

MINUTES OF THE YCBA BRIDGE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2017

Present:

Chair - Lesley Millet (LM), Nick Woolven (NW), Brian Davison (BD),
Anne Kimberley (AK), Ron Millet (RM), David Guild (DG)

Apologies: Phil Godfrey, Ian Johns, Phil Morrison, Georgina Wooler,

Previous Minutes: Minutes were presented and approved. No matters arising.

1.EBU Summer Festival

The Eastbourne tournament venue is not available this August. The EBU have decided to run the main sessions in Richmond Club and to further disseminate the programme across England, to be run in substantial clubs as simultaneous evening events (Need 13 tables minimum per club venue. 26 boards per event and some events are stratified).

The suggested programme is:

- Monday 6th August - Play with the Experts Pairs
- Tuesday 7th August - GCH Fox Championship Pairs
- Wednesday 15th August - Mixed Pivot Teams
- Thursday 16th August - Mixed Pairs Championship

The Committee discussed possible Club venues and decided to set up hub clubs but to offer the venue authority to any club that could generate 13 tables of entrants. It is not compulsory for a club to run all 4 events and some clubs may be selective.

The Committee discussed a proposal from Gordon Rainsford for club administering and charging out the events.

Action: LM to contact Gordon and to question:

1. The proposal is for a player surcharge of £3 per event. The Committee believe that the maximum surcharge should be £1.50, equivalent to that of charity sims.
2. The proposal excludes clubs that do not have EBU Score. As many clubs still rely on Scorebridge, this seems self-defeating.
3. How are prize monies going to be allocated? Is there a separate Northern prize structure? How are prizes going to be fragmented to achieve a good local success rate?
4. Are there any criteria for standard of TD? Is it County level and above or are local level TD's acceptable?
5. Is mixed pivot teams a popular event? Or would general pivot teams attract more participants?
6. What are the criteria for player entry? Do they have to be active EBU members?
7. The Committee feel that this congress needs to be marketed not as a break down of the Summer Congress, possibly perceived as a decline, but as a completely new development by the EBU to bring more variety in sims play to local club players. (One of the drivers for local club players to participate in EBU events is to have more challenge beyond their own club. Research is showing that they are less likely to travel distances to achieve this and disseminated congresses are a solution).

Action: LM to report back to Committee and Hub clubs and communications to all clubs to be actioned once the admin is confirmed.

2. County Membership Definition

Following the last YCBA Board meeting, there has been a lot of correspondence discussion regarding the inclusion/exclusion criteria of a player in County competitions.

Action: Phil Godfrey, John Hayton and Robin Jepson to work up a robust definition of a YCBA member and to present this before the next Development Committee Meeting.

3. Seminars for 2018

Agreed that the futures seminars programme needs to be structured at least 9 months ahead to secure speakers. The main speaker criterion is for ability to deliver an enthralling seminar rather than speaker's play prowess.

Seminars need to be before the November start of the league season. The seminars are to be stratified:

Top level at queen and above – probably September or October

Improver level - probably Christmas to Easter

Intermediate level – probably Easter to Summer.

NW to format schedule and have overall programme responsibility assisted by all. Fiona Brown unlikely to be available for 2018 schedule. Speaker contacts to include:

Actions: NW for Ian Payne intermediary to David Bakhshi, BD/Jim Edwards for Andrew Robson, LM for Tom Copeland.

4. Membership Project – Yorkshire Marketing Campaign

The Committee discussed DG's latest Progress Report 18 December 2017.

Actions were:

Garforth BC

Action: DG to progress the marketing donation from the Club. DG to monitor continuance of the Club and have contingency plans formalised if collapse.

Ripon City BC

Action: DG to ensure the Club have the EBU include them on the grants list for a duplimator in anticipation of the grant being resurrected.

RM reported that EBED were struggling to provide a Yorkshire Teachers list but hoped to have this in hand for calendar year end. The Committee discussed the priorities for EBED monetary assistance for starting and transitioning a bridge club and decided these as:

1. Funding of teacher rooms
2. Funding of equipment to take clubs from hand casting to computerised scoring – Equipment to include servers and duplimators and may be lease/rental schemes.

5. City Centre bridge play

Tom Copeland and Alan Haywood of Leeds BC are progressing this for start date 19 Jan 2018 6pm to 8pm at Alan's work place with 16 players to start. To buy bridge equipment:

Actions: LM to buy 4 bridge tables + cloths. BD to supply bidding boxes + buy aluminium carry case.

6. Report on the Northern Counties Working Party

Discussed. As already separately documented, no actions were required.

7. Sponsorship of EBU Juniors Team & Junior Congresses

This item has arisen as the EBU Juniors 32 player squad have qualified for the World Bridge Congress in China this year and need £70,000 funding for flight and accommodation. The

EBU have suggested in email to County Chairmen that counties and clubs should make donations to fund this unbudgeted shortfall.

This was discussed and agreed that juniors have a responsibility for their own fund raising and that this is best done via a personal Just Giving page for each player.. Daniel Winter is the only junior in the squad from Yorkshire. It was agreed that YCBA will donate £200 to Daniel's Just Giving page and assist in publicising the page to Yorkshire Bridge Clubs.

Action: NW to speak with Daniel and his parents to agree Just Giving page set up.

The Committee also discussed payment for Congress entry for the Junior Squad members. This could be up to 32 juniors but is likely to be 4 for the Yorkshire Junior Congresses. It was agreed that we set a 2018 budget ceiling of £400 to permit free entry, including food, for those congress entrants who are in the EBU Junior Squad. Free entry is only available for entrants who have booked 7 days in advance; not walk-ins. This free entry to be reviewed at end of calendar 2018.

Action: NW to inform Stuart Davies of this concession and Stuart to keep NW updated on take up level.

Next Meeting: In approximately three months. Exact to be advised by LM

Lesley Millet