

Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 7.00 pm by Zoom video conference.

PRESENT: Nick Woolven (Tournament Chair), Lesley Millet (Treasurer), Robin Jepson (Assistant Secretary), Ron Millet, Pauline Stout, Stuart Davies and Mark Dunkley

1) Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

None

2) and 3) Minutes of previous meeting on 18th March 2025 and matters arising

The minutes were approved. Matters arising:

- Database of Trophies - three more missing trophies have come to light since the last meeting (Tickton Trophy and Schools Cup received at the York BC repository, Toulson Trophy currently in the possession of RJ). MD reported that on a recent count of trophies a number appeared to be missing - MD to investigate and report back to the TC at its next meeting. **Open**
- LM / RM to purchase seven glass trophies to be awarded at the AGM to the winners of each of the seven divisions of the Yorkshire League 2024-25. **Closed.**
- Awarding of prizes at YCBA competitions - NW has responded to recent correspondence received from Tracy Sherman and Jackie Pye explaining the YCBA's current policy on the awarding of prizes. It was reaffirmed that prizes of wine and chocolates are to be awarded at the Yorkshire Festival of Bridge for the Pairs, Nine High Pairs, and Teams competitions, to be purchased by OC. **Closed**
- YCBA participation in EBU Tournaments Working Group - NW will be liaising closely with Alan Hayward, a current Working Group member, with a view to securing the YCBA's interests. No-one else has volunteered to join the working group. **Closed.**

4) Matter arising from Management Board Away Day - succession planning and recruitment

- Recruitment of TD in succession to Stuart Davies after his forthcoming retirement; event coordinator assistants to assist marketing and events coordination, and Assistant Events Manager

NW reported that Daryl Kayes had declined the offer to join the county TD panel.

Otherwise, all deferred for further consideration following the Management Board meeting on 21st May. **Open.**

5) Congresses Sub-committee

- Report on Northern Easter Festival. The Festival made a profit of about £1,700. Entries for the Pairs were slightly down, for the Teams the same as last year, and for the Nine High slightly up. **Closed.**
- Update on arrangements for Yorkshire Festival of Bridge. LM reported that OC will be employing the TDs. A room for the AGM has been booked at the hotel at a cost of just under £500 including refreshments and buffet lunch for those attending. **Open.**
- Update on arrangements for the GNSP. LM reported that Weetwood Hall has been booked for 27th & 28th September and a deposit paid. **Open.**

6) Report on other recent competitions

- Affiliated Clubs Teams. Unfortunately the hosting club, Wakefield, were unable to provide lunches for the players, so a refund of 50% of the entry fee was made to all teams. The teams were also offered the option of cancelling their entry but all 12 teams who had entered took part in the competition. It was suggested that in the light of this experience a terms of engagement letter ought to be sent to clubs hosting competitions on behalf of YCBA. **Closed.**

7) Arrangements for other upcoming events, including appointment of Event Organisers and TDs

- Nelson Rose Bowl, Thursday 15th May, Wetherby. Ten teams entered and the competition was oversubscribed with three more entries than available spaces. NW responded to correspondence received from Olicana Bridge Club and PS replied to the other two teams whose entries were unsuccessful. It was suggested that the number of entries from the hosting club might be restricted but this was considered both undesirable and impractical as some teams have players from more than one club. For next year consideration will be given to moving the venue to another club with a larger playing area. **Open.**
- Yorkshire Handicapped Pairs, 4th and 5th June, clubs. MD reported that 11 clubs would be holding heats [*Note: the number has subsequently risen to twelve*]. It was suggested the minimum length of session might be reduced from 24 boards to 18 but MD responded that this request had only come from one club and to ensure the county-wide results are fair it is desirable for there to be little variation in the number of boards played in each heat. Clubs will be requested to publicise the competition locally and MD will send out additional central publicity. James Carpenter to be paid a retainer of £75 for his services as TG and scorer. **Open.**
- Yorkshire Mixed Pairs, Sunday 15th June. This competition was originally to be staged at Wakefield Bridge Club but Wakefield had withdrawn and it was agreed that in any case Wakefield should not stage another YCBA event this year following the problem with the ACT. Consideration was given to postponing the event to later in the summer, not holding the event at all this year, or playing it online, but it was agreed that NW would enquire if Huddersfield Bridge Club would stage the event on 15th June albeit this is quite short notice. NW and OC will be visiting the new Huddersfield Bridge Club premises to assess their suitability for hosting county competitions. **Open.**
- Six High Pairs, 6th July, Wetherby PS reported that Wetherby has agreed to stage the event and she has invited entries from Leeds, Olicana and York, as well as from bridge teachers, but to date none have been received from outside the hosting club. It was agreed that entries will be reverred at the end of the month and, if thought desirable, NW will send out in additional publicity in the form of a Pianola email to all eligible players in the county database. PS is optimistic that an event targeted at this cohort of players can prove successful following the precedent of the successful Improvers Pairs competition run by YCBA prior to the pandemic. **Open**
- Waddington Cup, Sunday 13th July, York Bridge Club. NW has appointed James Carpenter as TD. RJ to write to club secretaries to invite entries. **Open.**

8) Calendar of Events for 2025-26.

RJ had previously circulated a draft calendar. NW said that a national schools event would be taking place at York Bridge Club on 25th January and, in view of this, it was agreed that the Yorkshire Pairs would be moved to a fortnight earlier on 11th January, also at York. RJ suggested that the calendar had become overloaded with too many competitions in the spring and early summer and that the next edition of the Handicapped Pairs should be held in the autumn, if the June event proves successful. This was agreed. SD commented on the date of the second round of matches in the Yorkshire League which clashes with the NEBA Congress, but it was agreed this date will stand (noting that teams may bring forward the date of a Yorkshire League match by agreement with their opponents). There were no further comments on the draft calendar. **Open.**

9) Report from Yorkshire League Committee

The 2024-25 Waddington Shield and Yorkshire Trophy knockout competitions have been completed. Entries have closed for the summer 2025 season of the Online Yorkshire League with 23 teams taking part in two divisions, three teams fewer than in summer 2024. **Closed.**

10) Other Business.

NW reported that both the winning team in the Waddington Shield and the runners up had declined an invitation to represent Yorkshire in the Pchabo Cup competition. The competition rules allow counties to select a team from players who have taken part in the qualifying competition and it was agreed that pairs from the losing semi-finalists in the WS would be invited to play in the Pachabo. **Closed.**

11) Date of next meeting

Tuesday 29th July at 7.00 pm by Zoom video conferencing.