

Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Wednesday 8th April 2026 at 10.30 am by Zoom video conference.

PRESENT: Nick Woolven (Tournament Chair) (NW), Lesley Millet (Treasurer) (LM), Mark Ballantine (Secretary) (MB), Robin Jepson (Assistant Secretary) (RJ), Ron Millet (RM), Pauline Stout (PS), Stuart Davies (SD), and Mark Dunkley (MD).

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

2) and 3) Minutes of previous meeting on 14th January 2026 and matters arising

The minutes were approved. Matters arising:

- Remuneration for Tournament Directors on call during match days in the Yorkshire League and Online Yorkshire League. It was noted that additional expenditure on TD fees might be recouped by an increase in the entry fee charged to clubs. The committee debated and ultimately agreed on a fee of £25 per match day. Action - LM to discuss with Barrie Partridge and NW to discuss with Ken Johnston. Both to then report back to the TC
- RM suggested that a second/standby TD should be identified in case first choice is unavailable. Action: NW to ascertain Jim Edwards's (JE) availability as a standby director for YL and OYL match days,

4) Congresses Sub-committee

- The group discussed attendances at recent congress events, including the Harrogate Spring Congress and Northern Easter Festival. They noted that entries were up compared to the previous year, with particular growth in Nine High events .PS confirmed she handles separate communications for Nine High events through Pianola.
- The group discussed feedback about break times at the NEF. The main issues raised were that the Saturday meal break of 1.5 hours was too long for some participants, and the Sunday lunch break at 3:30 pm was too late. After discussion it was agreed on SD's advice that a scheduled interval between sessions of 1 hour 15 minutes is needed, partly because the playing time required for the first session is not wholly predictable, and secondly because of the unavoidable queuing time in the hotel restaurant. However it was agreed that in a schedule of seven 7-board matches starting at 11.30, a break after three matches at about 2.30 is preferable to breaking after four matches at about 3.30.
- RM and LM said they had created a larger B4-sized flyer for the Yorkshire Festival that would be shared with Nick and posted online.
- LM is to confirm the booking of the Village Hotel in Leeds for the Great Northern Swiss Pairs.
- LM is to confirm 2027 Congress dates with the EBU
- Ron suggested creating a brochure featuring all three EBU Congresses hosted by YCBA, plus the Yorkshire Festival, to be issued at the end of the year, to encourage advance booking; this was approved.
- The 2027 dates of the above-mentioned congresses were agreed - HSC on 5th-7th February, the NEF on 27th-28th March, the Yorkshire Festival on 12th-13th June and

the GGNSP on 2nd-3rd October 2-3. RJ to enter these dates in the Calendar of Events on the website.

- RM asked about the format of congresses and it was agreed that no changes were needed. RM and LM were given authority to approach hotels for provisional bookings.
- NW confirmed that the Garden Cities competition form had been submitted to the EBU

6) Arrangements for other upcoming events

- Nelson Rose Bowl event - PS reported there are vacancies for 4 teams to enter. Four trophies are required for the winners of this event - LM to send these to PS.
- Affiliated Clubs Teams - RJ and SD reported 11 teams have entered though only 8 have paid the entry fee to date [subsequently all 11 now paid and one more entry received making 12 altogether].
- Yorkshire Mixed Pairs - only five entries received to date, and it was agreed that 12-14 pairs should be the minimum for the event to run.
- MD reported strong interest in the Cafe Bridge event at Easingwold, with 34 pairs registered out of a target of 48. Plans are advanced for the next Cafe Bridge event in Wetherby on 19th August.
- NW to include information about the event in his upcoming communications. PS to send NRB flyer to NW.
- RJ to write to club secretaries in early May, inviting entries for the Waddington Cup at the end of July.
- PS to begin promoting the Six High event in May. Heats are to be held at both Wetherby and Huddersfield clubs with an overall winner (PS to liaise with JE, event TD, on this), PS to send a Six High flyer to Michael Robertson, Huddersfield Bridge Club, for his approval,

7) Report from the Yorkshire League Committee

- RJ reported that the Winter season of the OYL and the 2025-26 Yorkshire League seasons were completed, with just one match outstanding in the second division of the YL which will be played on 26th April. For the 2026-27 season of the YL, there is good news as Scarborough intend to rejoin the league at the lowest division, and Hull have confirmed their continued participation.
- The following proposed dates for match days in the OYL and YL in early 2027 were approved - OYL 3rd, 17th, and 31st January and YL 14th & 28th February & 14th March. RJ to enter these dates in the Events Calendar.

8) Guidance note on psychic bidding

The note produced by Mike Jackson and RJ was approved, subject to, at RM's suggestion, the addition of information on how to report psychic bids, and the EBU psychic bid reporting form to be uploaded onto the website in addition to the guidance itself.

NW and RJ to liaise with YCBA TDs to request that all psychic bids reported in competitions, not just the Yorkshire League and Online League, should be recorded in the password protected area of the website.

9) Storage of equipment

- The committee approved the proposal by LM and RM to move YCBA equipment from York Bridge Club to a new secure storage facility in Leeds. The rent for this facility will be about £1,500 per year, but the new location will be more convenient for event organisers and allow better access to equipment.
- YCBA trophies will also be moved to the new location. NW and MD to carry out a further review of the trophies to ensure they are correctly identified with the competitions they relate to.
- Old YCBA minute books and other historical records will also be retained in a filing cabinet at the new facility.
- LM and MD to lead on the arrangements for the transfer of equipment, trophies and historical records to the new facility and on the purchase of racking, shelving, lighting and a filing cabinet as appropriate.
- It was also agreed to produce a comprehensive inventory of equipment and supplies held at the new facility. LM to lead on this also.
- It was also agreed that a system for tracking movements of equipment etc out of and back into the new facility would be required.

10) Other business

The new duplimator, which was acquired only 9 months ago, has been malfunctioning. It was agreed that RM and JE will clean the machine and run diagnostic reports before, if necessary, sending it back to the manufacturer, Jannersten.

11) Date of next meeting

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