

Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Tuesday 30th September 2025 at 7.00 pm by Zoom video conference.

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

1) Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies had been received from Pauline Stout and Katie Thorpe.

2) NW proposed a vote of thanks, which was agreed unanimously, to SD for his work for YCBA as a TD over a period of more than 40 years, SD having retired from this role following the GNSP at the weekend. SD will continue as a member of the TC and to monitor entries to YCBA competitions.

3) and 4) Minutes of previous meeting on 29th July 2025 and matters arising

The minutes were approved. Matters arising:

- Trophies. It was agreed that the redundant John Gerrard Trophy will be presented to the winners of the secondary final of the Teams competition at the Yorkshire Festival of Bridge. Other named trophies will continue to be presented to the winners of the main, secondary and consolation finals of the Pairs and Teams competitions at the Festival, provided the number of entries are sufficient, **Closed.**
- RM assisted by SD is to revise the previously produced proforma template so that it is suitable for use for budgeting of congress and other events
- KT has confirmed that Huddersfield will hold a heat of the Six High Pairs on Saturday 4th July 2026 on the assumption that YCBA will provide the boards and a TD. PS has confirmed that Wetherby will hold a second heat of the competition on the same day. The results are to be amalgamated if practicable. **Closed.**
- MD confirmed that York Bridge Club will host the Waddington Cup on 26th July 2026. **Closed.**
- There was no further discussion on the subject of YCBA payments to TDs. **Open.**
- PS had produced and circulated to all members a short report on costings for replacement of bridgemates by Wetherby Bridge Club. MD reported that the new bridgemates (BM3) are already in use at York Bridge Club. After discussion it was agreed that replacement of YCBA bridgemates would be deferred, as the existing ones are serviceable, BM3 are expensive, a new or additional server would be required, and the advantages of the upgrade are debatable. BM3 will be on the agenda for discussion at the forthcoming Members' Meeting. It was also agreed that provision should be made in the accounts for the future cost of replacement of bridgemates in the region of £10,000 at current prices. **Open** (to be further reviewed after the Members' Meeting).

5) Congresses Sub-committee

- Great Northern Swiss Pairs - this competition and the accompanying Nine High event were successfully completed with a small increase in the number of entries. LM reported the event has made a surplus of about £1,500. The organisers received complimentary feedback about the venue, Weetwood Hall, and it was agreed that RM would make a provisional booking of the hotel for the 2026 edition of this event on 3rd and 4th October. **Open**
- The Harrogate Spring Congress will again be at the Cedar Court Hotel. Jonathan Lilycroft, Jim Edwards and one other are to be appointed as TDs (the third TD required for Saturday and Sunday only). **Open**
- The Northern Easter Festival will again be held at the Crowne Plaza, Harrogate. **Open**

- Yorkshire Festival of Bridge -at the request of the organiser, Oliver Cowan, this is to be moved to the weekend of 13th and 14th June 2026. It was agreed the Festival will be staged at a hotel in Harrogate to be decided and also agreed a meal will not be included in the entry fee, to facilitate an early finish of play on both days of the Festival. **Open.**

6) Report on other recent competitions

MD reported that the Cafe Bridge in Wetherby was a big success with 80 players taking part at five venues, and another fifteen or so who would have liked to have played. MD and PS are planning a repeat next August with Wetherby again or Easingwold as possible venues. Several clubs have also expressed an interest in running a Cafe Bridge event. LM, MD and PS have produced a podcast which is now available on the YCBA website in the news section. **Open.**

7) Arrangements for other upcoming events

- Yorkshire Handicapped Pairs - 26th & 27th November. MD reported he has invited clubs to run heats, and has received acceptances from Halifax, Hull. Sheffield and Wakefield but Keighley and Leeds have declined. **Open.**
- New Year Bonanza - it was agreed in principle that an online event will take place on 1st January. An entry fee to be charged with the proceeds donated to a charity. To be discussed further at the next meeting. RJ to add this to the website Calendar of Events. **Open.**
- Yorkshire Pairs and Yorkshire Nine High Pairs (Corwen qualifiers) - 11th January, York. It was agreed that the Nine High Corwen will be played face to face at York alongside the Yorkshire Pairs. The meeting also went on to discuss the allowance to be made to clubs who provide refreshments at YCBA one day events. It was agreed that this should be increased to £18 per player, previously £15. In 2025-26, the standard entry fee for two session one-day events with a buffet style meal provided will be £28 per player, previously £24. However for the Yorkshire Pairs the entry fee will be £30, the additional £2 because green points will be awarded. For the Nine High Corwen the entry fee will be £20. This is less than the standard entry fee because only 36 boards will be played. RJ to update the website Calendar of Events. **Open.**
- Affiliated Clubs Teams - it was agreed that Huddersfield Bridge Club will be invited to host this competition - action NW. **Open.**
- Yorkshire Mixed Pairs - it was agreed that this competition will take place on 10th May 2026 (previously a provisional date of 14th June was agreed but this would clash with the Yorkshire Festival of Bridge - see above). Wakefield Bridge Club will be invited to host - action NW. **Open.**

8) Duplication of boards for YCBA events

Oliver Cowan has agreed to take this over from SD. The fees charged to YCCBA will be unchanged. Following a meeting between NW and OC, it was also noted that Oliver Cowan has agreed to move the county of affiliation of OCBC back to Yorkshire, with effect from the 2026-27 season. **Closed.**

10) Other Business.

MD agreed to arrange the laundering of YCBA tablecloths, currently stored at York Bridge Club .

11) Date of next meeting

Tuesday 18th November at 7.00 pm by Zoom video conferencing.