

MINUTES OF THE YCBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CAIRN HOTEL HARROGATE ON SATURDAY 3rd JUNE 2017 COMMENCING AT 11.00 A.M.

PRESENT: N Woolven (Chairman/Leeds), P Godfrey (Vice-Chairman/York), J Staniforth (Secretary/Doncaster), L Millet (Treasurer/Leeds), S V Davies (Tournament Secretary/Bradford), A Aizlewood (Huddersfield), V Aizlewood ((Huddersfield), S Berson (Leeds), J Brennan (Wetherby), M Brennan (Wetherby), T Crebbin (Membership Secretary/Harrogate), O Cowan (Leeds), S Crossland (Huddersfield), B Davison (Olicana), J Edwards (Leeds), T Emmott (Olicana), C Fort (Brighouse), A Goulding (Wakefield), D Guild (Olicana), J Hayton (Malton), A Jeal (Garforth), M Jeal (Garforth), J Kitteridge (Garforth), R Jepson (Leeds), G W Jepson (Vice-President/Beauchief), C Kelly (Olicana), G Kenyon (Doncaster), A Kimberley (Wetherby), P G Mason (President/Malton), R Millet (Leeds), P Trevanion (Huddersfield), R Turner (Sheffield), P Wallace (Wakefield), D Waxman (Sheffield) and M Whyms (Sheffield).

1) Apologies

E Latham (Harrogate), J Latham (Harrogate), J O'Sullivan (Wakefield) and J Rouse (Thirsk).

2) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10 June 2016 and Members Meeting held on 27 November 2016

The minutes and notes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3) Matters Arising

The Bridge Development Committee had arranged for Michael Byrne to host a seminar aimed at competent club players on 7 September 2017. It was intended to arrange a second seminar with David Bakhshi aimed at players participating in Divisions 1-3 of the Yorkshire league later in the year.

4) Chairman's Report Including National Update and County Matches Report

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented that it was the first time since the 1960s that the AGM had been held during the annual Congress and the much increased attendance was noted and any views would be welcomed as to whether the arrangement was preferred.

There had been much positive activity during the past year although some competition entries continued to decline but events arranged for Improvers were proving successful and 12 tables had entered on the Friday afternoon of the current Congress. Only four teams had entered the Improvers Teams competition on the Saturday afternoon of the Congress and it was suggested that clubs introduce improvers to team concepts at an appropriate stage. The outsourcing of some events continued to be successful but it was unlikely that the Individual event would be included in next year's calendar. There would be a review of the Friday programme for the YCBA Congress and the Easter Festival had only broken even financially but had been enjoyed by those taking part. The Great Northern Swiss Pairs had increased numbers and the Harrogate Spring Congress which had been administered by YCBA for the first time in 2017 had been very successful resulting in a profit approaching £7k.

Eighty one teams had participated in the Yorkshire League with Sheffield A again winning Division 1 but the team failed to qualify for the Garden Cities Final. With regard to individual player successes Sandy Davies and Tom Gisborne had won the Premier Grand Master's event, Daniel Winter had been selected to play for England's Under 16, 19 and 20 team and Fiona Brown had won the Great Northern Swiss Pairs and the Lady Milne trials thereby confirming selection in the England Women's team which won the event.

In county matches in the Northern Leagues, the A2 team had finished only 9 VPs behind the winners Manchester, the B team had finished 5th and the C SE team had won the division for the third year running with the NW team finishing third. Phil Godfrey reported that the Tollemache

team had not qualified for the final and so would not be seeded in the next year's qualifying round. The match had been played in an excellent spirit in spite of the late withdrawal of one pair with the replacement pair achieving the highest score in the team. Regrettably the team had not won the Presidents Cup for what would have been an unprecedented third time in a row with Manchester winning the event.

