

**MINUTES OF THE YCBA TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 9 MIDDLETHORNE CLOSE, LEEDS COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.**

**PRESENT:** N Woolven (Chair), S V Davies, P G Mason, L Millet, R Millet and J A Staniforth.

**1) Apologies**

Apologies were received from P Godfrey.

**2) Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were received for any item on the agenda.

**3) Update on Congress Events**

a) 2017 Great Northern Swiss Pairs Entries

To date seventy-four pairs had entered the main event and ten pairs for the Improvers event. This was less than in previous years and was felt to be partly attributable to the date coinciding with the Yom Kippur Jewish holiday. (On examining the Jewish holiday calendar there would be no further clash of dates for several years.) In view of the numbers it was agreed that the hire of the Neville Suite be cancelled if this could be done at no cost. Gill Copeland had agreed to act as host for both days and L & R Millet had offered to act as the stand-by pair on the Sunday but no stand-by pair had volunteered for the Saturday sessions. Lesley agreed to ask members of Leeds BC and Stuart would enquire at Bradford BC. Accommodation had been booked for five tournament directors but this could reduce to three or four dependent on final numbers with the number of TDs reducing to three on Saturday and four on Sunday. The meal arrangements had been agreed and Alistair Copeland would transport the tables.

b) 2018 Harrogate Spring Congress Arrangements

The hotel had confirmed no price increase for accommodation or room hire and the only change to the programme was a fifteen minute earlier start time for the Saturday evening session and no designated break in the Friday afternoon session. Lesley Millet agreed to act as host and the number of staff rooms would be six the same as the previous year with four TDs for the Friday afternoon and six for the subsequent sessions. The Directors needed to be confirmed by the end of January 2018.

**4) Venue for 2018 Easter Festival**

Leeds Hilton had confirmed room rates of £139 for single B&B and £149 for double occupancy for the Saturday evening with £1,400 for daily room hire. Room hire at the Craiglands in Ilkley would be £1k per day with room rates slightly less and no parking charges. It was agreed that Ilkley was a more appropriate location for an Easter break and on this basis Lesley agreed to discuss the concerns that arose last year with a view to rectifying any problems. The ballroom at the Craiglands provided a much more suitable playing area but it's availability would need to be ascertained. The issue of a linked scoring system between rooms was raised and Stuart would contact the EBU regarding this. An offer had been received from Bev Godfrey (a member of the North East) to act as host for the event and it was agreed this should be accepted.

## **5) Review of Friday programme for 2018 Yorkshire Congress**

Discussion took place on alternative formats to the Friday competitions in view of issues arising from last year's event and the reducing numbers in the men's and ladies' pairs events. It was concluded that whilst combining the men's, ladies' and mixed pairs event may provide for an adequate number of competitors in view of the wide range of abilities likely to compete this may deter some pairs from entering. It was agreed to dispense with the Friday events in 2018 and retain the Saturday and Sunday events in their present format. Trophies for the Men's, Ladies' and Mixed Pairs would be awarded to the leading corresponding pairs in the main pairs final.

The Secretary agreed to approach Harrogate BC to ascertain if it would be possible to include in the programme the availability of bridge at the club on the Friday evening and to propose it be termed 'Pre-Congress Event' with the provision of a trophy for the winners which would be supplied and funded by YCBA. A request would also be made for a host for the two days.

As the AGM was also scheduled for the Saturday morning at 11.00am the setting up would need to be undertaken early on the day with the delivery of the equipment on the preceding day. The Chairman had agreed to transport the equipment.

The entry fee was agreed as £30 per day with £56 for both days. Details of accommodation cost were needed

## **6) Outsourcing of Affiliated Teams competition**

As this event was for teams from affiliated clubs it was agreed the present arrangements continue.

## **7) 2018/19 one-day competition venues**

Doncaster BC had indicated a willingness to host a YCBA one-day event preferably during May with the provision of a sandwich buffet tea. Possible events were the Northern Counties Improvers or the Mixed Pairs event.

## **8) Production of a Congress Reference Manual**

Ron Millet had produced a detailed contents page which included dates, venue, formats, tournament directors, marketing, catering, equipment etc. It was agreed that Ron continue the draft and any ideas for inclusion be forwarded to Ron by the end of 2017 with a view to a first draft being available at the beginning of 2018.

## **9) Schools' competition update**

The Chairman agreed to contact the County Youth Officer for an update for presentation at the next most appropriate meeting.

## **10) Production of 2018/19 Competition Brochure**

The YCBA President confirmed that he would provide details of the 2018/19 Yorkshire league fixtures in time for the next Members Meeting in November 2017 and would provide an outline of the draft calendar by early 2018 in the brochure format subject to a copy being obtained in Microsoft word format from the printing company. Lesley/Ron Millet would produce the final draft and all members of the Tournament Committee would be asked to check the content thoroughly before printing took place. Distribution of the brochure would be at the EBU Summer Congress.

It was agreed to extend the length of the brochure to accommodate spacing between some headings for an improved appearance.

A separate calendar of improvers events would be also be produced and made available on the website.

## **11) Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 27 February provisionally at a time of 10.30am.

## **12) Any Other Business**

### a) Tournament Secretary's Report

The Tournament Secretary circulated a report denoting competition entries for the period 1 September 2016 to 30 September 2017. Generally, there was a slight reduction in entries for most competitions in comparison to the previous year, with the exception of the Mixed Pivot Teams, the Affiliated Teams and the Yorkshire Congress.

The EBU had commented on the surplus which had accrued from the 2017 Spring Congress and may wish to discuss future financial arrangements.

### b) Fast Track Bridge Teaching

A request for grant funding had been made to EBED to facilitate the teaching of 'fast track' bridge but this had been refused. A course for bridge teachers to teach 'fast track' bridge was being arranged and funded through the YCBA bridge development budget.

### c) EBU Northern Counties Working Group Meeting

The next meeting was taking place at Lesley & Ron Millet's home on Monday 23 October 2017 and would be attended by the new EBU General Manager. The Chairman agreed he would attend for the first part of the meeting as he had a bridge teaching commitment later in the day.

### d) Michael Byrne Seminar on 17 September 2017

Thirty delegates had attended and feedback indicated that it had been a very worthwhile event and had represented good value for money. A further event therefore was expected to be arranged.