

MINUTES of the YCBA TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE meeting held at 9 Middlethorne Close, Leeds on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.pm.

**Present:** Nick Woolven (chair), Lesley Millet, Stuart Davies, Phil Godfrey, Philip Mason and Ron Millet.

1. Apologies for absence received from Julia Staniforth
2. There were no declarations of interest
3. Minutes of the tournament committee on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were approved. The only matter arising was the recommendation of PG that only one TD plus scorer was needed for 20 tables in play rather than the recommended 16 for the Yorkshire congress.
4. Harrogate Spring Congress: 2 stand-by pairs had been found if required on the day and the host informed should they be required. The estimated budget for the congress was about £7000 of which the hotel and dinner came to about £4800. Entry status stood at 35 pairs and 24 teams which was up on last year with 8 pairs and 2 teams for the improvers. RM said he would contact the EBU to circularise all YCBA members about this congress and future ones. NW, together with another person (possibly Alan Hayward) agreed to do the booklets for the improvers.
5. Northern Easter Festival: The new venue of the Marriot at York was well received, especially with free tea and coffee throughout the event, together with free parking. Whilst the rooms were a little more expensive, this was not felt as a hindrance to the event. If the numbers were on a par with last year at Ilkley, then the forecast was for a £2500 surplus. So far, 2 improvers pairs had entered. SD noticed that the codes were wrong on the EBU website and will get them changed. NW to do the improvers booklets.
6. Yorkshire Congress: All preparations in place. LM and SD said they found it difficult to have a full attendance at the board meeting but the consensus was to still have it at the congress. Food requirements for the AGM were to be looked at by LM but again the consensus was that the food last year was more than adequate.
7. GNSP: This had been moved to 17/18<sup>th</sup> October due to the clash with the overseas congress and a date for the NBL had also to be changed. It was felt that with the Premier league going on that weekend there would be a loss of maybe up to 10 tables but hopefully this will be avoided in later years. Profit from last year was about £2000.
8. All dates for future congresses had been submitted to the EBU to try and ensure no (or a reduced) number of clashes with other events. **YC** 12/13-6-2021 and 11/12-6 2022. **NEF** 2/3/4-4-2021, 15/16/17-4-2022. **GNSP** 2/3-10/2021, 1/2-10-2022. **HSC** 12/13/14-2-2021, 11/12/13-2-2022.

9. The costings for the very successful Yorkshire improvers pairs was discussed, especially concerning the food costs and what was provided for the £12 charge. Whilst a small profit usually ensued, only 24 boards are played and the query was whether such a substantial tea was required. NW to check with Brian Davison/Jim Edwards.
10. Non-congress Yorkshire events were discussed as follows: **Mixed Pivot Teams** only 6 teams this year and one proposal was to scrap the event altogether or to outsource it. (York/Sheffield/Doncaster were mooted as possible venues for 2021). However, after discussion it was proposed that the event continue at Doncaster for 1 more year with a change in format to mixed teams (not pivot). NW to check with JS over Doncaster hosting. **Yorkshire Pairs** 9 tables this year meant that it was just viable to run but there was no discussion about scrapping the counties premier pairs event. The suggestion was made to move it to a week later in January in the hope of a greater attendance and this was approved but a change in venue from Bradford was also looked at. No change, apart from date for next year though. PGM to check YL dates for 2021 to avoid clash. **Yorkshire Cup** 13 tables at Leeds, no changes proposed. **Mixed Pairs** 10 tables at Wetherby, no changes proposed. **Waddington Cup** 13 tables at Leeds, no changes proposed. **PwtE** 14 tables at York, no changes proposed. Thanks to Pauline Stout for taking on the organisation.
11. For the outsourced events, Nelson Rose Bowl, Castle swiss pairs, Fritch, Peter Littlewood pairs and affiliated teams PGM to look at dates for the calendar to check no relevant clashes with EBU or other events for next year. No other changes proposed.
12. Yorkshire league dates for 2020/21 to be approved by the board were:  
1/11,15/11,6/12,3/1,24/1,21/2,7/3.
13. The EBU run a service to host knockout teams events and with a view to reducing the burden on SD, PG agreed to look at the costs (if any) of this service for the Waddington shield and Yorkshire trophy.
14. A letter had been received by SD and PG regarding the year end congress at Blackpool from Gordon Rainsford. He suggested the event was no longer viable (17 tables pairs/16 teams) and was looking at the potential for large clubs to host the event in future. Yorkshire would take over the organisation and running of this event and liaise with Leeds as a possible venue. Suggestions then abounded about ways to change the event (3 to 2 days etc) and the amount of work involved. In principle, if Leeds were willing, it was agreed to be looked at and PG to approach a possible helper for LM to organise the event.
15. It was suggested by RM that at the next meeting improvers events needed to be given a higher profile as this was the growth area. Charges for all congresses needed to be looked at, including entry fees for all improvers events. This was agreed.
16. The meeting closed at 9.45 pm and the date for the next meeting was agreed as Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at the same venue, starting at 10.30.