

2026 Management Report By David Guild, Joint Chair of YCBA

I want to start by thanking our whole team of volunteers at the YCBA who freely contribute their time to make Yorkshire exemplify a successful county of bridge. **Thanks to you all!**

At this time last year, I made a plea for more volunteers to assist us.

I am delighted to say that our membership answered our call, and we now have a new secretary in Mark Ballantine, and Vanessa Jervis as a new YCBA Board Member together with four new volunteers who have strengthened our committees.

We run four major tournaments per year. Each tournament has to be planned, negotiated with the chosen hotel, member bookings taken and paid for, logistics actioned, the event managed on the day and then equipment dismantled and stored.

This is where we particularly need more assistance. We are hoping to find someone who we can train to oversee the hotel aspects of events and another person to help with the bookkeeping side. If you are interested to know more, please contact myself, Nick or Lesley.

So, plea over, let me talk about our year.

Well, this year has been light on drama and we have been able to get on with improving our governance and developing our county.

We have improved our management processes with a new safeguarding policy, revised complaints and disciplinary procedures, restructured our committees and introduced comprehensive insurance cover for volunteers including the ad hoc van driver going to and from events.

Ruth is going to talk about the improvements that we have made to DIEC and I do not want to steal her thunder, just to say that the whole of our board and committees are now engaged with this important matter.

Our events equipment was dispersed and difficult to manage. We have now located in a single location at a professionally run storage facility near Leeds. Our thanks go out to York Bridge Club who very kindly held our main equipment until we resolved our storage issues.

We continue to develop our clubs through our education and support. This year we ran two free TD courses and both were well attended. Since 2022, we also have our free teaching platform designed by Jim Edwards, available throughout Yorkshire, and every year more teachers are taking this up.

I mentioned earlier that Vanessa has joined the Board. She has taken on our Youth Officer role, in good time to be involved in the inaugural Yorkshire Schools Competition at York Bridge Club in January this year and has recently confirmed that this will also run in 2027.

We financially support clubs through our teaching and technology grants. This year we were surprised that, despite the move to scoring tablets and Bridgemate 3's, grants awarded were low, at just over £4,000. We are reviewing how we can do more for 26/27. If you have a proposal for starting a new club in your area or starting teaching at an existing club, **then don't hesitate to contact us!**

For technology investment, our website home page has had recent makeover that includes eye-catching rolling event notices. We have also invested in a new Pianola tool for radial marketing that will allow us to do more geographically focused emails for local events in future.

For membership, all new Yorkshire members now receive a welcome letter from the YCBA.

Our marketing activities have had two new thrusts.

Firstly, we have taken up Café Bridge and successfully run two social event days with more to come! Each event has 80 or more participants and includes non-affiliated clubs.

Secondly, we have taken to broadcasting and have produced five podcasts to date each with topics to assist our clubs, again with more to come. (These are listed on the About YCBA section of our website).

In summary, we have had a productive and trouble-free year. Our finances, as Lesley will detail, are comfortable and our membership is slightly improved with playing members increasing by 60 from last year and totalling 3455 primary members across the county.

Thank you for listening and I will now pass to Lesley to summarise our finances.

David Guild

YCBA Co-Chair