 26 teams took part this year which was a fall off from the envious year but the competition is still worth repeating with this level of support. It was noted that, with a view to enhancing the entries to the Waddington Shield and the Jack High Yorkshire Trophy, NW has sent an email to all members and a further email will be sent to captains of Yorkshire League teams inviting them to form teams for the WS and YT from their squads of players. The leading team of eligible players in the second division of the Online Yorkshire League will receive a free entry to the YT. **Closed.**

8) New Handicapped Pairs competition

Consideration was given to the paper submitted by Mark Dunkley recommending that the county should run a handicapped pairs event and to the proposal by Daivd Guild for a competition based on regional hubs within the county, with a view to reducing travelling distances for players. It was agreed that a pilot of two regional events would be trialled, one in the west focused on Bradford, Keighley and Ilkley and the other in the south focused on Sheffield, Beauchief, Doncaster and Bansley. Suggested date and time Saturday afternoon 3rd November. NW to invite Keighley and Sheffield to host the events. Hosting clubs to be encouraged to publicise the events among their members. Each to be handicapped using the method described by MD and used by the EBU whereby players receive either a positive or a negative handicap reflecting their NGS ranking. **Open.**

9) Other Business

It was noted that Ron Millet had received a communication from Tom Gisborne (Sheffield) critical of the perceived high entry fees for YCBA competitions, and the absence of prize money, and with a suggestion that club heats should be held for the Waddington Shield. This was discussed. It was agreed that the TC is not opposed in principle to the reintroduction of prize money but this could only be justified by a significant increase in attendance at competitions, because of the impact prize money would have on entry fees, unless competitions are subsidised out of YCBA reserves. It was noted that the low entry fees for comparable competitions in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, referred to by TG, must reflect subsidies by those counties. It was also noted that the entry fees for the Waddington Shield referred to by TG had actually been reduced compared with the previous year and are pitched at a level that will recoup the costs associated with the competition in the form of master points and the entry fee for the EBU Pachabo Cup for which the WS is a qualifier. Club heats for the WS were dropped in favour of direct entry many years ago and the reasons for that decision are still valid. **Open.**

12) Date of next meeting

Tuesday 17th September 2024 at 4.30 pm by Zoom video conferencing.