

## **Minutes of meeting of YCBA Management Board on 14th November 2024.**

Present: Chair - David Guild (DG), Nick Woolven (NW), Lesley Millet (LM), Ron Millet (RM), Pauline Stout, Stephen Cordingley, Ruth Kerr (RK) and Robin Jepson (RJ)

**Apologies** received from Dani Hyman (DH), Mark Dunkley (MD) and Graham Jepson.

Vanessa Jervis was invited to attend the meeting but was unavailable and will be invited to attend the next one as an observer.

There were **no declarations of interest**.

The **minutes of the previous meeting** of 14th August 2024 were approved and there were the following matters arising:

### **2024 Committees' Structure**

RJ has amended the website to remove the incorrect reference to 2023 24. DG clarified that DH has stepped down from the Bridge Development and Grants Committees and RJ will amend the list of members of those committees. *(Subsequently done)* **Closed**

**Asset Register and Trophies database.** Stuart Davies (SD) has moved all the trophies previously in his possession to York Bridge Club. NW and MD are to meet at York to compile the definitive list of trophies in YCBA's possession and those that are missing. The TC has agreed that redundant trophies will be disposed of and the sale proceeds of any that have value will be used towards the purchases of a specific glass trophy for each competition winner. **Open**

LM has spoken to SD about Bridgemates, bidding boxes and playing cards stock. We have sufficient numbers to meet demand, and they are in satisfactory condition. No actions. **Closed**

**Insurance** RM to complete his review and report back to the MB before 1st April 2025 which is the renewal date for the policies. Action – RM **Open**.

No volunteer from Yorkshire has been found to join to the EBU Tournament or EBU Competition Committee. The Board decided to put this in abeyance **Closed**.

### **Development Update**

**Piggyback teaching programme** DG reported further teaching discussions with affiliated clubs and non-affiliates (Skipton, Ripon, Kirbymoorside, Doncaster and Halifax).

Whilst this service was launched at the end of October, there was little clubs' appetite for continuance and this **project is generally closed**.

Skipton are now using the BridgePlay teaching platform. **Closed**

Selby is contemplating starting teaching at the start of January and specific DG assistance will be made available. **Open**

RK is to continue developing her Doncaster BC relationship. **Open**

MD is still in discussions with Pocklington who may be interested in affiliating. **Open**

The co-operative discussions between Hull BC and local non-affiliate clubs have not proved fruitful. RK and DG will follow up with Hull Chair, Don Haines. **Open**

DG and MD have had an introductory general development discussion with Richard Field (RF), the new Sheffield BC Chair and Dom Rayner (DR) their Assistant Chair.

LM, Rowena White (RW) and MD have met with the EBED new trustees and the new EBED Ceo, Richard Croot, to explore EBED setting up student bridge clubs at Yorkshire Universities. RF and DR joined the meeting to explain their involvement at both Sheffield Universities' Freshers Weeks. Universities bridge development is ongoing and RW will take the development lead for the YCBA. **Open**

**Promotion of YCBA to clubs and members.** DG reported that only one third of Members opened the invitation email for the YCBA 23 Nov Members Meeting.

The Board agreed that MD will now take the lead on this project. DG and MD to put together a programme. **Open**

### **Promotion of EBU Benefits**

Previous minutes said that we will add information on EBU benefits to our YCBA website, including the relevant EBU page link. Action MD. RM to pass across all wip. **Open**

### **Diversity Update**

RK has circulated to all MB members a summary of the recent work of DIEC.

RK said that a page for DIEC has been created on the YCBA website and minutes of DIEC meetings are now posted on the site. RM said that YCBA competition entry forms now include a diversity statement.

RM added that he has had discussions with the EBU and an officer at Leeds City Council and more discussions are planned. **Open**

At the request of RK, it was agreed that Diversity, Inclusion and Equality will be a standing agenda item for future MB meetings **Action re Board Agendas**

### **Festival of Bridge**

The Festival of Bridge has taken place. The chair of the Steering Group, MD, was unable to attend this current MB meeting and DG will ask MD to present a brief closing report on the Festival's lessons at the next meeting. **Open**

### **YCBA Structural Development**

The strategy meeting will be on **Wednesday morning/lunch 19th February**. It will be in person at a venue to be decided. DG said that he will speak to all Board Members separately before this meeting. **Open**

### **Agenda items**

#### **Report from Tournament Committee (NW)**

NW reported on the successes of Yorkshire teams in the Northern Bridge League winning all three divisions. However, other counties have had difficulties in recruiting teams and players for the NBL, particularly in the top division.

The TC has recently run successful pilots of a new competition, the Yorkshire Handicapped Pairs, initiated by MD. Heats were held at Keighley and Sheffield. Keighley (16 tables)

attracted a significant number of entries from outside the hosting club but Sheffield (12 tables) had only two external pairs. The Board thanked Simon

NW also outlined plans for forthcoming competitions including the New Year Bonanza (free entry) , the Yorkshire Pairs and Yorkshire Nine High Pairs, and the Harrogate Spring Congress. The Yorkshire Congress has been moved to a new date at the end of June and will return to the Cairn Hotel, Harrogate. It will be organised by Oliver Cowan.

### **Report from Bridge Development Committee**

The minutes update, as above, cover the previous open items raised as Development Meeting matters at the last meeting. See above, matters arising from minutes of previous meeting and cover new developments..

### **Report from Grants Committee (DG)**

Only three applications for grants have been received to date, (from Northallerton, Ripon and Halifax), and payments of just over £2,000 have been approved. More successful applications are needed for YCBA to achieve its grants target for 2024-25 and meet the objective of using accumulated funds for the benefit of clubs and members. Subject to be raised again at the forthcoming Members Meeting by DG. **Open.**

### **Report from Trophies Sub-group**

See above, outstanding matters updated in the Minutes paras above.

### **YCBA Members' Meeting on 23rd November 2024, Leeds and on Zoom**

DG said the numbers of members intending to attend in person is disappointing as plans were for at least 30 present. Several Board members are intending to participate in the meeting by zoom. Only a third of the YCBA membership opened the email inviting them to attend the meeting.

DG will commence with a general update, NW will then present a report on tournaments and Mike Jackson will be asked to do the same on the Yorkshire League and Online League.

DG will report on YCBA's finances with reserves currently standing at about £50,000 and will request more grant applicants.

There will also be a 10 minute video by EBU's Jonathan Lillycroft on "parallel tables" for inexperienced players. of the EBU.

A discussion on practical considerations of clubs using tablets to replace Bridgemates will also take place.

**Open** for the post meeting report

### **Other business**

None, apart from the shareholders meeting to follow the main Board meeting.

All Board members were invited to attend. RM was the only one to accept the invitation.

### **Shareholders' Meeting**

The Shareholders discussed the EBU new Articles proposal. RM said that he remains unhappy that the Officers are proposed to be elected internally by the elected EBU Board Directors.

The Shareholders to have a free vote on the acceptance extent of the proposals/amendments.

LM and DG to attend the EBU's AGM in person, NW and PS to attend via Zoom.

DG to give a post AGM report at the next YCBA Board meeting.

**Date of next meeting**

To be agreed post EBU AGM outcomes. **Open**

End