

MINUTES OF THE YCBA TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 30 APRIL 2019 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 and P Morrison. No declarations of interest were received for any item on the agenda.

2) Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2018

a) Item 6 - 2019 Mixed Pairs

The Tournament Secretary reported that York and Beauchief BCs had held a qualifying heat for this event and it was concluded that the decision to have only open entry had not been relayed to clubs sufficiently.

The venue had subsequently been agreed as Wetherby BC but competition calendar stated Bradford BC and both issues needed to be confirmed on the website.

b) Simultaneous Pairs Events

The events were working well under the new organiser and notification had recently been received that Hull BC were to commence participating in the events.

3) Review of Great Northern Swiss Pairs, Harrogate and Easter congress events

a) 2018 Great Northern Swiss Pairs

This had again been successful with 74 pairs competing in the main event and 16 pairs competing in the Improvers event. An overall surplus of around £2k had accrued. The feedback forms were not available for the meeting but there had been an issue with the temperature being too low due to the constant use of the air conditioning and it was agreed that the Congress Secretary needed to discuss this with the hotel and ensure the host was aware so it could be monitored.

b) 2019 Harrogate Spring Congress

Similarly the event had been well received and the hotel arrangements worked well due to the experience hosting YCBA events. Entries were as follows:

Improvers' pairs: 26 pairs

Open pairs: 24 pairs

Mixed pairs: 30 pairs

Swiss Pairs: 100 pairs

Swiss teams: 50 teams (a reduction of 7 from 2018)

Improvers' teams: 6 teams

Overall surplus around £7k

c) 2019 Easter Festival

The return to the Craiglands Hotel at Ilkley had attracted many positive comments particularly in relation to the playing area as the ballroom had been available at no extra cost. There were some minor issues to address such as some of the food served was not hot and cold plates had been used. There were also a few health and safety issues, one of which related to the number of steps needed to access rooms. The Tournament Secretary was asked to summarise the feedback forms so that the issues could be raised with the hotel. It was agreed that for future congress events the host be asked to compile a summary of the feedback forms. The size of van

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needed for hire was raised and it was felt that the smaller size van for a cost of just over £50 was good value and smaller items could be transported by car. Funding for a new printer was agreed when this was needed.

Entries were:

Mixed pairs: 24 pairs

Open pairs: 14 pairs

Improvers' pairs: 17 pairs

Swiss Pairs: 52 pairs

Improvers' teams: 4 teams

Swiss teams: 28 teams

Surplus around £2.4k

It was agreed that the event continue at the Craiglands Hotel and enquiries be made regarding the cost of tea/coffee being included and the entry fee be increased by £1 per head to cover this.

4) Update on 2019 Yorkshire Congress

Only a small number of entries had been received to date but leaflets had been circulated. The AGM would take place in the James room (not the Edward room) at 11.00 am. and the seating format arranged. It was agreed that food at noon for 40 should be ordered and that it should be a finger type buffet with some fresh fruit that did not require cutlery.

5) Entry Fees/Arrangements for 2019 GNSP

Current fees were £150 per pair and £38 per pair for improvers. The treasurer reported that the cost of meals would increase by £2 per head and both TD and licence fees would increase by around 3 %.

It was agreed that the fees for 2019 be £78 per player, £21 for improvers and £56 for juniors.

The treasurer raised the issue of direct bank payments as the bank account was currently being transferred to Santander but some of the necessary documentation required to be completed by Board members was still awaited and this could delay the printing of the entry forms which were usually distributed at the YCBA Congress. It was agreed that if necessary the leaflets could await distribution at the EBU Northern Summer Congress.

6) Update on 2018/19 competitions held to date

Both the Yorkshire Cup and Affiliated Teams had increased entries, the Mixed Pivot Teams had only attracted eight teams and the Yorkshire Pairs event only 22 pairs the lowest for some time.. Outsourced events continued to do well although Sheffield BC had changed the Peter Littlewood event from mid-week to Saturday 29 June 2019.

7) 2019/20 competition calendar and recommendation for entry fees

It was agreed to change the date of the Mixed Pivot Teams to 20 October 2019 and to approach Ilkley BC to host. If Ilkley declined then Doncaster BC was to be considered. The Yorkshire Pairs event needed to be marketed and David Guild was to be asked for advice on this and marketing generally was to be discussed at a future Board meeting.

Generally the remainder of the calendar would correspond to that of previous years with Garforth Swiss Teams a week later at Garforth's request. Other venues would need to be finalised.

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8) Organisation of Improvers' Events

Improvers' events continued to attract large entries and the recent event at Leeds BC was oversubscribed. Teams events were less popular but Leeds BC were running 'taster' events attracting 5-6 teams and three additional teams had been entered in the 2019/20 Yorkshire League.

9) Schools' competition update

There was no update from the County Youth Officer and it was suggested that the role would benefit from another person supporting and working alongside with both the CYO and other roles as part of succession planning. It was agreed that Pauline Stout be asked to support the CYO.

The Chairman reported that the teacher at QUEGS was retiring and whilst a new member of teaching staff was being sought if no one came forward it was not known if the teaching would continue. This would be disappointing as there were currently sixteen students.

10) 'Play Without the Experts' events

The previous organiser had now relinquished the responsibility and it was thought that Pauline Stout had indicated a willingness to undertake the organisation. The Chairman agreed to verify this with Pauline.

11) Production and publication of 2019/20 competition brochure

The Treasurer wished to relinquish the production of the document and it was agreed the Assistant Secretary be asked to undertake this. A template was available for updating and Board members would proof read. Ron Millet suggested that the brochure may be improved by creating it in a six page format the size of the EBU diary and he agreed to liaise with the Assistant Secretary as to the feasibility.

12) Other urgent items

Website Maintenance

Notification had been received that the webmaster was unable to continue with any tournament directing work due to illness and whilst the website was being maintained it was felt necessary to establish whether any arrangements needed to be put in place to ensure maintenance of the site was continued. The chairman agreed to contact the webmaster to ascertain the position.

13) Review of Terms of Reference

The terms of reference were reviewed and it was agreed no changes were required.

14) Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 24 September 2019 commencing at 10.30am. at the Millet's home.

Signed:.....3.....Chairman