

Minutes of YCBA Away Day 20 March 2024

Location: The Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate

Present: David Guild (DG), Lesley Millet (LM), Ron Millet (RM), Dani Hyman, Robin Jepson, Pauline Hart - Stout, Ruth Kerr (RK), Mark Dunkley (MD), Stephen Cordingley, Mike Jackson (MJ), Alan Brosgill (AB), Jim Edwards (JE), Stuart Davies

Apologies: Nick Woolven (NW)

Proposal by the EBU to amend UMS to flat rate + 1p per board rate

DG presented the EBU proposal and calculated changes per board played and the attendees broke into two groups to discuss pros and cons of the proposal.

Comments were:

Needs greater consultation with counties and clubs
Club may look at charges and choose to play lower boards if movement choice
Suggestion to band charges into groups of 4 and to have a common charging system synched for clubs, counties, competition TD's and licences.

- Social bridge is on the rise and more "18 boards and fewer" sessions are likely to be more popular in future
 - Clubs may not pass increased costs onto their members as table money will not be flexed per board to such extent
 - Costs are negligible to individual player but higher for clubs
 - F2F league costs would be higher
 - Ask if the EBU is going to create software to calculate costs with regards to tables etc Agreed
- Actions:** **DG** to reply to EBU setting out our concerns and requests for further information
NB Subsequently actioned by using the EBU's County to County Forum and direct to Patrick Shields **DG** to write to all YCBA Clubs to state our position on this matter NB Subsequently actioned and clubs referred to County to County Forum to see details.

YCBA Club Performance Data

DG showed tables showing performances and rankings of YCBA and the YCBA Clubs.

The EBU have agreed to share clubs within county data with each specific County Bridge Association (CBA) but are concerned re the releasing of information to clubs.

Agreed that we will have an opt-in process for club participants and redact other clubs' entries.

Missing Laptops

The two lost laptops have been found at York BC and MD brought them to the meeting.

Agreed: One laptop for YCBA Website Management and passed to JE on the day.

Second laptop to be passed to Barnsley BC as part of their YCBA Grant submission NB This has since been passed to Steven Cartwright of Barnsley BC by DG.

Club Visits By YCBA Board

A summary of clubs visited, and key findings was presented.

Agreed that remaining few clubs to be contacted asap and each Board Member to take a "Buddy" role, being main Board contact, for the clubs that they have visited and reported on.

Non-Affiliate Clubs

Main non-affiliates and their levels of play were presented.

Agreed that the main affiliates to be contacted re Festival of Bridge participation.

Clubs' Meeting Date

This is to focus on the latest technical developments and will trail the Festival of Bridge.

Discussed whether F2F or online and **agreed to be online**.

Jonathan Lillycrop to be invited re satellite tables in a club movement – NB since invited and agreement to attend.

April date is to be put back.

Likeley to be June (after AGM)

Action: Board to agree details and date at next YCBA Board meeting.

Community Engagement

The YCBA Board, MJ and AB have had diversity training.

We are actioned to fill in a Women's Champion position and a Diversity Champion position on the Board before the AGM in June.

Action: RJ and RM to construct role and person specs before vacancy release.

Festival of Bridge

MD initiated a discussion on the EBU's Festival of Bridge in September - 9th to 15th.

The YCBA Steering Group with five members has held two meetings and will be consulting with clubs and members.

The EBU has launched its Festival Website which has 14 'ideas for your event'.

The EBU' objectives for the Festival in order of priority are:

- Fun
- Enhance profile of bridge leading to increase in membership
- Raise money for the charity.

Planned events include:

- 2 Golf & Bridge day at Thirsk and Moortown (Leeds)
- Similar Bowls & Bridge day
- Cafe bridge or prominent open venue event (Wetherby considering)
- Learn bridge in a day or a weekend
- Taster sessions / open days
- Support clubs in running local events and competitions (£150 match funding by YCBA)

Teaching programmes in clubs should not start for the autumn until after the Festival **Action DG/MD**

To request Clubs to calendar teaching after Festival

YCBA promotion of the Festival:

Already listed in our Events Calendar and more specific details of Festival events can be added there when they become known.

It would have more impact if promoted on the home page of the website **Action Board** to discuss.

Festival plans will also be used as 'good news' stories for the YCBA Facebook account.

MD has written to clubs offering financial support of £150 match funding for local events.

Action - The Tournament Committee will be asked to devise a competition for lower ranked players. NB At the last TC meeting the revival of a Simultaneous Pairs event to be held during Festival week was discussed.

YCBA Board Structure

Agreed that present YCBA Board structure is creaking.

Diversity and Women's Champion persons to be added before AGM.

Succession and new Board recruitment is a Board priority.

To revisit write ups of Board roles

Succession planning is stage two after improve recruitment levels.

Action: DG to follow up Nick Woolven on his return to get previous role write ups.

Possibility of splitting down some of the more substantial roles eg Treasurer, secretary, Marketing/Development as there is doubling up at present.

Also, assistants may play a part (non-Board roles). To explore further.

Discussion re how to recruit candidates for the Board or as assistants.

Action: Board to consider recruitment drives at all congresses

Committee Structures

Also to be reviewed. Subcommittees have been set up by TC for congresses, but we need to recruit members to be on these. **Action: Tournament Committee** to recruit subcommittees.

Finances

YCBA is in a strong financial position.

Costs have gone up with regards to hotels but congresses remain profitable, contributing £10k approx. per annum plus £5k from UMS YCBA county fee. Trading maximum risk is under £15k.

The greatest threat to YCBA finances is the loss of EBU three congresses should they decide to place elsewhere. Risk discussed and is seen as moderate. If lost, the YCBA would not be able to financially support our Clubs through grants etc. **Action: DG/NW** to lobby to have a Yorkshire member on the EBU Tournament Committee. To be on next Board agenda.

Reserves Policy

There is no formal Reserves Policy. DG suggested £40,000.

Action:

Reserves policy to be on next **Board agenda**.

Insurances

Any legal claim against YCBA, for example in respect of personal injury or defamation, would be covered by insurance subject to possible excesses on the liability policy. We presently pay about £650 a year for insurance premiums. Director insurance and general policies to be reviewed **Action:** RJ & RM to prepare an insurances update report for the Board.

Functional emails

Discussed. There was little enthusiasm for functional mailboxes beyond those five used at present. For Forwarding mail addresses: Board Member 1 & 2 to be dropped. Marketing@ to be added. No enthusiasm for personal firstname@

Action: DG to liaise with **JE** to tidy up

Communications, Strategy Development

Major topics including Website and Pianola. Not discussed due to timing constraint.

Action: RK and RM to prepare YCBA development grid based on these meeting minutes.

Action: To carry forward for **Board** discussion

End