

Minutes of Tournament Committee meeting on Tuesday 29th July 2025 at 7pm

Attended by Nick Woolven (chair). Lesley Millet, Ron Millet, Stuart Davies, Mark Dunkley (minutes), Pauline Stout, and Katie Thorpe (observer).

1. **Apologies** were received from Robin Jepson. There were no declarations of interest.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting**
 - MD agreed to check the John Colley Trophy is located in the York storeroom. He will also ensure the Waddington Cup is retrieved from Keith Joules, and put back into storage.
 - RM agreed to check the amount of credit still outstanding with the Trophy shop in Harrogate.
 - Succession planning action is referred back to the management board.
3. **Congress Sub-committee**
 - Yorkshire Festival of Bridge – The festival was well attended but profitability for YCBA was disappointing. We will need to review the format of the festival with a view to tighter cost control in 2026. In advance of the meeting RM had issued a pro-forma template for budgeting of conference and event costs. It was agreed the template should be used in future as a basis for approval of budgets. The meeting agreed next year's festival will take place on 20th and 21st June 2026, in Harrogate, venue TBC. Prior to our next meeting, we will seek to check availability and request a quote from shortlisted Harrogate hotels. NW suggested next year's festival should not offer food, although food will need to be available for purchase by delegates. This will enable the festival to start & finish earlier. It was noted that by not ordering food, this could put pressure on room rates. Therefore, we should ask for quotes from each shortlisted hotel, with & without food. We need a room to fit between 24 & 28 tables, with a separate room for the AGM.
 - GSNP & Spring Congress – arrangements are already in hand and are progressing satisfactorily.
4. **Report on other recent competitions.**
 - Nelson Rose Bowl – A successful event but we had to turn 3 people away because Wetherby bridge club is limited to 11 tables. Despite this constraint, it was decided that Wetherby should be invited to hold the event next year, on Thursday 7th May 2026. When promoting the event there will be a pre-warning the event is popular, and early entry is advisable. It will be first come, first served.
 - Yorkshire Handicapped pairs – A successful pilot event run in 12 bridge clubs and attracting 188 pairs. It was agreed the competition can be run bi-annually, in the same format as the pilot. Players will be asked to

pay an additional £1 to cover the donation to charity and TD costs. It should be promoted as a non-profit making event. MD agreed to lead the next handicapped pairs on Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th November 2025. James Carpenter has already indicated he is available and will act as the YCBA scorer.

- Six High Pairs – The pilot took place on Saturday 6th July 2025. There was a full house at Wetherby bridge club and feedback from players was positive. Having now run a successful pilot, the aim is to replicate the event in other parts of the county. The meeting suggested that Huddersfield bridge club be invited to run the event on 4th July 2026. The same boards will be played at Wetherby on the same day, and results will be consolidated. KT agreed to put this proposal to her club committee, and will communicate the outcome to the Tournament committee.
- Yorkshire Mixed Pairs – The 2025 event scheduled at Wakefield bridge club was postponed at short notice. It was too late to source an alternative venue. It was decided there is no room in the calendar to run this event in 2025. We aim to run the event in 2026. A decision on which bridge club to invite to run the event was deferred until the next meeting.
- Waddington Cup – A very successful and well attended competition run at York bridge club. There was a high standard of bridge because the event had been opened up, without any regional heats. The meeting agreed the same format should be repeated in 2026, and that York bridge club be invited to host the event on Sunday 26th July 2026. MD agreed to offer the event to York and feed back to the Tournament committee.

5. Arrangements for other upcoming events

- Café bridge pilot – A pilot is being run by MD and PS in Wetherby town centre on Tuesday 26th August 2025. It is being supported by Victor Lesk and EBU. 19 pairs have already registered, and there is still nearly a month before the event takes place. We are negotiating arrangements with 5 suitable venues, and will limit numbers to 80 players.

6. Report from Yorkshire League Committee

- There are 57 entries for the forthcoming Yorkshire League face to face competition (56 last year). There are no issues being reported by the Yorkshire League committee – arrangements are in place for the new season.

7. Regional and National Finals of county competitions

- EBU is consulting with counties on the format of its national competitions. It is proposed the Corwen Trophy is run online, the Pachabo Cup face to face, and the Garden Cities Trophy regional

heats face to face except the northern heat to be online, with the final face to face. NW agreed to provide feedback to EBU on behalf of YCBA.

8. Any Other Business

- NW confirmed that Bob Marchbank and Catherine Thompson have agreed to be selectors for the 2nd and 3rd team.
- MD informed the meeting that the Grants sub-group is currently discussing its criteria for the next round of grants. In recent times bridge clubs have been replacing bridgemates with I-pads., and have been applying for a grant from YCBA to part-fund them. Before setting our criteria and budgets for next year, we ought to be considering our own requirements. The meeting agreed we ought to be replacing our bridgemates. We have circa 65. NW suggested we could offer to sell them to clubs to part-fund our investment. The meeting agreed we need to produce a costing for our preferred investment option, and this be factored into 2025/26 budgets. Any investment will need to be approved by the management board.
- RM had issued the EBU TD rates in advance of the meeting. We need to agree the rates we are using for Yorkshire competitions. His proposal was that we adopt EBU rates, but we need to be stricter on some of the extra charges. SD agreed to summarise his own proposals in a brief paper. He also agreed to create a YCBA form for claiming expenses.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 30th September 2025, at 7pm.

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