

MINUTES of the YCBA TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE meeting held at 9 Middlethorpe Close, Leeds on Tuesday 24th September 2019 at 10.30 am.

PRESENT: Nick Woolven (chair), Lesley Millet, Stuart Davies, Ron Millet, Philip Mason and (standing in for JAS) Robin Jepson.

1. Apologies for absence had been received from Julia Staniforth and Phil Godfrey, and also from invited attendee, Phil Morrison.
2. There were no declarations of interest.
3. Minutes of the meetings of the Tournament Committee on 30 April 2019 were approved. There were no matters arising.
4. Review of the Easter Festival: after being held at the Hilton Hotel Leeds in 2018, the return of the Festival to the Craiglunds Hotel, Ilkley had proved successful, attributed to the attractive location and good car parking. A surplus of about £2,500 was achieved. Although the Improvers Teams' had attracted only four entries it was agreed that this event should continue.

Review of the Yorkshire Congress: a surplus of about £500 was achieved. It was agreed that the shorter congress, of two days rather than three as formerly, should continue. The amalgamation of the Ladies', Men's and Mixed Pairs competitions into the Championship Pairs was also approved. It was also agreed that consideration be given to reducing the number of TDs in attendance with a view to saving costs. SD advised that the EBU guideline is one TD per 16 tables in play, plus a scorer. The dates of the congress in 2021 would be 12-13 June and in 2022 11-12 June.

5. Review of Mixed Pivot Teams: only a small number of entries had been received to date for this year's event on 20 October. It was agreed to continue with the event this year but its future would be reviewed at the next TC meeting. Suggestions put forward included changing the format to an open pivot teams (not necessarily mixed), moving the date back to December, and outsourcing to an affiliated club – the event is presently held at Doncaster but Leeds or York would be more central venues.

6. Arrangements and entries for the Great Northern Swiss Pairs. SD reported that to date he had received 39 entries and 9 for the improvers with another 4 intended entries not yet paid for. He expected the number to rise to about 50 but still a significant drop from 2018. RM contacted the EBU by phone to arrange for a email reminder to be sent to all players in Yorkshire and some adjoining counties.

7. Harrogate Spring Congress: The dates in 2020 will be 21-23 February and in 2021 12-14 February. LM reported the cost of room hire at the Cairn Hotel had increased, for both the HSC and the YC. In view of this, an increase in entry fees of £2 for all events was agreed, thus Pairs £68, Teams £32, Improvers £12, Mixed and Open Pairs £12, and the full congress £102. An Improvers' Teams event to be held on the Sunday with a starting time of 2.00 playing about 24 boards and finishing about 5.30.

Yorkshire Congress: similarly, an increase in entry fees of £2 for all events was agreed, thus Pairs £32, Teams £32, Improvers' Pairs and Improvers' Teams £12, full congress £60.

8. Improvers' Teams events: should be staged at all the congresses where an Improvers' Pairs event is already established (EF, HSC and YC).

9. 2020 Easter Festival: the across the board increase of entry fees of £2 per event should also apply to the Easter Festival in 2020.

10. Other business: LM reported that the expenses of the YCBA Simultaneous Pairs now exceed the entry fees. It was agreed that the entry fee would increase to £1.50 per player. Pre-printed booklets of the hands would no longer be provided but a pdf of the hands with a commentary would be sent to participating clubs who may print out the sheets for the players if they wish. The prize fund would be reduced to £100 with £50, £30 and £20 for each of the first three pairs.

11. Next meeting: Monday 16 March 2020 at the same venue, starting time 10.30 am.

The meeting closed at 12.30 pm.