With regard to national matters Sport England had made a final ruling not to designate bridge as a sport which was very disappointing and costs for the case were awaited. There was a hearing on 15 June 2017 with HMRC to consider whether vat should be charged and there were more positive indications that this may progress favourably. Whilst the cost of both cases would be met from the substantial reserves that the EBU held, the accounts reflected an in year deficit of around £10k and budget forecasts predicted further in year deficits for the next three years. This was being addressed by cutting budgets across all headings including that of the international team but may impact of future Universal Membership (UM) rates. The separate charity English Bridge Education and Development (EBED) responsible for the teaching and development of bridge had introduced a fast track bridge programme and the World Bridge Federation (WBF) had introduced new laws effective from 1 August 2017 which clubs were strongly advised to adopt by the end of September 2017. A series of courses which would be combined with training on the new EBU scoring program was being arranged and would be free for affiliated club representatives.

On closing his report a message of appreciation was extended to all members of the Board and other volunteers that supported the work of the Board and bridge activities across the county.

5) Secretary's Report Including Membership Information

The Secretary confirmed that meetings of the Management Board and a Members meeting had been convened in accordance with the constitution. There had been no requirement to formally convene a meeting of the Conduct Committee but other committees had met. Following visits by YCBA Officers to Settle Bridge Club the club had decided to affiliate to YCBA with effect from 1 April which was the first new club since Universal Membership was introduced in 2009 so making a total of 35 clubs.

It was explained that no constitutional amendments were being proposed this year but membership criteria was being reviewed to try to reduce some of the complexities that currently existed and that consideration was being given to open entry to competitions in order to eliminate some of the need for dual membership.

The Membership Secretary had produced a report denoting the number of YCBA members for each affiliated club based on county of allegiance giving an overall total of 3,686 members which included 29 direct members and 70 student members. It was explained that in most cases the total for each club would reflect a lower number than the actual club membership as many clubs had a small number of members whose county of allegiance was not YCBA. The Membership Secretary was thanked for the production of the information.

A message of appreciation was extended to all the affiliated club secretaries for their support over the past year and for the return and engraving of Yorkshire League trophies.

6) Treasurer's Report

Copies of the accounts prepared by Brown Butler (Leeds Chartered Accountants) for the year ended 31 March 2017 were circulated for consideration.

- The Treasurer reported the following information:
- Universal Membership Subscription (P2P) receipts were broadly in line with the previous year
- The level of reserves was approaching £40k due to successful congress events
- Turnover was still less than the vat threshold.
- Increasing amounts of competition income were being paid directly into the bank account and it was hoped that this could extend to Yorkshire league payments in the future.
- 2,400 packs of cards had been purchased from an external supplier at a lower cost than the EBU
- New Bridgemates had been purchased to ensure a sufficient supply for Congress events
- Resources would also be used to support clubs to promote and market bridge to improve membership

A message of appreciation was extended to the Tournament Secretary and those involved with the running of events for the efficient arrangements enacted.

No questions were raised in connection with the accounts presented.

7) Tournament Secretary's Report

No formal report had been produced and information was provide as part of individual reports. The Tournament Secretary wished to relinquish administering Simultaneous Pairs events in view of responsibilities administering the increased number of Congress events and a volunteer was being sought.

8) Bridge Development Committee Report

The Chair of the Committee reported the committee continued to work on the development of all aspects of bridge. Information to members was reported via the 'Yorkshire News' edited by David Waxman and information and articles for publication were welcomed. Arrangements were also being made to update the website which also provided all relevant information. Rob Turner and Lesley Blanchard were thanked for the continuing maintenance of the site for the benefit of members.

Following the receipt of grant funding from the European Bridge Federation via the EBU, YCBA had been selected to undertake a pilot project to try and increase membership through teaching and marketing bridge and David Guild had been asked to undertake the role of Regional Development Officer for a year. David was available along with other YCBA officials to help and support clubs particularly those with falling memberships to train teachers and develop teaching programmes for beginners and improvers. It was recognised there was a need to put in place initiatives to build for the future which included a range of events such as the newly introduced 'Play without the Experts' events and Improvers events at Congress events and a Northern Counties Improvers event all of which had been very successful.

The appointment of a County Youth Officer was being sought and anyone with an interest in working in this area was asked to contact a committee member.

