

MINUTES OF THE YCBA MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT THE GARFORTH HOLIDAY INN COMMENCING AT 7.15PM

PRESENT: Nick Woolven (Chairman), Phil Godfrey (Vice-Chairman), Julia Staniforth (Secretary), Lesley Millet (Treasurer), Stuart Davies (Tournament Secretary), Robin Jepson, John O' Sullivan and David Waxman.

In attendance: Ron Millet (EBU Board Member).

1) APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Janet Latham (Assistant Secretary) and Philip Mason (YCBA President).

Mark Bratley had submitted his resignation and whilst it was felt there was no need to co-opt a new Board member at the present time there was a need to appoint a County Youth Officer. It was agreed that David approach Dominic Rayner and Nick approach Tom Copeland with a view to sharing the role. Julia would provide an outline of the role using information contained in the 'County Best Practice' document and specific county events. It was expected there would be a requirement to undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and the EBU would be asked to arrange this and fund the cost.

2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Management Board held on 10 June and Tournament Committee held on 16 August were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. The minutes of the AGM held on 10 June were recommended as a correct record for presentation to the next AGM.

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Annual General Meeting

i) Maintenance of Pianola Database/Membership Issues

Whilst progress was being made with maintenance of the EBU database and the uploading of member information to the Pianola database the issue of maintaining the accuracy of the information needed to be addressed as it was known some deceased members had not been removed. Nick agreed to contact the Membership Secretary and Julia would continue to contact clubs and individuals to ensure accuracy of the EBU data.

It was felt that the EBU should be asked to confirm what counties responsibilities were and if notification could be sent to the county of details of all new members and lapsed members. The role of the Membership Secretary would then be clearer.

ii) Partner Finding Facility

This was now available via the Pianola database but no one had yet registered and a similar facility existed on the EBU website.

iii) Website Issues

Discussions were still on-going but it was felt that the current website largely met present needs.

b) Board Meeting

i) Appointment of Accountant/Auditor for 2016/17

As no alternative appointment was available for recommendation at the meeting and any savings that could be made were minimal it was agreed that Brown Butler continue for a further year due to their experience with the accounts which would be helpful should any issues arise with HMRC.

ii) West Yorkshire Swiss Teams Correspondence

This matter had been satisfactorily resolved with new assignment arrangements adopted by the EBU for future Swiss Teams competitions.

c) Tournament Committee Meeting

i) New Recommendations

Changes to prize monies, number of boards to be played in one day competitions and costs claimable for engraving were noted and supported.

ii) Yorkshire Congress Review

The Mountbatten room would not be required for the Friday competitions.

iii) Tournament Director Manual

It was agreed that a Tournament Organiser's Manual was more appropriate and Lesley and Ron agreed to produce an initial draft.

4) BRIDGE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

a) Coaching for experienced team players

Ian Johns had arranged for David Bakshi to deliver a course at Wakefield Bridge Club on Sunday 11 December 2016 between 10.30 and 4.30 p.m. at a total cost of around £800. It was agreed that Yorkshire League players from divisions 1-3 be invited to attend at a cost of £10 per head. Stuart would send details of players to Phil who would set up a group contact list on Pianola which Ian Johns could utilise.

b) Best practice initiative

Members of the Bridge Development Committee were arranging to visit affiliated clubs whose membership had fallen with a view to offering support and also to establish liaison with non-affiliated clubs to outline the value of EBU membership. It was accepted that whilst many players only wanted to play social bridge in venues other than an affiliated club participation could lead to new members and so should be encouraged. Transition from classes to club bridge sessions could be an uncomfortable experience for new players and this needed to be addressed.

c) Grants for membership drive

Information produced by Ron had been circulated which outlined that YCBA had been selected for a pilot project to support a membership drive for which 3,000 euros had been made available from the European Bridge League along with around £5,000 from the EBU and the counties own resources for which there was an agreed sum of £3,000 for youth bridge and £3,000 for bridge development. It was noted that the county was below the average for bridge players in relation to population. David raised the issue of who provided trained teachers with support as only one individual (Tich Glenfield) was known to undertake this role. It was felt a structure needed to be established to administer the funding and consultants would need be employed. The EBU had produced a ranking of club membership and this could be used. Areas for advertising such as shopping centres, work places and local websites could be used.

It was agreed that YCBA should accept the offer.

d) Facebook Page

It was agreed that a Facebook page should be established as social media was now a recognised means of communication particularly with younger people.

5) PUBLICATION OF NEWSLETTER REVIEW

The latest newsletter had been distributed via Pianola to around 60% of members with feedback requested. There had been 18 positive responses and two negative with fourteen immediately unsubscribing. It was agreed that there was a need to include up to date, varied and interesting material. Lesley agreed to include information about Learn Bridge, Ron about the membership drive and Phil on the partner finding facility. Nick would look at a bidding competition.

It was agreed to continue the newsletter with the same arrangements subject to a further review.

6) ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEMBERS MEETING AND NEXT AGM

The Members' meeting would take place prior to the Mixed Pivot Teams event at Bradford Bridge Club on Sunday 27 November 2016 commencing at 11.30 a.m. Use of the downstairs room would be needed and brunch type refreshments provided from 11.00 a.m. The agenda would include national and county updates with specific reference to the membership drive, a request for feedback on the newsletter and the usual open forum The secretary would make the necessary arrangements.

Signed:-----(Chairman)

Date:-----

The AGM had been agreed to take place on the Saturday of the Yorkshire Congress at 11.00 a.m. and Lesley would ask if the Duchy or Edward room could be made available for around 30 people. Tea/coffee sandwiches and cakes (cost up to £200) would be provided for those attending the AGM at 12.45 p.m. Stuart was asked to include details in the entry form.

7) REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS FOR HOSTING MEETINGS

It was agreed that costs incurred up to £25 could be claimed for hosting committee meetings.

8) EBU's PROPOSALS ON REVISIONS TO STANDING COMMITTEES

Comments were sought relating to correspondence from the EBU outlining proposals to be presented to the next AGM in respect of changes to Standing Committees. No specific comments were received as it was felt to be a matter for the Shareholders.

9) EBU's DOCUMENT ON BEST PRACTICE FOR COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS

This had been circulated in advance of the meeting and it was agreed this should be adopted and made available on the website.

10) ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

a) Leeds Bridge Club Conduct Matter

It was reported that the matter was still on going and Officers would consider the matter further.

b) Introduction of a County Award

It was agreed that this would be difficult to administer and a range of awards currently existed for contributions to bridge.

c) Retirement Presentation to Jim Proctor

It was noted that a presentation was made to Jim at the Northern Summer Congress in recognition of his long service as a Chief Tournament Director.

d) County Officer Role Descriptions

It was agreed that this be discussed at the next meeting.

11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

This would be held on Tuesday 21 February 2017 at the Garforth Holiday Inn commencing at 7.15 p.m.

Julia A Staniforth
YCBA Secretary

Signed:-----(Chairman)

Date:-----