

## **MINUTES OF THE YCBA MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 29 AUGUST 2017 AT THE GARFORTH HOLIDAY INN COMMENCING AT 7.15 PM.**

**PRESENT:** Nick Woolven (Chairman), Phil Godfrey (Vice-Chairman), Julia Staniforth (Secretary), Lesley Millet (Treasurer), Stuart Davies (Tournament Secretary), Janet Latham (Assistant Secretary), David Guild and John Hayton.

In attendance: Philip Mason (YCBA President) and Ron Millet (EBU Board Member).

### **1) APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Apologies were received from Robin Jepson and David Waxman.

There were no declarations of interests in respect of any agenda items.

### **2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the Management Board held on 4 June and Tournament Committee held on 29 June 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the date of the seminar for experienced club players with Michael Byrne being amended from 7 September to 17 September 2017 in the Management Board minutes. The minutes of the AGM held on 3 June 2017 were recommended as a correct record for presentation to the next AGM subject to 7 September being amended to 17 September in item 3.

### **3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### **a) Annual General Meeting**

##### **i) David Bakhshi Training Seminar**

It was known that DB was currently playing in America and therefore a further seminar may not be possible until 2018, however other players were to be approached.

##### **ii) County Youth Officer Appointment**

The appointment of Phil Morrison was confirmed and he had attended a meeting of the Bridge Development Committee. It was agreed he be invited to attend any future Board meeting.

##### **iii) EBU Disciplinary Matter**

The Vice-Chairman reported he had contacted the EBU but there was no further information and the matter should now be regarded as closed. The wording of the report published in the EBU magazine may have prompted the question raised at the AGM but this was a matter for the EBU. A question was asked as to whether there was a need for any subsequent involvement by the county in implementing EBU sanctions when such situations arose and it was agreed that in most circumstances it was highly unlikely.

##### **iv) Members Meeting on 26 November 2017**

The Secretary confirmed that the necessary arrangements had been made with Bradford Bridge Club. A brunch would be served at 10.30am. with the meeting commencing at 11.00am prior to the Mixed Pivot Teams competition at 1.00 pm. The Chairman submitted his apologies and the Vice Chair would Chair the meeting.

#### **b) Board Meeting**

##### **i) Data Protection Regulations**

The Secretary reported that little new information was available in respect of voluntary organisations with further information expected in the early autumn. The EBU had indicated that it would provide advice and guidance to counties and clubs. The Vice-Chair agreed to provide further information on the changes which was expected to provide for an 'opt in' arrangement rather than an 'opt out'.

##### **ii) Improvers Seminar for Competent Club Players**

There were seventeen places currently booked to date and so a viable number.

##### **iii) Duplimated Boards – Good Practice Guide**

No update was available due to the absence of R Jepson. Two issues that needed to be addressed were the distribution of the dealing files and the actual duplimating. Robin would be asked to produce the guide as soon as possible.

#### **c) Tournament Committee Meeting**

##### **i) Venue for Easter Festival**

Lesley reported that no suitable venue had been found as Hollins Hall was deemed too expensive and the location not as good as Ilkley re public transport. It was agreed that the Leeds Hilton Hotel be approached as a possible alternative.

ii) Yorkshire Congress - Revised Friday Format

The EBU had confirmed that a three session pairs event could take place and it had been proposed that the Friday afternoon session comprise a Ladies, Mens and Mixed Pairs event run either as separate or joint sessions as numbers dictated. The YCBA President expressed concern that a three session event may not be the most appropriate format and it was agreed that the matter be reviewed at a Tournament Committee meeting to be arranged in the near future.

iii) Competition Brochure – Publication Arrangements

The publication of the current year had been within a tight deadline and it was agreed that the draft for next year should be commenced as soon as possible and information updated as and when available to alleviate some of the difficulties. The distribution had worked well and a message of thanks was extended to Alan Broskill for this.

iv) Dates for 2018 Great Northern Swiss Pairs

This would be the weekend of 29/30 September so as not to coincide with the Autumn Overseas Congress, in 2019 it would revert to the first weekend in October.

#### 4) **MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA**

As a result of previous discussion and suggestions from Board members the Secretary in consultation with Robin Jepson had identified three options that encompassed the suggestions that were in line with the management of the EBU data. The Membership Secretary was to contact James Ward as to how the Pianola database could be kept up to date using the EBU database and a response was awaited.

The Vice-Chair proposed an alternative that membership should be based on a player playing on six occasions either at a YCBA club or in YCBA competitions. The policy for selection criteria for county matches (other than the Tollemache as the county of allegiance criteria was laid down by the EBU) would need to be decided. The Vice-Chair agreed to write to the EBU General Manager to ascertain if the required information could be obtained.

