

Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 10.30 am by Zoom video conference.

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

1) Apologies for absence and declarations of interest. None.

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

The minutes were approved. Matters arising:

- At the request of Huddersfield Bridge Club, the Affiliated Clubs Teams event has been rescheduled for Wednesday 29th April.
- Yorkshire Handicapped Pairs (November 2025) - LM to pay St Leonard's Hospice charity donation once banking details are received.
- NW had taken the executive decision to cancel the New Year Bonanza a few days before it was due to take place, as only three entries had been received.
- The Yorkshire Pairs and Nine High Corwen qualifying competition held at York on 11th January were both successful with improved attendances compared with the previous year (11 tables in the YP and 9 in the NHC).
- LM to contact Barrie Partridge to discuss including him as a TD for YCBA events and agree remuneration for his services as on-call director in the Yorkshire League and Online Yorkshire League.
- Café Bridge events - MD and PS to continue organizing Café Bridge events for Easingwold (20th May) and Wetherby (18th August). MD to write to North East clubs to promote the Easingwold event. LM to respond to Mary Cousins regarding the proposed Sheffield event, declining to take registrations but offering advice as needed.
- MB to discuss with MD, PS, and DG the possibility of organizing a Café Bridge event in Hull and report back.

4) Congresses Sub-committee

- Harrogate Spring Congress - LM and SD reported strong entries for the congress, with 49 pairs and 22 teams registered.
- Northern Easter Festival - it was agreed that entry fees will be unchanged for the Nine High event but increased by £3 for other events to cover TD and green point charges
- Yorkshire Festival of Bridge - NW to discuss with OC with a view to reaching agreement on remuneration and share of any profits from the Festival
- Great Northern Swiss Pairs - it was agreed this event will be held at the Village in Leeds.
- NW to contact EBU to clarify their policy, if any, on cutoff dates for Nine High eligibility and advise PS
- It was agreed that the remuneration structure for congress TDs will remain unchanged
- NW to send out profit and loss accounts for recent congress events when back from holiday

- The group discussed strategies to increase attendance at congresses, including using the OC database and advertising in the EBU magazine.

5) Arrangements for other upcoming events

- Affiliated Clubs Teams - RJ to write to club secretaries to invite entries. NW to appoint TD.
- Nelson Rose Bowl - PS will create a flyer. Entry fee to be £27 per person with £20 for lunch and refreshments.
- Six High Pairs - PS to contact Huddersfield Bridge Club to ascertain if they will hold a second heat, and coordinate arrangements, including appointment of TDs and provision of refreshments. Six High Pairs to be promoted at the upcoming Nine High Pairs events
- Yorkshire Mixed Pairs - NW to appoint TYD
- Yorkshire Handicapped Pairs, summer and autumn 2026 - the suggested dates of 24th & 25th June and 25th & 26th November were approved - RJ to enter these dates in the Events Calendar.
- Waddington Cup - RJ to write to club secretaries to invite entries. NW to appoint TD.
- LM to send a reminder to clubs/contacts before one day events staged at clubs (e.g. Affiliated Clubs Teams, Yorkshire Mixed Pairs, Waddington Cup) to confirm arrangements and numbers.

6) Tollemache Cup final - contribution to players' accommodation and travel expenses

- The future payment policy for players taking part in the finals of national events played face to face, where an overnight stay is involved (Tollemache, Corwen, Pachabo) was agreed - £75 per person.
- NW to agree with AB the best way to process £75 payments for Tollemache team members and inform LM accordingly.

7) Report from the Yorkshire League Committee

RJ reported that the Yorkshire League, Online Yorkshire League are progressing well as are the Waddington Shield and Yorkshire Trophy knockouts.

The dates of the match days for the Yorkshire League in autumn 2026 (25th October, 8th and 22nd November, 6th December) were approved and RJ is to enter these in the Events Calendar on the website.

There had been one report of a psychic bid in the OYL and it was agreed that YCBA should keep reports of psychic bids in a password protected area on the website. Action RJ with assistance from JE if needed.

8) Other Business.

The group discussed the problems facing Hull Bridge Club which has experienced falling attendances. (See above proposal for a Café Bridge event in Hull).

9) Date of next meeting

Wednesday 8th April 2026 at 10.30 am by Zoom video conferencing.