

MINUTES OF THE YCBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CAIRN HOTEL HARROGATE ON SATURDAY 8 JUNE 2019 COMMENCING AT 11.00 A.M.

PRESENT: Nick Woolven (Chairman/Leeds), Phil Godfrey (Vice-Chairman/York), Julia Staniforth (Secretary/Doncaster), Lesley Millet (Treasurer/Leeds), Jackie Brennan (Wetherby), Alan Brosgill (Leeds), Jill Buchanan (Keighley), Tom Cohen (Leeds), Laurie Earle (Wakefield), Chris Fort (Brighouse), Sue Friedman (Leeds), Tim Friedman (Leeds), David Guild (Olicana), John Hayton (Malton), Mike Jackson (Malton), Audrey Jeal (Garforth), Mike Jeal (Garforth), Robin Jepson (Leeds), Graham Jepson (Beauchief), Carol Kelly (Olicana), John Kitteridge (Garforth), Janet Latham (Harrogate), Ted Latham (Harrogate), Philip Mason (Malton), Susan MacKellar (Wensleydale), Ron Millet (Leeds), P Morrison (Leeds), Denis Murphy (Huddersfield), Pearl Murphy (Huddersfield), Ian Newsham (Olicana), Richard Pike (Sheffield), Frank Rhodes (Settle), Gill Rickard (York), Roger Smith (Keighley), Pauline Stout (Wetherby), Peter Wallace (Wakefield), Tony Watson (Olicana) and David Waxman (Sheffield).

APOLOGIES: James Carpenter (York), Ted Crebbin (Membership/Harrogate), Stuart Davies (Tournament Secretary/Bradford) and Henry Irvine (Leeds).

1) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 2 June 2018 and Members Meeting held on 18 November 2018

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

2) Matters Arising from the Members Meeting

a) Car parking arrangements at the Leeds Hilton Hotel

A member raised the issue of lack of car parking at the hotel. It was recognised that there had been an issue at a particular time of arrival due to the number of people arriving in a short space of time and those staying at the hotel who had not left. Other members present stated that there were other low cost car parks within a short walking distance of the hotel. The Vice-Chairman agreed to look into the car parking situation so that information could be provided to alleviate any future issues.

b) Players' seminars

An enquiry was raised as to whether any seminars had been arranged for both leading and intermediate players. The Chairman of the Bridge Development Committee reported that Michael Byrne was booked for a seminar to take place later this year and Andrew Robson was available on Mothering Sunday in 2020 but consideration was still being given to whether this was a suitable date.

3) Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and commenced his report with discussion and information relating to Membership which was falling nationally. However largely as a result of a pilot project in Yorkshire led by David Guild, YCBA's membership had increased by around 160 in 2018/19. It was clear that teaching was needed to ensure a continued stream of new players and the main challenge was how new players progressed to more competitive club sessions and wider competitions. It was recognised that many unaffiliated clubs thrived as players enjoyed the social aspect rather than a competitive environment.

The 2018/19 Yorkshire League season had seen a return to eleven divisions of eight teams and continued to be the leading county teams of eight league in the country. For the second successive season Leeds A had won division 1 and had qualified for the Garden Cities national final. This year's fixtures had been circulated to clubs and uploaded on the YCBA website. It was very pleasing to report a further increase net increase of two teams competing in the league

for 2019/20 resulting in divisions 1- 10 of eight teams and ten teams in division 11. Mike Jackson was thanked for again producing the fixtures. Congratulations were extended to Settle BC on winning Division 11 undefeated in their first season and also to Halifax A and Leeds D who were also unbeaten.

There had been some rule changes to remove any ambiguities that may have existed and advice issued regarding catering for special dietary requirements.

The county teams despite promising starts, had not been successful in either the Tollemache qualifying event or the President's Cup. In the Northern Bridge League the 'C' North West team had won the division and would play in the national final at the end of June.

There had been some individual successes with Robin Jepson and Alan Brosgil winning the Northern Easter Festival Swiss Pairs, Fiona Brown enjoying success in England ladies events and national competitions. Carole Kelly and Sandy Davies had also performed well in the Lady Milne trials narrowly missing selection. Improvers had also fared well in regional competitions.

The EBU had projected an overspend of around £25k for the next four years due to declining competition entries and falling sales at the Bridge Warehouse. A number of strategies were being proposed such as an increase in UMS (P2P) by more than inflation, a reduction in the number of magazines published each year, an 'opt in' to the EBU diary and reducing funding for internationals. Further staff reductions, a reduction in the grant to EBED and the discontinuation of Master Points were also being considered and a package of measure would be presented at the AGM in November 2019.

The Chairman reported that YCBA's finances were in a good situation and as a consequence it had been agreed that grants would be made available to assist clubs to fund new technology developments. The closing date for the receipt of applications this financial year was 30 June 2019.

Consideration was currently being given to the development of the YCBA website and how this could be progressed. The County Youth Officer offered to assist with this and this was gratefully accepted.

A message of appreciation was extended to all bridge club secretaries and their committees particularly those who had taken over the organisation of some of the YCBA one day competitions. Members of the YCBA Management Board and all those who volunteered in the many different roles were also thanked for their valuable contribution over the past year which had contributed to YCBA's continuing success.