#### 5) **AUDITING OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2017/18**

Due to the increased charges by the current accountants Brown Butler it was proposed that Brian Ziff (a qualified and practising accountant) be asked to produce the necessary information and that this would be overseen by John Hayton (also a qualified and practising accountant).

#### 6) **REPORT FROM COUNTY CHAIRMANS' MEETING AND TRAINING SEMINAR**

a) County Chairmans' Meeting

Twenty six chairmen from a possible forty were in attendance.

Attendees split into four discussion groups to raise issues of interest or concern to report back to the main group. The following were raised :-

Youth bridge, café bridge, fast track bridge classes, teacher training, ways of supporting failing clubs, marketing and advertising etc.

The possibility of forming a project group to look at issues raised but it was generally felt that this should remain with County Working Groups (CWGs). It was agreed that Southern counties should make a greater effort to hold meetings which would then enable the nationwide network of CWGs to be involved together in the process.

b) Training Seminar

This had been very successful with much positive feedback from the sixty four attendees.

The total cost had been in the region of £1k but a contribution was awaited from EBED.

A subsequent seminar on some of the technical issues would be arranged and an advice

Signed:-----(Chairman)

Date:-----

sheet had been suggested relating to the 'subsets' referred to in the new rules. The Vice-Chair confirmed he intended to circulate the presentation plus additional advice.

## **7) BRIDGE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

The Play without the Experts' competition had attracted eleven and a half tables and had been well received.

Discussion had taken place on teaching in universities which was felt may be difficult to accomplish but a focus on cities and business hubs was being explored with a view to attracting young business personnel with a possible 'Fast track bridge' seminar.

The issue as to whether non-affiliated clubs and private teachers could advertise via the website had been raised and the previous decision not to allow this was re-affirmed.

The Regional Development Officer gave a report on the work he had undertaken since taking up the post which included an analysis of the membership trends of all YCBA's thirty five affiliated clubs which indicated that a number may no longer be viable when taking into account the current age profile. This would have major implications for the national organisation as this was likely to be replicated across the country.

It was concluded there was no brand management of bridge and much of the public did not know about it and various marketing strategies were to be deployed targeting schools and those approaching retirement in local press and any free publications. The issue of the progression from learning to playing competitively continued to be an area of development and Ripon BC were currently focusing on this and had just distributed a large number of leaflets which had led to a number of enquiries. The increasing options for playing bridge on-line was highlighted and whilst this did raise some income for the EBU the impact on clubs was the biggest concern.

## **8) SUCCESSION PLANNING AND ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

It was recognised that some Board members were undertaking a number of areas of responsibility which gave rise to a substantial workload and whilst there were sufficient resources to employ a paid officer the additional responsibility attached to this was felt to be prohibitive.

In order to progress this matter it was agreed that everyone should submit a list of roles and responsibilities to the Chairman as soon as practicably possible. It was noted that the current editor of the YCBA News publication had confirmed his intention to relinquish the role after the next three publications and to not seek re-election to the Board the following year.

The administration of future Simultaneous Pairs events also need finalising, the cost of the EBU administering had been obtained and was not felt to be prohibitive but a possible volunteer had been identified and the Chairman would progress the matter.

Arrangements were in place for a successor to compile the Yorkshire League fixtures and for these to be computerised. There was also a need to progress the Congress Manual.

## **9) DISCIPLINARY MATTERS UPDATE**

R Millet outlined that the EBU were currently considering issues arising out of inappropriate use of social media outside of bridge and membership of anyone appearing on the sex offenders register. It was expected that guidance on hate and prejudicial behaviour would be contained within the 'Best Behaviour at Bridge' guidance thereby incorporated into the by-laws. The Laws and Ethics committee would give guidance to anyone making a complaint and once agreed it would be incorporated into model constitutions and the White Book. It was proposed that any individual would have up to ninety days to make a complaint.

## **10) ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

### **a) EBU Tournament Panel**

The President raised the matter of the composition of the newly formed EBU Tournament Panel as it contained no representatives from the north or midland counties. It was agreed

Signed:-----(Chairman)

Date:-----

that the secretary send a letter to the EBU General Manager enquiring as to how the panel had been appointed and why all panel members were from the south of England.

b) Publication of Article in YCBA News

Discussion took place on the publication of articles in the YCBA News and the editing of articles so as to ensure there was no negative impact. The Chairman agreed to discuss this with the editor.

c) 'A' Selection Panel

This would convene in the near future to select the Tollemache Team.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

This would be held on Tuesday 12 December 2017 at the Garforth Holiday Inn commencing at 7.15 p.m. to specifically discuss membership criteria and roles and responsibilities.

Julia A Staniforth  
YCBA Secretary

Signed:-----(Chairman)

Date:-----