

# **MINUTES OF THE YCBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT DONCASTER BRIDGE CLUB ON FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016 COMMENCING AT 7:15 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** P Godfrey (Vice-Chairman), J Staniforth (Secretary), J Latham (Assistant Secretary/Harrogate), S V Davies (Tournament Secretary/Bradford), J Brennan (Wetherby), I Cowe (York), M Cowe (York), C Fort (Brighouse), A Jeal (Garforth), M Jeal (Garforth) R Jepson (Leeds), G W Jepson (Vice-President/Sheffield), G Kenyon (Olicana), E Latham (Harrogate), P G Mason (President/Malton), M Rattenbury (Keighley), G Shaw (Wetherby), J O'Sullivan (Wakefield), A Smith (Shelley), J Smith (Shelley), P Trevanion (Huddersfield), P Wallace (Wakefield) and D Waxman (Sheffield)  
J Ballans, J Baker, A Elliott, D Mann and M Mills (Doncaster - For Items 10,14 and 16)

## **1) Apologies**

N Woolven (Chairman), L Millet (Treasurer), M Bratley (York), R Millet (Leeds), R Turner (Sheffield) and M Whyms (Sheffield).

## **2) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015 and Members Meeting Held on 28 November 2015**

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **3) Matters Arising**

There were no separate matters arising.

## **4) Chairman's Report**

The Vice-Chairman read the contents of the Chairman's report who had apologised for being unable to attend due to an unexpected family commitment which was not known when the date of the meeting had been set.

The report outlined the continuing success of the Yorkshire League with 83 teams competing and so still the envy of other counties. YCBA members had had continued success in national competitions with David Robinson and partner winning the Grand Masters Pairs event and Denis and Pearl Murphy winning the Portland Pairs.

County competitions were continually being reviewed in order to attract and retain players and the outsourcing of the Nelson Rose Bowl, Individual, Flich and latterly the Peter Littlewood Mid-Week Pairs had proved successful in reviving these events. The range of beginners and improvers events had also been extended particularly at Congress events. Ideas for new competitions and formats were always welcomed.

YCBA continued to receive national recognition for administering congress events and would now take over the organisation of the EBU Spring Congress at Harrogate in February 2017 and whilst these benefitted the county both financially and by providing competitive bridge a great deal of work was required to organise the events and more volunteers were needed to support the work of the administrators who were now managing four annual congresses.

Youth bridge continues to be an important part of development for the future and a message of appreciation was extended to all those who give their time teaching bridge in schools and anyone who was interested in taking classes was asked to contact Mark Bratley the County Youth Officer.

Thanks were expressed to all volunteers in the affiliated clubs, the Management Board for their work and support throughout the year and also to Rob Turner and Lesley Blanchard for the continued maintenance of the website.

## **5) Secretary's Report**

The Secretary confirmed that meetings of the Management Board and a Members meeting had been convened in accordance with the constitution. There had been no requirement to formally convene a meeting of the Conduct Committee but advice had been provided to an affiliated club regarding a conduct issue.

A request had been received from a member to initiate a facility for individuals to seek partners for competition and congress events. It was felt that a facility could be established using the Pianola system on a similar basis to that used successfully by a number of clubs. Sheffield Bridge Club would be hosting a Tournament Directors' course in the autumn. A message of appreciation was extended to the thirty four affiliated club secretaries for their support over the past year.

#### 6) **Treasurer's Report**

Copies of the accounts prepared by Brown Butler (Leeds Chartered Accountants) for the year ended 31 March 2016 were circulated for consideration.

The Treasurer provided a separate written report outlining the following:

Universal Membership Subscription (P2P) receipts were in line with the previous year and as the EBU had not increased their rate for 2016/17 it was not felt appropriate to recommend any change to the county rate for 2017/18.

There had been further purchase of equipment to ensure the smooth running of the increasing number of congresses administered by the county (four in 2017).

No Fear Bridge had continued with sponsorship.

The closing cash balance had increased due to there being two Easter festivals within the financial year and taking this into account the overall balance was broadly the same. The value of fixed assets had decreased in line with the depreciation policy.

A message of appreciation was extended to the Tournament Secretary and those involved with the running of events for the efficient collection of monies.

The following questions were raised:

#### **What was the profit/loss figure for this year's Yorkshire Congress in view of the £199 loss in 2015?**

The Vice-Chair reported that the figures for 2016 had not yet been finalised but it was expected that there would be a further loss due to reduced entries even though costs had reduced.

#### **Why was there a substantial difference in the costs for the Yorkshire League between 2015 and 2016?**

It was explained that the cost denoted in 2015 were incorrect and the 2016 figure was correct.

#### **Why was the largest element of expenditure listed as sundries?**

The secretary explained that this was likely to be due to the expenses spreadsheet currently used and items of expenditure may be included that belonged to other headings e.g. Shareholders expenditure which seemed lower than what would be expected.