9) Yorkshire League Fixtures and Draft Calendar of Events for 2017/18

The Yorkshire League fixtures were provided for all competing clubs and arrangements made to forward them where a club was not represented at the meeting. The fixtures would be uploaded on the website as soon as practicably possible . The YCBA President who had retained responsibility for producing the fixtures explained that there would be the 85 teams for the coming season an increase of four which was largely due to the increasing number of new members. There would be 9 leagues of 8 teams and a Division 10 comprising 13 teams which was a difficult number to accommodate. However all but one team (Doncaster F) would play seven matches with one team not playing on each fixture date but instead playing on one additional date so there were eight match dates in total. Doncaster F would receive an average of the six games played in lieu of the seventh match. A message of thanks was expressed to Robin Jepson for revising Yorkshire League rules to meet the needs of situations arising.

The calendar of events would be made available in the near future when venues had been finalised. The issue of catering was raised as it was becoming increasingly difficult for clubs to provide catering by volunteers and one club had proposed to provide a sandwich/savoury main course instead of a plated tea. There were differing views and suggestions that for some events players could bring their own food or that a slightly reduced number of boards could be played thereby eliminating the need for a substantial meal between sessions.

A request was made for all the Improvers events to be included within the published calendar and it was agreed to do this.

10) County UMS (P2P), Club Affiliation and Direct Members Fees for 2018/19

In accordance with the requirements of the constitution consideration was given to the fees to be charged by YCBA for the following year. In view of the current financial position it was agreed that the 5p UMS levy, the £5 charge for direct members and the waiving of any county club fee should continue for the next year.

11) Members Forum

The following issues were raised:

- A message of congratulations for the positive developments within the county.
- Whether any further action was to take place in respect of a disciplinary hearing that had been reported in the latest edition of the English Bridge magazine as it was felt the information needed further clarification. The Vice-Chair agreed to contact the EBU to request if further clarification could be provided.
- A request was made as to whether a supplier of braille cards was known and it was suggested that EBED/EBTA be approached.

12) Election of Officers and Management Board for 2017/18

The office holders of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and Tournament Secretary along with four nominations for the Management Board were duly proposed and seconded as follows:

Chairman	Nick Woolven	Martin Edge	Alan Brosgill
Vice-Chairman	Phil Godfrey	Stuart Kay	Mark Bratley
Secretary	Julia Staniforth	Barbara Boaler	Graham Jepson
Treasurer	Lesley Millett	Phil Godfrey	Ron Millet
Assistant Secretary	Janet Latham	Graham Jepson	Judith Biles
Tournament Secretary	Stuart Davies	David Donaldson	Elaine Van Heel
Management Board	Robin Jepson	Alan Brosgill	Ruth Roope
Management Board	David Waxman	Raphael Grossman	Peter Camm
Management Board	John Hayton	Philip Mason	Richard Hilton
Management Board	David Guild	Nick Woolven	Carole Kelly

13) Date and Time of Next AGM and Members Meeting

- The next Members Meeting would be held prior to the Mixed Pivot Teams event at Bradford Bridge Club on Sunday 26 November 2017 commencing at 11.00 am.
- The next AGM was agreed as Saturday 2 June 2018 at the Cairn Hotel Harrogate at 11.am.

14) Presentation of Trophies

Trophies were presented to a representative from the club of the leading team in each Yorkshire league division for the 2016/17 season as follows:.

Division 1 – Sheffield A (Morning Telegraph Cup) – David Waxman (GWJ to arrange repairs)

Division 2 – Huddersfield A (Green Un Cup) – . Patrick Trevannion

Division 3 – Sheffield D (The Sheffield Shield) – Rob Turner

Division 4 – Harrogate B (Lawrence Batley Trophy) – Ted Crebbin

Division 5 – Wetherby B (Toulson Trophy) – Mike Brennan

Division 6 – Doncaster C (Winnie Pattinson Salver) – Geoff Kenyon

Division 7 – Ilkley D (Cartwright Trophy) – Carole Kelly

Division 8 – Wakefield C (YCBA Trophy) – Adrian Goulding

Division 9 – Huddersfield D (Yorkshire Bank Trophy) – Alan Aizlewood

Division 10 – Wakefield D (YCBA Trophy) – Adrian Goulding

(Division 11 – Two Trophies are retained by Olicana BC)

The Yorkshire Trophy was presented to Stephen Berson a member of the winning team.

Signed: ----- (Chairman)

Date: -----