

Minutes of meeting of YCBA Management Board on 4th August 2025.

Present: Chair - David Guild (DG), Nick Woolven (NW), Lesley Millet (LM), Ron Millet (RM), Pauline Stout (PS), Stephen Cordingley (SC), Ruth Kerr (RK), Robin Jepson (RJ), Mark Dunkley (MD) and Graham Jepson (President - GJ).

1) There were no **apologies** for absence or **declarations of interest**.

2) The **minutes of the two previous meetings** on 21st May 2025 and 28th June 2025 were approved.

3) **Matters arising from the minutes:**

- **Insurance.** RM agreed to enquire about and obtain a quotation for the cost of insurance against the risk of officers' legal liability, particularly in relation to claims relating to diversity, inclusion and equality **Open** (to receive RM's report at the next Board meeting).
- **Promotion of YCBA to clubs and members and promotion of benefits of EBU affiliation.** MD reported that the home page of the YCBA website has been updated to include links to the following:
 - the YCBA Offer to clubs and members.
 - the EBU webpages which describe in detail the benefits of affiliation for cubs and members, and the EBU's offer of trial affiliation.

It was also agreed that the Chairs' Blog will be revived (action DG & NW) but the blog does not have to be written entirely by the Chairs and anyone may submit material for inclusion. GJ suggested the restoration of the YCBA newsletter to be produced periodically and sent to members by email. **Open.**

- DG reported on the outcome of advertising for volunteers for the officer post of YCBA Secretary, the Board positions of members with responsibility for women's interests and the interests of ethnic minorities, and other new posts and positions (county level Tournament Director, assistant Events Manager, assistant events coordinators, Bookkeeper to assist the Treasurer). Bob Brown and Sarah Brown have joined DIEC. Katie Thorpe attended the recent meeting of the Tournament Committee with a view to assisting the Treasurer and working on events management. RK said that Vanessa Jervis has expressed an interest in joining the MB as the member responsible for women's interests. David Charlton (Huddersfield) is interested in training to become a county tournament director and Daivid Kelsall (Manchester) has offered to assist with directing at congresses. There have been no volunteers for the other unfilled posts and positions. **Open.**
- **Plan for limiting terms of office of the principal YCBA Officers.** Deferred for further consideration at the next Board meeting. **Open.**
- DG reported on a meeting between NW and himself on the subject of awards for county stalwarts. Their recommendation is not to proceed with this proposal as it could be divisive. Instead there would be an award of a glass trophy to the affiliated club achieving the highest percentage increase in bridge sessions in the

previous twelve months. In 2024-25 this was Northallerton. Clubs winning this award would not be eligible in the two following years. This was agreed. **Closed.**

- RK and MD reported on the outcome of enquiries about the installation of hearing loops at clubs. This should not be a universal requirement or recommendation as circumstances vary greatly from club to club. However, any application by clubs for grants for the installation of hearing loops would be considered by the Grants Committee on their own individual merits. This was agreed. **Closed.**
- The Diversity Inclusion and Equality Committee are not yet in a position to put forward their detailed proposals for a procedure for dealing with complaints about the YCBA as an organisation as distinguished from the conduct of officers or members. This was therefore deferred to the next Board meeting. **Open.**

4) Report from Tournament Committee (NW)

- The Yorkshire Festival of Bridge was successful in terms of numbers attending but the profit of just £270 was lower than anticipated
- Recent innovations of the Yorkshire Handicapped Pairs played in clubs and a Six High Pairs event at Wetherby were well supported and will be repeated in 2025-26
- The Yorkshire Mixed Pairs which was to be played in June was cancelled owing to low entries and will not be rearranged but the competition is to be held again in summer 2026.
- The Cafe Bridge event in Wetherby at the end of August is another innovation which has already attracted an entry of 26 pairs.

5) Report from Bridge Development Committee (LM)

Deferred to the next Board meeting. **Open.**

6) Report from Grants Committee (DG)

The profit from the Yorkshire Festival of Bridge was lower than expected so the budget for grants might have to be cut back, though YCBA still holds reserves exceeding the target figure. The Grants Committee to meet before end of August to review the grants policy going forward. **Open.**

7) Report from the Diversity, Inclusion and Equality Committee (RM)

DIEC has completed the supported self-assessment of the Yorkshire League Committee and the next self-assessment will be the Selection Committees. DIEC is also in the process of producing a model Diversity Policy for clubs and will be working with the BDC on plans for promoting bridge in minority community groups.

8) Annual General Meeting 2026

A new date for the AGM of 20th June 2026, the first day of the Yorkshire Festival of Bridge, was approved. 27th June had been provisionally agreed at the AGM. The venue will be the hotel in Harrogate - which one has yet to be decided - where the Festival of Bridge is to be held.

9) Selection Committee B

The appointment of Bob Marchbank and Catherine Thompson as members of Selection Committee B was ratified, with extended terms of reference to include responsibility for the teams in the B and C divisions of the Northern Bridge League. The previously proposed Selection Committee C will no longer be required.

10) Other business

It was agreed that the Members' Meeting will be held online on Saturday 15th November. Details of the programme deferred to the next Board meeting.

11) Date and venue of next meeting

Thursday 9th October at 10.00 am using zoom video conferencing.

End