

Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Wednesday 8th July 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 8th April 2026 and matters arising

The minutes were approved. Matters arising:

- NW has contacted or will contact Barrie Partridge and Jim Edwards with a view to agreeing remuneration for acting as standby TD on Yorkshire League and OYL match days (possibly a base fee as a retainer and an additional payment for each ruling given).
- RM reported on progress with the proposed brochure for EBU & YCBA Congresses in Yorkshire 2027 - it was agreed that the brochure should cover all YCBA events including Nine Highs, Six Highs and Cafe Bridge events.
- The committee also discussed plans for an interactive entry form system on the website - Jim Edwards will be asked to handle the technical implementation.
- NW reported that the new facility in Leeds for storage of YCBA equipment is open and arrangements are working well.
- The duplimator issues reported at the previous meeting have been resolved by Jim Edffwards.

4) Congresses Sub-committee

- Yorkshire Festival of Bridge. LM reported that the Festival made a profit of about £500, of which YCBA received half. Final financial accounts are still awaited from Oliver Cowan. Concern was expressed about the delay in posting the results of competitions on the YCBA website.
- LM reported that arrangements are in hand for GNSP which will be at the Village Hotel in Leeds. There are issues to be resolved about the accommodation for the Nine High event and where the meals will be served.
- NW to contact members of the YCBA TD panel with a view to making appointments for the GNSP and HSC
- NW to deputise for SD during the latter's absence to holiday (8th to 21st August) to monitor receipt of entry fees for the Leeds Cafe Bridge, GNSP and Yorkshire League into YCBA's bank account and inform relevant people (Sue Friedman. PS. Mike Jackson)
- The committee discussed a proposal by LM that the programme for each weekend congress should include a morning seminar and also a Six High Pairs as well as a Nine High.

5) Reports on recent one day competitions

RJ had previously circulated a report on the numbers entering the Affiliated Clubs Teams, Nelson Rose Bowl and Yorkshire Mixed Pairs. All were successfully completed - the ACT and NRB had a small increase in entries, and the YMP was not held in 2025 but 24 pairs

entered this year.

The Esingwold Cafe Bridge event was successfully completed with a full entry. Praise for the organisation was received from players.

MD reported that the number of pairs entering the Summer Handicapped Pairs fell from 188 to 144 attributable to three clubs (Harrogate, Keighley and Leeds) deciding not to hold heats in 2026 having done so in 2025. The reasons for this were not clear.

Six High Pairs - just one heat was held at Wetherby Bridge Club with 24 pairs entering, again a small increase compared with 2025.

6) Arrangements for other upcoming events

- Waddington Cup, 26th July, York. NW to make arrangements with Daryl Kayes for the trophy to be transported to the venue at York Bridge Club. An entry of 16 or 17 teams was expected (Note: final entry is 18 teams, up from 13 in 2025).
- In response to a suggestion from a member it was agreed that from 2027, to avoid confusion with the Waddington Shield knockout competition, the Waddington Cup will be renamed the Philip Mason Cup. RM to purchase a new trophy.
- Cafe Bridge at Wetherby and North Leeds - PS and MD to continue with the organisation. (Note: the Wetherby event is already sold out). It was agreed in principle that Cafe Bridge events at each venue would be held annually at about the same time of year.

7) Report from the Yorkshire League Committee

The 2025-26 season of the Yorkshire League was duly completed with the final postponed match played at the end of April. The summer 2026 season of the OYL has been completed with 20 teams taking part. One team was unable to play its matches on the first match day, so results were adjudicated in accordance with competition rules. The two knockouts (Waddington Shield and Yorkshire Trophy) were duly completed.

Entries for the 2026-27 season of the Yorkshire League have been invited with a closing date of the end of July and the fixtures will be published about two weeks after that.

The proposed match days for the summer 2027 edition of the Online Yorkshire League were approved - 6th and 20th June and 4th July.

The issue of setting up OYL matches on BBO has arisen again and it was agreed RJ would ask Mike Jackson to again remind participating teams of the availability of a setup video on the YCBA website.

8) Calendar of Events for 2026-27

RJ had previously circulated a draft Calendar for approval. The dates of the Yorkshire Festival of Bridge and the match days of the Yorkshire League and the winter 2027 edition of the Online Yorkshire League had been agreed at previous TC meetings.

It was agreed that the Yorkshire Pairs and Nine High Corwen would take place at York Bridge Club on the second Sunday in January, the more usual fourth Sunday having been reserved for the EBED Schools Cup also to be held at York.

It was also agreed that the Six High Pairs will be moved to Saturday 10th April and there will also be an autumn edition of this competition on Saturday 31st October, both to be held at Wetherby Bridge Club with PS as Event Organiser.

In other respects the Calendar of Events was approved noting that the dates of one-day competitions in spring and summer 2027 would be the equivalent of the 2026 dates.

9) Event Budgeting System Planning

The committee agreed to create a budgeting system for events. To be discussed in detail at the next meeting. RM agreed to produce a costing sheet including TD fees and the cost of master points and SD agreed to assist.

10) Other business

- NW reminded the committee that David Waxman has decided to stand down from all roles with YCBA including membership of the Conduct Committee. RJ was of the opinion that the Conduct Committee panel should include at least one woman, and it was agreed that NW would approach Lesley Bridson with a view to her joining the CC in place of DW.
- SD reported that a number of clubs had not yet paid the entry fees for the Yorkshire Handicapped Pairs and MD agreed to chase up the clubs in question.

11) Date of next meeting

Thursday 6th August 2026 at 10.30 am by Zoom video conferencing.