

Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18th November 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

Apologies had been received from Pauline Stout and Katie Thorpe.

3) and 4) Minutes of previous meeting on 30th September 2025 and matters arising

The minutes were approved. Matters arising:

- The committee discussed tournament director payments, agreeing to maintain EBU rates for green-pointed events but review such payments for non-green-pointed county events. **Action** - SD to send payment information to LM.
- The committee discussed the tablets and Bridgemates technology, following the presentations at the Members Meeting on 15th November, and decided to recommend to the Management Board that they wait before making any decisions about replacing YCBA's existing Bridgemates. **Action:** RJ to put this on the agenda for the next MB meeting.
- NW will remind Huddersfield Bridge Club that we await their decision on hosting the Affiliated Clubs' Teams and he confirmed that Wakefield Bridge Club have agreed to host the Yorkshire Mixed Pairs **Action:** NW.
- MD reported on his research on the suitability of Easingwold as a venue for a Cafe Bridge event. MD described Easingwold as an ideal location with multiple cafes, a community venue, and ample parking. He will be meeting PS in the town on the 19th and anticipates a recommendation that YCBA should stage such an event in Easingwold one Wednesday next spring with 20th May the preferred date. This was agreed. MD is also planning to repeat the Cafe Bridge event in Wetherby in August next year and this was also agreed. MD suggested employing Victor Lesk or Jim Edwards to run the events owing to MD's limited experience. The committee explored expanding the concept to other cities and towns with Leeds mentioned. MD said that in his opinion the entry fee is not a significant factor for participants, the novelty of the event and its location were key selling points. **Action:** MD & PS to report back to the TC at the next meeting.

5) Congresses Sub-committee

- Harrogate Spring Congress - LM expressed concerns about the EBU's omission of the HSC from a recent publicity circular and also the scheduling of the HSC which conflicts with an Overseas Congress. **Action:** NW to appoint James Carpenter as third TD for the HSC.
- Northern Easter Festival. **Actions:** NW to appoint TDs. LM & RM to complete arrangements with the Crowne Plaza and report back at the next meeting
- Yorkshire Festival of Bridge - the Cairn Hotel Harrogate has been booked for 13th and 14th June and these dates were re-confirmed. It was also agreed that lunch will not be provided for people attending the AGM and MB meeting on the 13th owing

to the limited time available between the end of the meetings and the start of the bridge event, but coffee, tea and biscuits will be provided. It was also confirmed that as in 2025 the entry fee will not include a meal between the bridge sessions. It was also agreed on RM's suggestion that a discussion will take place for the Festival to be run by Oliver Cowan on a profit-sharing basis though with upper and lower limits on the amount of his remuneration. **Action:** NW to discuss with OC.

- Great Northern Swiss Pairs - the committee reversed its previous provisional decision to book Weetwood Hall owing to the very large price increase proposed by the hotel and instead LM and RM propose returning to a previous venue, the Village in Leeds, where the minimum spend will be £4,000 which is within budget. This was agreed. **Action:** LM & RM to proceed with arrangements to stage the event at the Village.

6) Arrangements for other upcoming events

- Yorkshire Handicapped Pairs - 26th & 27th November. MD reported on the planning of this event, which will have 9 participating clubs, down from 12 in June due to non-participation by Keighley, Leeds and Harrogate. There will be a £1 admin charge per player payable to YCBA. **Action:** MD to arrange collection of the admin charges and report back on the event at the next meeting.
- New Year Bonanza - it was agreed to stage an online Swiss Pairs playing 36 hands, 6 x 6 matches. After discussion it was agreed there will be an entry fee of £5 per player with the whole of the proceeds donated to a charity of the winners' choice. The event will start at 11:00 am and finish about 4:00 pm with a 30-minute break after 30 minutes. Oliver Cowan will be asked to help with promotion through his database. The event to be directed by James Carpenter and Katie Thorpe will be asked to take the entries. **Action:** RJ to update website, NW to appoint TD, ask KT to deal with entries and contact OC regarding publicity.
- Yorkshire Pairs and Yorkshire Nine High Pairs (Corwen qualifiers) - 11th January, York. PS to take entries for the NINE High event and SD to take entries for the YP. **Action:** RJ to update website, NW to appoint TDs if not already done.
- **Action:** NW to send out a Pianola email to all members advertising all upcoming YCBA competitions.

7) Committee Chair Rotation Debate

The committee discussed David's suggestion for a 5-year rotation of committee chair positions, specifically for the Tournament Committee. While the idea was supported in principle by some members expressed concerns about the responsibility of the role and suggested it might be more appropriate for the MB rather than committees. It was agreed to report back to DG that the Tournament Committee is functioning well for now, but they acknowledged the need to address the recruitment and development of new committee members. **Action:** RJ to include the above response by the TC on the agenda for the next MB meeting.

8) Report from the Yorkshire League Committee

RJ presented a brief report. Two rounds of the Yorkshire League have been played with all matches completed and only two or three minor issues, which have been resolved. Entry forms have been sent out for the Winter 2026 season of the Online Yorkshire League with

the closing date of the end of the month. The Waddington Shield and Yorkshire Trophy knockouts are also under way with three first round matches already played. The committee approved dates for the Summer2026 Online League (7th and 21st June and 5th July), noting that the second match day falls on Fathers' Day, but the crowded nature of the bridge calendar means it would not be practicable to find an alternative Sunday reasonably close to the other two match days. **Action:** RJ to add the Summer OYL to the Events Calendar on the website.

9) Other Business.

The committee agreed on entry fees for the Affiliated Clubs Teams and the Yorkshire Mixed Pairs, setting them at £108 per team for the former and £54 per pair for the latter to account for increased costs of providing refreshments. **Action:** RJ to update website.

10) Date of next meeting

Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 10.30 am by Zoom video conferencing. **Please note time.**