#### 7) **Tournament Secretary's Report**

A copy of the report was circulated outlining entries for the current competition year with corresponding entries for the previous year. Entries in a number of competitions had reduced other than the Mixed Pairs event which had been oversubscribed due to a limit of 14 tables and the Margery Cartwright Simultaneous Pairs event which had increased by 22 pairs and an additional heat.

An enquiry was made as to whether the Stratified Pairs event was to continue and it was confirmed that a decision had been taken to withdraw this from the calendar due its declining popularity.

#### 8) **Membership Secretary's Report**

Regrettably no report had been provided by the Membership Secretary. It was explained that work was progressing with the Pianola database and clubs were thanked for providing membership data. Members were asked to forward their personal email addresses to Ted Crebbin for inclusion in the database. The EBU had recently reported that a new membership database was being commissioned and it was hoped that this would improve the management of data for both the EBU and Counties in the near future.

#### 9) **Bridge Development Committee Report**

The Chair of the Committee provided a written report outlining the work undertaken over the last year as follows:

The new publication 'YCBA News' edited by David Waxman was now being circulated to all clubs electronically and in many cases forwarded to individual members.

Updating of the YCBA website was still awaited and the Learnbridge website continued to provide valuable information .

Improvers events were very well supported and a new event 'Play without the Experts' would take place in July for players graded Jack and below following a request at the YCBA Members meeting last November.

Youth bridge was continuing to develop with the aim of working with more schools and universities in the next year in conjunction with the Awards Scheme introduced by the EBU. Volunteers were needed to support the expansion of work in this area and to support the Bridge Development Committee.

The Northern Counties Working Group were continuing to arrange events and the Joint Improvers Pairs event had taken place for the second year in May.

#### **10) Changes to the YCBA Constitution**

The proposed changes to the constitution contained in Appendix 1 that had been circulated in advance of the meeting were agreed unanimously.

#### **11) Yorkshire League Fixtures and Draft Calendar of Events for 2016/17**

The Yorkshire League fixtures were provided for all competing clubs and arrangements made to forward any, where a club was not represented at the meeting. The President who had retained responsibility for producing the fixtures explained that there would be the 81 teams for the coming season. There would be 9 leagues of 8 teams and a Division 10 comprising 9 teams thereby requiring two extra Sunday dates for that division. Revisions had been made to the league rules to clarify promotion/relegation criteria when teams withdraw from the league. Members raised the unpopularity of a fixture date coinciding with Mothering Sunday and it was explained this only occurred every few years usually when Easter was very early and would not do so again for several years.

The draft calendar for 2016/17 was circulated and as usual had been arranged around EBU events with venues being finalised in consultation with clubs and published in the annual competition leaflet. Whilst the Mixed Pairs event had been very successful and oversubscribed Wetherby BC had requested to host only a smaller event and therefore the event would revert to Bradford BC unless any other club offered to host. An Improvers Pairs event would take place at all Congress events in the county and following a request at the Members Meeting a 'Mid-Range Swiss Pairs event was to be included in the calendar.

#### **12) Report on Inter-County Competitions**

The Tollemache Team had finished in second place in the qualifying heats thereby qualifying for the main final finishing seventh. Yorkshire had retained the President's Cup in 2015 and were hoping for an unprecedented third win. Northern league teams were placed 2nd and 5th in the 'A' Division, 4th in the 'B' Division and 1st and 5<sup>th</sup> in the 'C' Division. Yorkshire 'C' SE had finished second in the 2015 national final and were hoping for success in the 2016 final.

#### **13) National Update**

The Assistant Secretary outlined the following key points:

- The EBU is continuing to modernise its committee system but there had been an insufficient majority at the AGM to enact proposed changes to the Selection Committee
- Appeals were being considered in respect of VAT charges and the recognition of bridge as a sport following unsuccessful legal challenges
- Ron Millet had been re-elected to the EBU Board of Directors
- The EBU finances were secure and UMS (P2P) had not been increased in 2016/17

#### **14) County UMS, Club Affiliation and Direct Members Fees for 2017/18**

In accordance with the requirements of the constitution consideration was given to the fees to be charged by YCBA for the following year. In view of the current financial position it was

agreed that the 5p UMS levy, the £5 charge for direct members and the waiving of any county club fee should continue for the next year.

### 15) Members Forum

Discussion took place on the date/time/venue of the next Members Meeting and whether this should coincide with a YCBA event to encourage attendance. It was agreed that the Members Meeting be held prior to the Mixed Pivot Teams event at Bradford Bridge Club on Sunday 27 November 2016 commencing at 11.00 a.m.