Members raised the following issues in respect of the report:

With regard to membership it was felt to consider the wider context as there was considerable evidence that bridge was played socially in many different arenas and at Olicana BC weekend daytime sessions of up to 16 boards were proving popular which over time was expected to lead to full membership of the club. The club had embraced a positive approach and now had six teachers undertaking courses with two additional teachers available. There were two 'beginners' classes of around 20 students which again over time would increase membership. It had been noted that Olicana appeared in the list of top clubs and a message of appreciation was extended for the work being undertaken.

A question was also asked regarding contact with U3A as a number of new members had been recruited in some clubs from this source.

It was suggested that it was no longer possible to just target retirees as the age of retirement was increasing so those at an age approaching retirement were needed as well as young people at school and university.

4) Treasurer's report and presentation of 2018/19 accounts

Copies of the accounts prepared by Brown Butler (Leeds Chartered Accountants) for the year ended 31 March 2019 were circulated for consideration.

The Treasurer reported the following information:

- Universal Membership Subscription (P2P) receipts reflected a small increase to over £8k denoting a further increase in bridge playing at clubs
- The level of reserves was now just over £56k with an in-year surplus of £6.8k due largely to successful congress events. The surplus would be used to fund the technology grants as no major investment in equipment was envisaged at the present time.
- The host system for Congress events was working well and additional hosts were being sought with bridge fees and accommodation paid for by YCBA.
- The main banking account was being transferred to Santander who had given a financial incentive and reduced charges.

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.

5) UMS (P2P), Club Affiliation and Direct Members Fees for 2019/20

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 and the waiving of any county club fee and direct membership fee should continue for the next year.

6) Items Raised by Members and Members Forum

The following item was raised by a member of Brighouse BC in advance of the meeting:

Clarification was sought on the interpretation of the Yorkshire League rules relating to the playing of a Yorkshire league match after the last day of the season following the late cancellation by one of the teams involved.

The Yorkshire League Committee Chairman explained the background and changes that had now been enacted. The situation had required a pragmatic approach in view of the unfortunate construction of the rule regarding the particular circumstance that had arisen. It was accepted that any action taken would impact in some way and it was felt the decision arrived at was the most appropriate.

The Chairman of the meeting enquired as to whether the member that had raised the matter was satisfied with the response received and the member confirmed he was, pending the publication of the rule changes.

Tom Cohen reported he had attended the funeral of Bernard Goldenfield in Manchester who had passed away on 6 June 2019. Bernard had attended many YCBA events with his wife over many years and would be sadly missed in the world of bridge.

7) Election of Officers and Management Board for 2019/20

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

Chairman	Nick Woolven	Brian Davison	Gill Copeland
Vice-Chairman	Phil Godfrey	Stuart Kay	Keith Sowerbutts
Secretary	Julia Staniforth	Graham Jepson	Geoff Kenyon
Treasurer	Lesley Millett	Nick Woolven	Jim Edwards
Assistant Secretary	Robin Jepson	Alan Brosgill	Henry Irving
Tournament Secretary	Stuart Davies	Elaine Van Heel	Mark Armitage
Management Board	John Hayton	Nick Woolven	Janet Latham
Management Board	David Guild	Pauline Stout	Ron Millet
Management Board	Pauline Stout	Lesley Millett	Ron Millet

The unfilled vacancy would be considered by the Board and a co-option would be undertaken as appropriate.

8) Date and Time of Next AGM and Members Meeting

- a) The next AGM was agreed as Saturday 6 June 2020 at the Cairn Hotel Harrogate at 11.am.

b) The next Members Meeting was agreed to be held on Sunday 17 November 2019 at 12.30 pm at the Leeds Hilton Hotel and incorporated into a further Members training day with sessions on mentoring, Pianola software and a demonstration of the new dealing/scoring equipment.

9) Presentation of Trophies

Trophies were presented to a representative from the club of the leading team in each Yorkshire league division for the 2018/19 season as follows:

- Division 1 – Leeds A (Morning Telegraph Cup) – Presented to Phil Morrison
- Division 2 – Scarborough (Green Un Cup) – Phil Mason to forward
- Division 3 – Harrogate A (The Sheffield Shield) – Presented to Janet Latham
- Division 4 – Wetherby A (Lawrence Batley Trophy) – Presented to Pauline Stout
- Division 5 – Leeds D (Toulson Trophy) – Presented to Tim Friedman
- Division 6 – Wensleydale (Winnie Pattinson Salver) – Presented to Susan MacKellar
- Division 7 – Keighley C (Cartwright Trophy) – Presented to Jill Buchanan
- Division 8 – Halifax A (YCBA Trophy) – Retained by YCBA
- Division 9 – Doncaster E (Yorkshire Bank Trophy) – Presented to Julia Staniforth
- Division 10 – Bradford D (YCBA Trophy) – Forwarded to Stuart Davies
- Division 11 – Settle BC – Presented to Frank Rhodes

The Yorkshire Trophy was presented to Tom Cohen a member of the winning team.
The Waddington Shield had been retained by Tom Gisborne a member of the winning team.

Signed: ----- (Chairman)

Dated:-----