

MINUTES of YCBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Saturday 8th June 2024 at the Radisson Hotel, York and by Zoom video conference, commencing at 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: 31 members (17 in person and 14 online), including from the Management Board: Graham Jepson (President), David Guild (Joint Chair), Nick Woolven (Joint Chair), Lesley Millet (Treasurer), Robin Jepson (Assistant Secretary), Pauline Stout, Ron Millet, David Guild and Mark Dunkley

APOLOGIES: had been received from Dani Hyman (Leeds Secretary), Ruth Kerr (Hull), Daryl Keyes (Leeds), Stehen Cordingley (Halifax), David Waxman, David Trueman (Harrogate), Ian Mayfield (Wensleydale) and Peter Wallace (Wakefield). There were no declarations of interest.

1) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10 June 2023

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

2) Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3) Report by David Guild

Joint Chair David Guild presented his report on Management Issues during 2023-24. Transcripts of this report and the reports by Nick Woolven and Mike Jackson referred to below have been uploaded onto the YCBA website on the Official Documents page

4) Treasurer's report and presentation of 2021/22 accounts

The accounts prepared by Brown Butler (Chartered Accountants, Leeds) for the year ended 31 March 2024 have been uploaded onto the YCBA website on the Official Documents page. The Treasurer presented her report with additional information about the accounts. During the year income from bank interest and UMS has increased and costs of Congresses have risen significantly. The current account figures are skewed owing to two Northern Easter Festivals falling within one accounting year. Over £10,000 has been paid out to affiliated clubs in grants and the Association's net assets are £59,000 in round figures.

5) and 6) Reports by Nick Woolven and Mike Jackson

Joint Chair Nick Woolven and Chair of the Yorkshire League Committee Mike Jackson presented their reports.

6A) Diversity Inclusion and Equality Committee

Chair Ron Millet described the terms of reference of the newly formed Diversity, Inclusion and Equality Sub-Committee

6B) EBU Festival of Bridge

Chair of the YCBA's EBU Festival of Bridge Steering Group Mark Dunkley described the events planned to take place in Yorkshire to celebrate the Festival in September 2024. These will include Golf & Bridge, Bowls & Bridge, a canal boat trip, and a simultaneous pairs

event to be organised by the Tournament Committee. During the year YCBA has opened a new Facebook account which will be used, along with the website, to publicise the Festival.

8) Members' Q&A

Chris Fort (Brighouse) enquired about the application of the Yorkshire League Rules following an instance of a match postponed until after the scheduled date by agreement between the teams. Mike Jackson replied that such a postponement is permitted with prior approval by the Yorkshire League Committee, and that such approval had been given in relation to the match referred to. Robin Jepson (League Secretary) said that a statement to explain the application of the Rule in question would be placed on the website in case of a similar instance occurring in a future season.

Nick Woolven said that he had received a query by email from Jason Levesley (York) who unfortunately was unable to attend the AGM owing to a prior commitment. JL's query concerned the Yorkshire Congress, and he suggested that an external organiser should be employed by YCBA with a view to improving entries both to YCBA's own Congress and to the EBU Congresses in the county hosted by YCBA. NW agreed that the entries to the Congress had been lower than anticipated for a combination of reasons, and said that JL's suggestion would be considered by the Tournament Committee.

Tom Copeland enquired about YCBA's policy on prize money for competitions. NW replied that during the pandemic the Tournament Committee had decided not to award prizes for competitions, but this policy has recently been relaxed and there will be prizes of bottles of wine for the winning pairs and teams at the Yorkshire Congress.

Graham Jepson suggested YCBA ought to encourage online participation for all events, as he believes numbers would rapidly increase especially during weekday daytime. A discussion followed competitions for lower ranked players, and NW commented that the Tournament Committee intends to follow an EBU recommendation and introduce competitions based on regional hubs, with a view to reducing travelling distances for players.

9) Election of Officers and Management Board for 2024–25

The Management Board comprises a maximum of 11 persons including Officers. The following have been duly nominated and accordingly are appointed for 2024-25:

Joint Chairs - David Guild and Nick Woolven

Treasurer - Lesley Millet

Assistant Secretary - Robin Jepson

Board Members - Mark Dunkley, Pauline Stout, Ron Millet, Ruth Kerr and Stephen Cordingley.

There were no nominations for the office of Secretary, or for the new positions, created following the constitutional amendments in 2023, of members with responsibility for women's interests and the interests of ethnic minority groups. The unfilled vacancies will be considered by the Board with a view to the co-option of suitable persons as members of the Board.

9) Presentation of Trophies

The Waddington Shield was presented to a representative of the winning team of Tom Gisborne, Sandy Davies, Dave Robinson, Tony Sowter, David Banks & Mike Pomfrey. (Note - this trophy will be retained in the YCBA repository).

The Yorkshire Trophy was won by the team of Stuart Kay (capt), Jason Levesley, Dani Ungar & Iain Crockatt. This trophy was not available for presentation. (Note - it is currently in the possession of Stuart Davies).

Nick Woolven presented glass trophies to the representatives of the winning teams in divisions 1-7 inclusive of the Yorkshire League 2023-24 - Sheffield A, Doncaster A, Bradford B, Harrogate B, Ripon City, Doncaster C and Wakefield D.

10) Date and time of next Annual General Meeting

The date and time of the next AGM was agreed as Saturday 7 June 2025 starting at 11 a.m., to take place at a venue to be decided by the Management Board..