

YCBA BOARD MINUTES - 17/09/26

Present: : Nick Woolven (Chair - NW), David Guild (DG), Lesley Millet (LM), Ron Millet (RM), Robin Jepson (RJ), Pauline Stout (PS), Mark Dunkley (MD), Ruth Kerr (RK), Stephen Cordingley (SC), Mark Ballantine (MB) and Graham Jepson (GJ).

1 APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies were received from Vanessa Jervis (VJ)

2 APPROVAL OF YCBA MANAGEMENT BOARD MINUTES 21/04/26 AND 13/06/26

The previous minutes of the Management Board meetings of the 21/04/26 and 13/06/26 were approved.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE YCBA MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETINGS 21/04/26 AND 13/06/26

The following progress was noted from the actions agreed at the two previous Board meetings.

- a. Establishment of working group to look at relationships with non-affiliated clubs.

Working group has been set up and has had an initial meeting to discuss the scope of the brief. The group's membership was agreed as being VJ, RM, MD, MB.

- b. Visit to Settle Bridge Club

Not carried out yet. Action to be carried over (**Action - DG**)

- c. Uploading of Development Committee minutes.

Not carried out. It was agreed that the Committee would benefit from having a nominated secretary, and MB agreed to join the Committee in this role (**Action - MB**)

- d. Uploading Grants Committee Summary.

This is now complete

- e. Issue and initiation of Complaints Procedure

Progress is covered in the DIEC report.

- f. Advice on potential changes to the legal status of the YCBA

A response was not received from David Ewart. A report has therefore been compiled by VJ/RJ outlining pros and cons of changing legal status (distributed to Board). It was agreed that this report would be modified, based on further contributions from MD and circulated to the Main Board. (**Action - RJ**).

Efforts will be made for a proposal regarding this, to be put forward for the next Board Meeting. It was also recognised that whatever legal status is introduced, the right to indemnification of a board member or anyone acting on behalf of the YCBA must be formally established through a Board resolution or an adjustment to the constitution. (**Action - MEB**)

g. Role of Vice-Treasurer

It was agreed that this would be discussed further when the YCBA structure is considered at the October away day meeting. **(Action - MB)**

h. Two stage Pianola verification

This is now complete

i. Uploading of accounts onto website

This is now complete

j. Development of EBU Map for Teaching / Yorkshire Map For Teaching

This is now in the hands of Jim Edwards and an update has been requested from him. To be followed up at the next meeting. **(Action - MB)**

k. Timely arrangements for transfer of YCBA equipment to new storage location

This task has been satisfactorily completed.

l. Follow up work relating to insurance cover for individuals

A draft template letter has been produced to agree requirements with volunteers and also to serve as evidence that the volunteers are authorised for the work they are carrying out. This is under review. This action should remain open with the intention of it being closed out at the next meeting **(Action LM/MB)**

m. Various actions required in preparation for the AGM

All required actions were carried out in a timely manner and these are all closed out

n. Proposal for how best to formalise arrangements for representation for ethnic minorities

Progress is covered in DIEC report

o. YCBA Expenses Claim Form to be uploaded onto YCBA website

Agreed to move forward with two forms (one general and one specific for TD's). Both have been drafted, but it has yet to be finalised as to whether the documents will be protected Excel templates or writable PDF type documents. This action to be completed before next meeting **(Action MEB/RM)**

4 UPDATES

a. Competitions and Leagues

NW reported that there has been highly successful, fully subscribed Café Bridge events at Wetherby and Leeds, whilst in the Northern League, Yorkshire 'A' currently led the Division A, Yorkshire 'B' were 4th in Division B and Yorkshire 'C' were 2nd in Division C. There is one round to go.

There has been a satisfactory number of entries for the Great Northern Swiss Pairs, where there has been a significant increase in entries for the Nine High competition compared to last year.

The Summer online leagues have completed satisfactorily.

Note was made that there will be a need to increase prices for some competitions to cover increased costs. It was also agreed that further attention is required to improve our marketing and that this would need to be examined further at future meetings.

b. Financials

LM reported that the accounts were in a healthy state and that bank issues with unauthorised transactions had been resolved with full repayment.

c. Marketing

DG reported that the potential for utilising social media campaigning was largely awaiting results of EBU work on this topic. It was agreed that for the time being that this concern would be held in abeyance.

DG further stated that where marketing resource is limited, priority should be given to reaching out to affiliated clubs.