### 16) Election of Officers and Management Board for 2016/17

The office holders of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and Tournament Secretary along with four nominations for the Management Board were duly proposed and seconded as follows:

Chairman	Nick Woolven	Anne Mackman	Mike Ferguson
Vice-Chairman	Phil Godfrey	Stuart Kay	Keith Sowerbutts
Secretary	Julia Staniforth	Philip Mason	Geoff Kenyon
Treasurer	Lesley Millett	Nick Woolven	Phil Godfrey
Assistant Secretary	Janet Latham	Ted Crebbin	Judith Biles
Tournament Secretary	Stuart Davies	Elaine Van Heel	Susan Hoyle
Management Board	John O' Sullivan	Adrian Goulding	Geoff Newman
Management Board	Robin Jepson	Christina Turner	Alan Brosgill
Management Board	Mark Bratley	Paul Brereton	Keith Sowerbutts
Management Board	David Waxman	Graham Jepson	Sandy Davies

### 17) Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting was agreed as Saturday 3 June 2017 at the Cairn Hotel Harrogate at 11.30 a.m. The Vice-Chairman extended a message of appreciation for the hospitality provide by Doncaster Bridge Club.

### 18) Presentation of Trophies

Trophies were presented to a representative from the club of the leading team in each Yorkshire league division for the 2014/15 season.

Division 1 – Sheffield A (Morning Telegraph Cup) – Presented to D Waxman (retained by Secretary for engraving.

Division 2 – Sheffield B (Green Un Cup) – Retained by Secretary for engraving amendment.

Division 3 – Ilkley A (The Sheffield Shield) - Received by Geoff Kenyon

Division 4 – Garforth A (Lawrence Batley Trophy) - Received by Mike Jeal

Division 5 – Beauchief A (Toulson Trophy) - Received by Graham Jepson

Division 6 – Shelley (Winnie Pattinson Salver) - Received by Jeff Smith

Division 7 – Brighouse B (Cartwright Trophy) - Received by C Fort

Division 8 – York D (YCBA Trophy) - Received by Margaret Cowe

Division 9 – Thirsk B (Yorkshire Bank Trophy) – Retained by Secretary

Division 10 – York E (YCBA Trophy) - Received by Margaret Cowe

(Division 11 – Two Trophies are retained by Olicana BC)

The Waddington Shield was received by Patrick Trevanion on behalf of the winning team of four Huddersfield BC members.

The Yorkshire Trophy was presented to Ted Latham a member of the winning team from Harrogate BC.

The Affiliated Teams trophy was presented to Julia Staniforth a member of the winning Doncaster team.

Signed: ----- (Chairman)

Date: -----

## **Recommended Changes to the YCBA Constitution**

### 1) Section 3.5 – Management of the Association

#### a) Replace:

‘The Treasurer shall account to the Management Board for all financial transactions as and when required and prepare a report and statement of accounts duly audited, for each Annual General Meeting.’

With:

‘The Treasurer shall account to the Management Board for all financial transactions as and when required and prepare a report and statement of accounts duly certified by an independent person who is reasonably believed by the Management Board to have the requisite ability and practical experience to carry out a competent examination of the accounts, for each Annual General Meeting.’

#### b) Replace:

‘three authorised signatories’

With:

‘four authorised signatories’

### 2) Section 5 - Membership

5.1 All members of the YCBA must be Player Members of the EBU.

5.2 A Player Member of the EBU shall become a member of the YCBA when their primary allegiance to the Association is recorded with the EBU.

5.3 A Player Member of the EBU whose primary allegiance is with another Association or does not have primary allegiance to any Association can become a member of the YCBA by meeting its terms and conditions in force at the time of the request for membership.

5.4 A member of the YCBA must be a paid up member for the relevant Membership Year in order to vote at its Annual General Meeting and to participate in its main competitions within that Membership Year.

5.5 The Membership Year shall run for the twelve month period from 1st April to 31st March.

5.6 A member of the YCBA becomes a paid up member through payment of any YCBA Pay to Play county component when participating in events at an affiliated Duplicate Bridge Club, and/or through payment of an annual subscription for their YCBA membership category.

5.7 If any YCBA member has not paid their annual subscription by 31<sup>st</sup> May then that YCBA member will not be able to vote at the following AGM as a paid up YCBA member.

5.8 A YCBA member ceases to be a paid up Association member on 31<sup>st</sup> May if at that date the YCBA member has not paid any outstanding annual subscription. That member can subsequently become a paid up YCBA member on payment of the current Membership Year's subscription, but this late payment shall not override clause 5.7 above.

5.9 For the avoidance of doubt, if a YCBA member is within a membership category that has a nil YCBA Pay to Play county component and a nil annual subscription for a Membership Year, then that member shall automatically become a paid up YCBA member for that Membership Year.

5.10 The YCBA Pay to Play county component and each of the YCBA member category's annual subscription, for the Membership Year starting in the following 1 April, shall be determined by a simple majority of the paid up members at the preceding Annual General Meeting.

5.11 The YCBA membership categories shall be as follows:

5.11.1 Ordinary Member - a Player Member of the EBU who has their primary allegiance recorded with the YCBA

5.11.2 Dual Member - a Player Member of the EBU who has their primary allegiance recorded with another Association.

5.11.3 Direct member – a Direct Player Member of the EBU who does not have primary allegiance to any Association.