Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Monday 14th September 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 6th August 2026 and matters arising**
The minutes were approved. Matters arising:

- MB reported progress on creating a database, using Pianola data, of players in events, which currently tracks over 3,600 Yorkshire members and allows for targeted marketing for upcoming events.

4) Report on Wetherby and North Leeds Cafe Bridge

- MD reported on the Wetherby and North Leeds Cafe Bridge events These were positive overall, with both at full capacity. The quality of the food and service at one Wetherby venue was disappointing and that that venue would not be used again.
- MD is to communicate with Mary Cousins (Sheffield) regarding organizing another Cafe Bridge event in Sheffield or Doncaster.
- It was agreed that the successful Cafe Bridge event at Easingwold will be repeated next year, with Tuesday 13th April as the provisional date.
- MD and PS are to investigate the practicality of running a new Cafe Bridge event in Otley, and will ask Olicana Bridge Club (the nearest affiliated club) for their support.

5) Update on 2026-27 Congresses
The group reviewed the logistics for the Great Northern Swiss Pairs, including venue arrangements and equipment needs. SD reported that to date entries for the main event are slightly down compared with last year, though entries for the Nine High event are up. .
LM has visited the venue and secured an additional room that can accommodate either the Nine High players or food service.
It was agreed the Nine High event will start at 12:30 pm with afternoon tea scheduled for 1:45 pm, and the main event will start at 2.00 pm.
HSC - James Carpenter, Jim Edwards, and Barry Partridge are to be appointed as tournament directors.
The organisation of the 2027 Yorkshire Festival of Bridge was deferred to the next meeting.
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5) Report from theYorkshire League Committee

- Entries for the Waddington Shield and Yorkshire Trophy are open, with 6 entries for the WS and 3 for YT reported so far.
- MB is to send targeted reminder emails to last year's participants in the WS and YT who have not yet entered this year.

6) Event Budgeting System Planning

- Deferred to the next meeting, including the principle of whether or not entry fees should include a contribution to the cost of entering national events for which the

county event is a qualifier. In particular, the next TC meeting scheduled for 23rd November will be early enough to decide on the entry fee for the Yorkshire Pairs.

- The committee confirmed that the standard fee payable to clubs for provision of catering at one day competitions will be £15 per player, but £18 for competitions hosted by York Bridge Club, who are obliged to charge VAT.

7) Decision by BBO to introduce charges for team matches played privately

NW is to contact Jonathan Lilycrop of the EBU to request a guide for members on how to download and pay for the new BBO premium membership via the App Store/Play Store

8) Other business

- SD reported that the Mixed Pivot Teams Trophy has been returned and as this competition is no longer run the committee will consider disposing of the trophy (action NW).
- The list of Flitch winners on the website has been updated by NW at the request of Mike Jackson
- It was noted that the Bridge Webs company will continue in business despite the recent death of the founder.
- The committee considered informally whether a third member should be appointed the B Selection Committee for the Northern Bridge League. It was agreed this will be referred up to the Management Board for a decision.
- PS asked the committee to consider eligibility for the forthcoming Six High Pairs event, It was agreed that players must be EBU members as per the YCBA General Competition Rules. Players who are not EBU members (because they pay exclusively at non-affilaited clubs) should play a session at an affiliated club, when they would automatically become EBU members and thus, depending on their grade, become potentially eligible for the Six High Pairs.

9) Date of next meeting

Monday 23rd November 2026 at 10.30 am by Zoom video conferencing.