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

- NW is to contact Barrie Partridge and Jim Edwards again with a view to agreeing remuneration as standby TDs for the YL and PYL
- NW has appointed Jim Edwards and James Carpenter as TDs for the GNSP.
- No appointments have yet been made for the Harrogate Spring Congress but NW is to approach Barrie Partridge, Jonathan Lilycrop and Jim Edwards.
- It was noted that the Cafe Bridge events at Wetherby and North Leeds have both sold out though there is a waiting list for the North Leeds event.
- After further discussion it was agreed that the former Waddington Cup competition will from 2027 be named as the Philip Mason Teams. RM has produced artwork of the new trophy for the competition which will include an image of Philip. NW to forward to all TC members the applicable email correspondence including the artwork and proposed wording for the trophy.
- It was also agreed that in principle the trophies for one day competitions played at clubs should be held at the venue, assuming that the same venue is used each year, and subject to the hosting club agreeing to retain the trophy in safe keeping This avoids the need to return the trophy to the Leeds storage facility and then retrieve it again the following year. However NW will return the Waddington Cup to Leeds as it will not be competed for again, having been replaced by the Philip Mason Award (consideration to be given to selling off the Cup as has been done with other redundant trophies).
- Following strategy discussions between RM & MB, MB is in the process of producing a database of players who have attended congresses in Yorkshire in the last three years, with a view to enhancing the targeting marketing of such events.
- NW is to send out publicity for the GNSP via a Pianola email.

4) Report on Waddington Cup
18 teams took part, an increase from 13 in 2025. The winners were York BC. A positive report was received from the TD James Carpenter**.**

5) Report from theYorkshire League Committee

- Entries for the 2026-27 season of the Yorkshire League have closed. 58 teams have entered, the same number as in 2025-26. Doncaster are entering another team and Wetherby have withdrawn a team. The YLC was expecting to receive an entry from Scarborough but, disappointingly, this has not materialised.
- Entries for the Waddington Shield and Yorkshire Trophy knockouts will open on 1st September and close at the end of that month. The first round matches are to be

played by 15th November. Mike Jackson (MJ) is to liaise with RM to agree on the entry fee for the WS which will take into account the entry fee for the EBU's Pachabo Cup and the cost of green point awards. The entry fee in 2025-26 was £20 per team and an increase might be required if costs are to be covered. It is expected that the entry fee for the YT will be unchanged at £10 per team. NW is to publicise WS and YT by a Pianola email to all members and MJ will also be writing to all match secretaries and captains of Yorkshire League teams to invite entries into the knockouts.

- The decision by BBO to impose fees for setting up team matches will impact the Online Yorkshire League currently played on both the BBO and RealBridge platforms. MJ has received an offer from Shireen Mohandes of RealBridge to organise practice games for players with a view to teams currently using BBO moving to RealBridge whose fees are currently lower. [See also below under Other Business.]

6) Event Budgeting System Planning

It was agreed that the entry fee for the Philip Mason Teams will be increased in 2027 to £120 per team. The fee charged by York Bridge Club for catering is £18 per player compared with £15 per player for other club venues as YBC is obliged to add 20% VAT to its fees.
The entry fee for the Six High Pairs at Wetherby on 31st October has already been advertised at £20 per player and this will stand.
It was agreed in principle that there should be a uniform pricing structure for entry fees for one day competitions, with the exception of the Yorkshire Pairs, as this is a green pointed event, so the cost of master point awards were higher.
It was also agreed that RM will work up detailed proposals for each of the YCA competitions, and the EBU competitions hosted by YCBA, for consideration by the TC at its next meeting. The proposals will include a mark up of 20% for YCBA with the mark up to be used towards meeting YCBA's running costs and any surpluses to be returned to clubs by way of grants and/or for better marketing of events.

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

Oliver Cowaan joined the meeting and provided insights and suggested potential solutions like using club logins or playing the OYL entirely on RealBridge. After discussion, he agreed to investigate and clarify with BBO and the EBU how the new charging model will affect running teams matches, and report back.

8) Other business

The committee discussed whether the 2027 Yorkshire Festival of Bridge should be again contracted out to Oliver Cowan or if the TC should resume organising the Festival in-house. No decision on this was taken.

9) Date of next meeting

Monday 14th September 2026 at 10.30 am by Zoom video conferencing.