LM reported that MB had developed a database of player activity which would allow for future targeted marketing based on players previous playing history in YCBA run events, including those organised on behalf of the EBU. The potential exists for including geo-marketing with this by utilising the Pianola Radius system in conjunction with the database. It will be ensured that GDPR compliance is maintained (**Action - MEB**)

It was noted that referrals from Mary Cousins had resulted in some 50 new registrations for lessons, although only 20% convert to active members.

d. DIEC

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The key points were:-

- (i) A draft complaints procedure has been shared with Debbie Sandford and Heather Sanderson. Reaction was largely supportive, but a specific element where it is proposed the EBU should hear appeals needs to be discussed further by the EBU. Progress to be reported at the next meeting
- (ii) It was agreed that the Ethnic Minorities post should remain vacant and that the away day in October should be used to give further consideration on this matter. (**Action - MB**)
- (iii) DIE training was given to various Board, Committee and Tournament Director members on 24/06/26. There will be a further training session on 13/10/26 for club officials, for which there are still vacant places.
- (iv) Following a review of the YCBA DIEC policy, some minor changes have been made to emphasise it's applicability to online bridge. These changes have also been incorporated into the Model Policy for clubs.
- (v) A DIE checklist has been devised for clubs, and the intention is to pilot this with a club prior to formal issue.
- (vi) A Selection Policy document is near completion and once finalised, a Supported Self-Assessment template will be presented to the board. This work shall be extended to other Committees as well as DIEC itself and the Main Board. It is intended these latter two bodies will additionally be subject to external scrutiny.

- (vii) Minor changes have been made to colours and contrast ratios used on the YCBSA website to maximise accessibility. It was stressed that only the agreed colours should be used on the website to ensure maximum accessibility.
- (viii) The applicability of policies in the EBU Volunteer handbook to the YCBA needs to be reviewed. It was agreed that it would be ideal if we could use the EBU handbook with perhaps some reference to areas which were not applicable. **(Action RK/MB)**
- (ix) Establishment of job descriptions continues. At this stage, there is a need for review by the Board for examples of the work to date. This will be progressed as a lower priority target.

Following on from (vii), the provision required for blind or partially sighted players to be able to play in YCBA events was discussed. It was agreed that further consideration was required on this. **(Action RK/MEB)**

It was further agreed that concerns raised by Selection Committee B/C regarding some elements of the new requirement for Selection Committees to have a minimum of 3 members, would be taken up co-operatively with the Committee following the conclusion of the Northern League **(Action NW)**

It was also agreed that advice should be sought from Richard Croot on how to improve Tournament Directors' understanding of DIE matters. **(Action RK)**

e. Membership

SC had circulated a report prior to the meeting. This report identified that on August 17th we had 3939 members, up 16 from June. Work will continue to try to resolve e-mail issues with bounced e-mails or e-mails reported as spam.

f. EBU

DG reported that there had been a number of staff changes at the EBU including the decision of the CEO Gordon Rainsford to step down. A replacement is being sought.

g. Grants

DG reported that grants have been requested by Keighly B.C. (x 20 Bridgmate 3's) and Beauchief B.C. (Duplimator) and that these would be processed in due course.

It was agreed at the meeting that further discussion was required as to whether grant values for Bridgmate 3's should be increased and that this would take place at the next Grants Committee meeting. Similar consideration would be given to the need to ensure that clubs had clarity on the nature and availability of grants. Update to be given at the next meeting.

h. Bridge Development

Much of the progress on bridge development has been covered in other reports. It was, however, noted that progress on the Battle Bridge initiative needs to be covered at the Members meeting in October. **(Action - MB)**

i. Conduct and Disciplinary Committees

It was confirmed that Lesley Bridson has agreed to become the third member of the Conduct Committee. In addition, it was confirmed that GJ would replace Anthony Abraham on the Disciplinary Committee.

j. Structure

It was agreed that the away day meeting in October would look closely at all aspects of YCBA roles and responsibilities, and will incorporate attention to the work carried out by RK/VJ on formalising roles. This should also include a review of the 3-year chair tenure trial being carried out with the Tournament Committee (**Action - MB**)

5 NEW TOPICS

a. Obituaries

It was agreed that the publication on obituaries on the YCBA website would be restricted to three categories:-

- People who have represented the County.
- People who have served on YCBA Board or Committees.
- At the Chair's discretion, people of general interest to the membership.

It was agreed that the criteria should not go on the website, and that for the time being potential for an obituary to be posted should be referred to NW.

b. October Away Day

The date of the October Away Day was agreed as 26th October, commencing at 11:00. There will be special emphasis on YCBA structure, roles and responsibilities. The date would be booked with either Weetwood Hall or The Village (**Action - LM**)

c. Members' Meeting

It was agreed that an online Members' Meeting would be held on November 14th. DG agreed to organize a presentation regarding the teaching platform BridgePlay.UK. (**Action - DG**)

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a. MyEBU Database

It was agreed that the potential of accessing the EBU member database via MyEBU for Yorkshire, would be investigated.

b. Waddington Shield and Yorkshire Trophy

It was agreed that separate reminder e-mails should go out for the Waddington Shield and Yorkshire Trophy, targeting last season's participants in these two knock out events. (**Action - MB**)

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting to be advised separately.

