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NOTES OF MEMBERS MEETING HELD AT THE LEEDS HILTON HOTEL ON SUNDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2018 COMMENCING AT 12.30 P.M.

PRESENT: P Mason (President/Malton BC), G Jepson Vice-President/Beauchief BC), N Woolven (Chairman/Leeds BC), P Godfrey (Vice Chairman/York BC), J Staniforth (Secretary/Doncaster BC), L Millet (Treasurer/Leeds BC), S. Davies (Tournament Secretary/Bradford BC), J Blackett (Ripon BC), L Bridson (Harrogate BC), J Carpenter (York BC), S Cordingley (Halifax BC), M Collier (Olicana BC), E. Crebbin (Harrogate BC), B Davison (Olicana BC), S Dobson (Leeds BC), J Edwards (Leeds BC), M Evans (Halifax BC), J Guest (York BC), S Friedman (Leeds BC), D Lewis (Scarborough BC), R Millet (Leeds BC), D Murphy (Huddersfield BC), P Murphy (Huddersfield BC), G Rickard (York BC), F Smart (Wetherby BC), H Stanley (Halifax BC), P Stanley (Halifax BC), P Stout (Wetherby BC), R Turner (Sheffield BC), P Wallace (Wakefield BC) and S Woolham (Sheffield BC).

IN ATTENDANCE: B Purvis (EBU Club Liaison Officer).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: C Fort (Brighouse BC), D Guild (Olicana BC), J Hayton (Malton BC), R Jepson (Leeds BC), P Morrison (County Youth Officer/Leeds BC), F Rhodes (Settle BC) and D Waxman (Sheffield BC).

1) CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 4th Annual Members Meeting which for the first time was being held in conjunction with a Members Development Day and explained that the meeting was to provide a forum for members to share information and ideas for improvements with the YCBA Management Board to aid ongoing development. A message of thanks was extended to the presenters who had attended the Development Day and that it was intended to run similar events in the future.

2) MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no issues arising from the 2017 Members Meeting or the 2018 AGM.

3) CHAIRMAN'S HALF YEARLY REPORT

a) National Update

The EBU AGM was to take place on 28 November 2018 and the main items on the agenda were outlined as follows:

- Five nominations for the appointment of four Directors had been received so an election was to take place.
- A balanced budget from 2019/20 was planned, subject to further savings which had been identified.
- The Summer Congress had taken on a different format for 2018 with weekday events held at bridge clubs throughout the country and Huddersfield BC had hosted a number of events.
- Membership numbers continued to be a particular focus as there had been a greater reduction in overall EBU membership during the last year. This was not reflected in Yorkshire and the work of David Guild as the Regional Development Officer as a pilot project had proved successful and as a consequence the EBU had appointed a national officer to undertake a similar role. A number of counties had now commenced membership drives in order to address the matter.
- The county working groups were operating well across the north and midlands regions but counties in the south and southwest had not engaged in the same way.
- It was proposed to increase the UMS (P2P) levy for 2019/20 by 1p to 39p per session.

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The YCBA President commented that over recent years, northern representation on the EBU Board and its committees had declined partly due to changes to the committee structure being replaced by EBU appointed panels. It was hoped that Ron Millet would be successful at the forthcoming election for Directors of the EBU Board in order to maintain some northern representation.

b) County Update

Three national events continued to be administered by YCBA on behalf of the EBU in addition to the longstanding Yorkshire Congress all of which contributed to the healthy financial situation and a message of thanks was extended to the Tournament Directors and those that supported the organisation of the events.

The qualifying round of the Tollemache Cup event was currently taking place and whilst Yorkshire was placed fifth at the end of play on the first day there was only eight IMPs difference between the fifth and second place. The county team had finished a disappointing 5th out of 8 in the Presidents Cup.

In the Northern Bridge Leagues the A2 team had finished second behind Manchester with the A1 team fourth and the B team had also been runners up to Manchester. For the first time in the C Division Yorkshire North/West had finished first and would take part in the national final.

With regard to individual successes Robin Jepson and Alan Brosgil had again finished second in the Great Northern Swiss Pairs event and Daniel Winter had represented England in the under 21 team in China.

As reported at the AGM, there were now 88 teams competing in the Yorkshire League and duplimated boards had been introduced in division 3 for which James Carpenter had kindly offered to compile the butler scores across the division. James had also volunteered to administer the three simultaneous pairs events and a message of thanks was extended to James for his valuable support.

The continuing production of the YCBA newsletter was raised and members asked to indicate if there was a need to continue with this in view of the fact that most information was contained on the website. Six members from those present indicated that they would like the newsletter to continue and it was known that a small proportion of members did not have access to technology and therefore still valued a hard copy of documents.

A member enquired as to whether the website was to undergo any development as it was felt the design needed updating to allow for example 'blogs' to be posted and for easier viewing on mobile devices. The webmaster responded that it would be possible for members to contribute items with links created to enable the editing and uploading of information directly however there was a need to ensure that all information uploaded was appropriate. It was explained that discussions had taken place on the development of the website but existing packages such as Pianola could not facilitate the uploading of the Yorkshire League results and tables. This would be considered further by the Board and the necessary investment could be identified. A message of appreciation was extended to Rob Turner for his work over many years developing and subsequently maintaining the website.

A substantial amount of work had been undertaken in respect of the General Data Protection Regulations and it is assumed that all clubs are up to date. Advice and information was contained on the website and from Board members.

Schools' bridge was felt to be in need of further development and any support for this area was welcomed. The email contact for the County Youth Officer was available on the website.

4) FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Treasurer reported that the accounts currently reflected a healthy surplus partly due to profits from the four annual congress events and each Congress would have an improvers pairs and teams event as appropriate.

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YCBA had continued to fund the training of bridge teachers as since this had become responsibility of EBED the former EBU policy of funding one place per club every two years had been rescinded but was to be re-introduced in the near future. The EBU website contained details of clubs and individuals providing teaching and the importance of keeping the information up to date was stressed. Jim Edwards currently maintained the 'Learn Bridge' website which again provided a valuable source of information for people seeking to learn bridge in their locality. EBED were also considering how they could establish a network of classes.

As a result consideration was being given to how clubs may be able to be supported financially through some form of grant to update and improve technology for the benefit of members including any teaching aids. The Chairman explained that the details would need to be determined by the Board in the new year and notification would be sent to clubs once this had been undertaken with a view to funding being available from April 2019.

5 OPEN FORUM

The following questions were raised:

Q: Would any seminars be arranged for intermediate players?

A: Yes, it was intended to do so however there was a need to define the level of player to which it would apply e.g. should it be based on ranking or NGS and should it be at a central venue or offered to clubs in different regions.

A seminar had been arranged for higher ranking players in the previous year hosted by Wakefield Bridge Club and a member of Wakefield Bridge Club offered to host a future seminar.

Q: Whilst there was an amount of teaching for new bridge players had any thought been given to a seminar on partnership development as this had now commenced at Huddersfield BC.

A: An initial approach had been made to an experienced partnership in relation to this.

6) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be the Annual General Meeting to be held at the Cairn Hotel, Harrogate, on Saturday 8th June 2019 commencing at 11.00 a.m.